



Field Guides Tour Report

CHILE 2011

Oct 31, 2011 to Nov 19, 2011
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This was another great trip to Chile, and I hope you all had as much of a blast as I did. You would think that after so many years this trip would become routine, but it does not, it is always different. This year was no exception. Last year we were freezing, this year was not as cold, although it had its chilly moments. The crossing of the Strait of Magellan was downright balmy as far as that spot goes. Almost no waves and no wind, Wow! Similarly our time in Tierra del Fuego was rather pleasant for weather. Can't say the same for our Valparaiso pelagic, where we had the most motion in the ocean that I have encountered in years--you win one you lose one I guess. Sometimes we nearly escape without getting into rain; this year we lost an afternoon to the weather and by the next morning it was turning to snow up there in the Trancas Valley of Termas de Chillan, so we booted our way out of there pronto! Fortunately the weather elsewhere was good to great, without cold, rain or wind!

A weather event that I think did influence us was the harsh winter the mid-south had this year. Snowfall had been twice or more of the average, and you could see this with many branches or even trees on the ground. To me it seemed that the season was off while we were there, and the tapaculos were less common than they usually are, making it even more difficult to see them than in previous years. On the other hand we had lucky breaks; we hardly ever see Kelp Geese on this trip, so to have some fly by was awesome. Also if we see Flightless Steamer-Ducks it is at a distance through the scope, not at close quarters, in great light and for extended periods! Two birds that often cause stress, the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover and Magellanic Plover just seemed to "be there" when we went to the favored sites, that certainly lowered everyone's blood pressure. Of course a magical moment was stepping out of the bus at El Robledal to do some "stretch the legs" birding after a long drive and instead we hear a double knock that stops your heart -- Magellanic Woodpecker. We had a great look at that female, and our dinner an hour later was as jovial as they come! Icing was owling after dinner and in not much time at all seeing a Rufous-legged Owl as good as one can. Later on in the trip I had nearly given up on that Creamy-rumped Miner, when finally it came in at Valle Nevado. Our lengthy afternoon looking for White-throated Tapaculos was difficult and frustrating, but they were there and some folks got to see them pretty well. There were some great lucky magic moments.

In the end we had some great birding and super birds. Both Magellanic and Humboldt penguins, Magellanic and Peruvian diving-petrels, albatrosses, Southern Fulmars, both Giant-Petrels, a plethora of ducks including some of South America's most attractive waterfowl, and various yellow-finches, sierra-finches, and diuca-finches which we now know are all tanagers! Crowd favorites were Puna Teal and Spectacled Duck, with a lot of wows going out to the Cinnamon Teal. It is great when folks can see a bird they have seen many times before, like the Cinnamon, and appreciate it for the beauty that it is. On the other hand we saw the armata Torrent Duck, a beauty and a lifer for many. Not quite waterfowl, but the coot show was good too, and quite predictably the Giant Coot made an impact.

In hindsight the far north was superb. The construction on the road to Lauca was more than any of us could bear, what a fiasco that is going to be for locals and tourists. I hope much of it is done before a return there next year. But the flipside was that we had amazing looks at Puna Tinamou, a rather difficult to find species; we also saw the largest of the seedsnipe, the Rufous-bellied, without much problem. Add to this all three species of flamingos, Puna Rhea, and the little specialties like White-throated Sierra-Finch and White-winged Diuca-Finch as well as gorgeous Black Siskin and great weather that day, and really it was a good, albeit difficult a times, day. Our visits to the desert valleys were awesome -- the Chilean Woodstar took enough time to build up the tension but then multiple females and a couple of males were great to see. A little later a male Peruvian Sheartail and lots of Oasis Hummingbirds, including one feeding young at a nest, were super. Our impromptu short pelagic out of Arica was much better than expected: a fly by Blue-footed Booby was a surprise but expected were great looks at Peruvian Diving-Petrel and Elliot's Storm-Petrel. The real prize was to see multiple Peruvian Terns out there -- this is fast becoming a rather rare bird! Finally, in the north, on our last morning the sweetest way to end the trip was to see the gorgeous Tamarugo Conebill, as noted, a lot prettier than the book makes it out to be. The north was indeed good to us.

I could go on and on about the birds, but better let you read the list and re-live some of our birding memories. What is not on our list is the gorgeous scenery and the good people we met along the way. Our first flight had two smoking volcanoes

visible from above! We saw plenty of volcanoes from the ground, some amazingly beautiful such as Llaima and Lonquimay. We saw Torres del Paine, one of the most gorgeous mountains in the world -- certainly in the top 5 I would say. The north with the twin volcanoes and Lake Chugara was a postcard around every corner. The Chilean coast, the beaches, the foothills, and even the central valley and the city of Santiago make an impact. It is great to bird a place that is easy on the eyes! We also got to enjoy some of the culture, particularly some good local food -- Paila Marina in Temuco, Porotos granados in Arica, barbecued beef!, lamb in Patagonia, pastel de choclo in the Maipo Valley, and the wine of course. It was a quick sample, but this is the great thing about birding. You get to see wonderful birds, meet great people, travel with intelligent and interesting folks, sample some nice food and drink, and see the world. It was a great trip, and you were great travelers to share it with. From the bottom of our hearts -- thanks for traveling with us! We look forward to doing it again. Take care and have a great holiday!

--Alvaro and Ricardo

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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

Rheidae (Rheas)

LESSER RHEA (PUNA) (*Rhea pennata tarapacensis*) – A few were found in Lauca national Park, although they were seen at a distance.

LESSER RHEA (DARWIN'S) (*Rhea pennata pennata*) – Common in Magallanes, but absent from Tierra del Fuego.

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

CHILEAN TINAMOU (*Nothoprocta perdicaria*) – There were a couple of roadside observations in the south before we were able to see one very nicely on the way up to Farellones. Like all tinamous, the males care for the young in this species. [E]

PUNA TINAMOU (*Tinamotis pentlandii*) – Why they come in threes is a mystery! Indeed we saw three of these huge tinamous in Lauca National Park. Perhaps this is the best place to see this species anywhere.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLACK-NECKED SWAN (*Cygnus melancoryphus*) – Common in the south and central regions.

COSCOROBA SWAN (*Coscoroba coscoroba*) – A rather goose-like swan, but the DNA confirms that it is indeed a swan.

ANDEAN GOOSE (*Chloephaga melanoptera*) – Common in Lauca National Park. This "goose" may not be closely related to the rest of the sheldgeese.

UPLAND GOOSE (*Chloephaga picta*) – Common in the far south, in Magallanes. There the males come in a barred and white-breasted morph.

KELP GOOSE (*Chloephaga hybrida*) – An incredible surprise was seeing three Kelp Geese fly over while we awaited the ferry to Tierra del Fuego. We tend to miss this species as it retreats to the fjords during breeding, so this was indeed lucky! The three included an adult pair and an immature male.

ASHY-HEADED GOOSE (*Chloephaga poliocephala*) – This is the sheldgoose of the forests, we encountered them only close to forested areas such as in Tierra del Fuego as well as on our way up to Puerto Natales.

RUDDY-HEADED GOOSE (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*) – The Ruddy-headed Goose is quickly vanishing from mainland South America. Ricardo is at the forefront of conserving this unique species. We were lucky to see this species extremely well on Tierra del fuego as well as on the mainland.

FLYING STEAMER-DUCK (*Tachyeres patachonicus*) – Great views near Punta Arenas, as well as in Sierra Baguales and Torres del Paine.

FLIGHTLESS STEAMER-DUCK (*Tachyeres pteneres*) – One of the most amazing bits of luck on this tour was seeing a pair of these gargantuan ducks swimming close to shore while driving into Punta Arenas. We stopped and we were able to obtain views that were unprecedented on our tour!! These are fantastic birds, huge flightless ducks with the biggest feet in the world. And guess what? They swim as fast as I run!

- CRESTED DUCK** (*Lophonetta specularioides*) – Common in Magallanes, also in Lauca National Park in the north.
- SPECTACLED DUCK** (*Specularnas specularis*) – We saw a pair in Torres del Paine National Park, and these two performed! We were able to see them sleeping, preening and swimming about. However, the best part was seeing the amazing color of their speculum, the reason they were at one time called the Bronze-winged Duck.
- TORRENT DUCK** (*Merganetta armata armata*) – We saw three on our way up to Lonquimay. These were the southern nominate form, the one that is more extensively black on the face than more northern forms.
- CHILOE WIGEON** (*Anas sibilatrix*) – Common in the south and central part of Chile. This wigeon is not obviously sexually dimorphic as are the other two wigeons of the north.
- CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*) – Widespread in Chile, we saw this species in several spots. Perhaps some of the best looks were in the Azapa Valley, as well as on Lake Batuco. The birds in Chile are resident, not migrants.
- RED SHOVELER** (*Anas platalea*) – This shoveler is a nice looking one! They were particularly common at Tres Puentes near Punta Arenas.
- WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL** (*Anas bahamensis*) – Ricardo spotted one White-cheek at the mouth of the Maipo River.
- YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL** (*Anas georgica*) – Common throughout the country.
- SILVER TEAL** (*Anas versicolor*) – One individual near Buque Quemado in Magallanes. This duck is relatively rare in Chile.
- PUNA TEAL** (*Anas puna*) – One of the crowd favorites, the Puna Teal was very common in Lauca National Park. Their blue bills are electric in color.
- YELLOW-BILLED TEAL (FLAVIROSTRIS)** (*Anas flavirostris flavirostris*) – For some unexplained reason this common duck was not as common this year as in previous tours. We nevertheless saw them well at El Peral.
- YELLOW-BILLED TEAL (OXYPTERA)** (*Anas flavirostris oxyptera*) – A more contrasting and attractive version of the Yellow-billed Teal (Speckled Teal is the other name). We saw oxyptera at Lauca National Park.
- ROSY-BILLED POCHARD** (*Netta peposaca*) – A distant male was found at Batuco Lake.
- BLACK-HEADED DUCK** (*Heteronetta atricapilla*) – We saw them at a distance on Batuco Lake, and then closer at El Peral. This is the world's only brood parasitic duck!
- RUDDY DUCK (ANDEAN)** (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*) – Common at Lauca National Park. This species is sometimes separated as the Andean Duck.
- LAKE DUCK** (*Oxyura vittata*) – We saw this species on several occasions in the south and central part of Chile. The closest view was actually our first, a male at the marsh in Torres del Paine.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

- CALIFORNIA QUAIL** (*Callipepla californica*) – Common in the central zone. [II]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

- WHITE-TUFTED GREBE** (*Rollandia rolland*) – A stunning grebe with a white face patch. We saw this usually solitary grebe on several occasions.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE** (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – Widespread but never abundant, we had looks at the resident subspecies (antarcticus) of Pied-billed at El Peral.
- GREAT GREBE** (*Podiceps major*) – Wow! This is a stunning and rather large grebe. The red neck contrasts nicely with the blackish-grey head and face. Also this grebe has a nice shape with a crested look. We saw it in the central and southern portion of the country.
- SILVERY GREBE (JUNINENSIS)** (*Podiceps occipitalis juninensis*) – These were the common grebes on Lake Chungara in the altiplano. I believe that these two grebe forms should be separated as species.
- SILVERY GREBE (OCCIPITALIS)** (*Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis*) – The brighter and prettier looking of the Silvery Grebe pair, we saw them well in the central and southern part of the country.

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

- CHILEAN FLAMINGO** (*Phoenicopus chilensis*) – Great views were had first in Magallanes, where seeing flamingos in the cold windswept steppe seems a contradiction. Then we also saw this species commonly in the highlands of Lauca National Park.
- ANDEAN FLAMINGO** (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*) – This is the largest of the three Chilean flamingos, and the one that shows the big triangular black patch on the rear which helps to identify it. We saw a number in Lauca National Park. On a world wide scale, this is the rarest of the South American flamingos.
- JAMES'S FLAMINGO** (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*) – The Jame's or Puna Flamingo is the smallest of the New World

flamingos. It is also the one with the least amount of black on the bill, and the hardest to come by on our tour. We saw a small number in Lauca National Park.

Spheniscidae (Penguins)

HUMBOLDT PENGUIN (*Spheniscus humboldti*) – We saw this penguin nicely at Reñaca, near Viña del Mar. There was at least one on the Arica pelagic as well.

MAGELLANIC PENGUIN (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) – On our first day of birding we visited a colony of this penguin at Otway Sound in Magallanes. We also saw them on our ferry crossings in Magallanes and surprisingly some distant juveniles on the Arica pelagic.

Diomedidae (Albatrosses)

SALVIN'S ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche salvini*) – Common and observed at close quarters on the Valparaiso pelagic. This is a breeder from New Zealand.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche melanophris*) – We saw nice adult Black-browed Albatrosses crossing the Strait of Magellan. These were adults. Later on in Valparaiso on our pelagic we also saw this species, although many of these were juveniles or subadults.

Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)

SOUTHERN GIANT-PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*) – Magallanes Ferry Crossing was where we saw this species.

NORTHERN GIANT-PETREL (*Macronectes halli*) – Quite unexpectedly a Northern Giant Petrel flew by the boat on our Arica pelagic!

SOUTHERN FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*) – Common in the Strait of Magellan.

WHITE-CHINNED PETREL (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) – This is an all dark petrel with a pale bill which we found on both pelagics as well as the ferry crossing of the Strait of Magellan.

WESTLAND PETREL (*Procellaria westlandica*) – A couple went by our boat on the Valparaiso pelagic, also a single bird went by on the Arica pelagic.

PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus creatopus*) – All Pink-footed Shearwaters breed in Chile. This shearwater was common on the Valparaiso pelagic, and a single went by on the Arica Pelagic.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*) – Common on both pelagics! Millions of this species breed in Chile.

Hydrobatidae (Storm-Petrels)

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*) – The Wilson's Storm-Petrels we saw on the Strait of Magellan and Valparaiso pelagic were "chilensis" which is sometimes known as the Fuegian Storm-Petrel. These birds are likely a different species from Wilson's, and they likely are more closely related to Elliot's than true Wilson's. They are small and show a pale patch on the underwing. A closely related undescribed form exists near Puerto Montt, Chile!

ELLIOT'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites gracilis*) – Common on the Arica pelagic where we had some great looks at this Humboldt Current specialist.

Pelecanoididae (Diving-Petrels)

PERUVIAN DIVING-PETREL (*Pelecanoides garnotii*) – A couple of fly-by looks on the Valparaiso pelagic left us wanting to see more. Well, the Arica pelagic came through with great looks at this threatened species.

MAGELLANIC DIVING-PETREL (*Pelecanoides magellani*) – Nice views of them flying by on the Strait of Magellan.

Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY (*Sula nebouxii*) – Highly unusual was seeing one of these fly by! The bird was dark above, streaked on the head and showed a pale patch on the nape, back and rump. I think it was a subadult, not a full adult as it was more solidly dark than the adults. This is a very rare species in Chile.

PERUVIAN BOOBY (*Sula variegata*) – Common in the central and northern coasts of the country. A cold water associated booby!

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – Common throughout Chile, on the coast and inland.

RED-LEGGED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax gaimardi*) – This is perhaps the most beautiful of the cormorants. The bill is red and yellow, the body grey with speckles of white and the legs a bright and vibrant red! We saw the Red-legged Cormorant first near Viña del Mar, but very well in Arica.

MAGELLAN CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax magellanicus*) – Also known as the Rock Shag, it was common on the Strait of Magellan.

GUANAY CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*) – This is a Humboldt Current specialist which we saw in Arica, as well as the Valparaiso pelagic.

IMPERIAL CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax atriceps atriceps*) – This is the Blue-eyed Cormorant, a color morph of the Imperial most common on the Pacific side of the country. We saw it well on the Strait of Magellan and Puerto Natales.

IMPERIAL CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax atriceps albiventer*) – This is the King Cormorant, a color morph of the Imperial. It has a dark cheek. This form is more common on the Atlantic side of Patagonia, we saw it commonly on the Strait of Magellan.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

PERUVIAN PELICAN (*Pelecanus thagus*) – Common in the central and northern part of the country. The Peruvian is a huge and rather colorful pelican when compared to the Brown.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*) – The Cocoi is the replacement for the Great Blue in parts of South America. We saw several on Bатуco Lake.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – Common in the central zone, we also saw a few in the Arica area.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – Common in the central and northern part of the country.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – We only saw this species in the Arica area. The calico birds are a transition from the white juveniles and the blue adults.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Common in the central zone of the country. Many were breeding on El peral.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (AMERICAN) (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*) – This is the pale bellied Black-crowned we saw at the port of Arica.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (DUSKY) (*Nycticorax nycticorax obscurus*) – This was the dark bellied subspecies which is common in much of the country, including Arica.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

PUNA IBIS (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) – Nice views of this iridescent ibis at Lauca National Park.

BLACK-FACED IBIS (*Theristicus melanopis*) – Perhaps one of the most colorful ibises in the world. The pink legs are bright as pink can be. The taxonomy of this species requires some work, as an Andean form may be a separate species. We did not see the Andean form.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*) – Common in central Chile.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – Common in the north, abundant there actually; there were also a few in the central part of the country. The form we saw "jota" is big and blackish with a bright red head, it may be a good separate species from other populations farther north.

ANDEAN CONDOR (*Vultur gryphus*) – We saw a lot of condors, both in the south and Santiago Andes. The max estimated for one day was 35 on the day we went to Sierra Baguales. This was the day we found the group right by the side of the road feeding on a lamb! Those were great looks we had of those birds. It is not a regular situation for us to find condors feeding like this near a road. I estimate we saw over 60 Andean Condors on this tour.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Brian saw one in Arica while the rest of us were on the pelagic.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) – A few were seen on drives in the Central Zone.

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) – We saw eagles on many days of the tour. We found adults with their short tails and Bateleur-like look, as well as the longer tailed juveniles.

CINEREOUS HARRIER (*Circus cinereus*) – Great views of this small harrier in Magallanes, most of the ones we saw were the good looking males.

HARRIS'S HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – We saw more of these than we usually see, some in the central zone like the close ones we saw at Mahuida above Santiago, as well as one in Arica where they are rare but expanding.

VARIABLE HAWK (*Buteo polyosoma*) – Common throughout the country. Recent information confirms that this hawk is not closely related to Buteos, in fact it is a close relative of the Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, so it may be moved to the genus *Geranoaetus*.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

MOUNTAIN CARACARA (*Phalcoboenus megalopterus*) – Nice views in the Santiago Andes, also at Lauca National Park.

SOUTHERN CARACARA (*Caracara plancus*) – Common in Magallanes, and we saw a single on our way up to Lonquimay.

CHIMANGO CARACARA (*Milvago chimango*) – Common in the central and southern part of the country; the Chimango is the ecological replacement of a crow!

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – A few were seen here and there in the north and central part of the country. We also saw one near our hotel at Torres del Paine.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – There are both resident and migrant forms of the Peregrine Falcon. The resident bird is relatively dark, the subspecies *cassini*. The one that went by on the pelagic was likely this kind. Most others we saw were pale birds with narrow moustaches, meaning we were seeing *tundrius*. These are Arctic breeders from Canada. One bird at the Maipo River Mouth was carrying a satellite antenna. It turns out this was an adult female known as "Island Girl" and she has gone back and forth from a central Chilean wintering ground to a breeding area in Baffin Island, Arctic Canada! You can look up her flight path by googling "Southern Cross Peregrines" and looking for Island Girl. The researchers looked at the satellite path and indeed she was going by the Maipo River on November 11th when we saw her! Most amazingly this was the last day of her migration, the next day she was back about a 100km south of where we saw her at her wintering site. Can you believe the luck of seeing this star peregrine? Amazing. [b]

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

AUSTRAL RAIL (*Rallus antarcticus*) – Unfortunately we only heard this difficult to see species; this was at Torres del Paine National Park. [*]

PLUMBEOUS RAIL (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) – Heard first at the Aconcagua River mouth but then seen very well the next day at Laguna El Peral. This is not a shy rail, fortunately.

COMMON MOORHEN (AMERICAN) (*Gallinula chloropus pauxilla*) – The moorhen is now going to be called the Common Gallinule again. Most of the ones we saw in the north were this form, *pauxilla*.

COMMON MOORHEN (AMERICAN) (*Gallinula chloropus garmani*) – At least one of the gallinules we saw at Lauca NP was this highland form, *garmani*. It is big, very big, and darker on the upperparts than the lowland form. The other one that was there appeared to be a lowland bird, making this an even more unusual sighting.

RED-GARTERED COOT (*Fulica armillata*) – This is the larger and most common of the three lowland coots of Chile. It has a red stripe dividing the yellow bill from the yellow shield. We saw it commonly in the central to southern area.

RED-FRONTED COOT (*Fulica rufifrons*) – The Red-fronted Coot is the most gallinule like of the coots, and we saw it only in the central zone where it was common.

GIANT COOT (*Fulica gigantea*) – This is a massive coot, with huge feet. It is difficult to believe that this coot can actually fly! The population on Lake Chungara may be the largest in the world.

SLATE-COLORED COOT (*Fulica ardesiaca*) – Also known as the Andean Coot, this is a large coot but looks puny next to a giant. The highland birds were all of the red fronted and yellow billed variety. In the Azapa Valley, we did also see the white shielded form, which has a white bill too. The polymorphism is complex and they tend to mate with like birds more often than random, and the two types have a different range and ecological needs! I wonder if they are not different species, although a molecular study is needed to figure this out.

WHITE-WINGED COOT (*Fulica leucoptera*) – This is the smallest of the three widespread lowland coots. This coot has a variable shield color, ranging from white to yellow to orange! We saw many of the varieties.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

PERUVIAN THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus superciliaris*) – Two birds were sleepy looking at the Lluta Valley. It turned out that they were busy, caring for a nest no less. The nest was checked by Ricardo and had two eggs. The first confirmation for this species for the breeding bird atlas!

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SOUTHERN LAPWING (SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA) (*Vanellus chilensis chilensis*) – Common throughout the central and southern part of the country. An abundant species near Temuco!

ANDEAN LAPWING (*Vanellus resplendens*) – At the last possible minute, we found a pair of this rather attractive lapwing. It is not a rare bird, but for some reason it used to be much more common in Lauca than it is now.

COLLARED PLOVER (*Charadrius collaris*) – Great views of this widespread Neotropical plover at Lake Bato.

TWO-BANDED PLOVER (*Charadrius falklandicus*) – This is one of the southern plovers, and is most common as a

- breeder in Magallanes although it ranges farther north on the coast. It is a migrant and comes well to the north in winter.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – A rather large flock of this species was zooming around trying to avoid a Peregrine at the mouth of the Lluta Valley. [b]
- KILLDEER** (*Charadrius vociferus*) – One at the mouth of the Lluta River, this is the southernmost regular spot to see this species in the world! The Killdeer is a resident here.
- RUFOUS-CHESTED DOTTEREL** (*Charadrius modestus*) – It took a while but we eventually found a nice colorful male of this striking species in the Magellanic Steppe.
- DIADEMED SANDPIPER-PLOVER** (*Phegornis mitchellii*) – WOW! I think the tension was building while we looked for this bird, we had braved a self destroying van, and saw possible snow coming our way, but there it was a gorgeous Diademed Sandpiper-Plover in the Yeso Valley. This species is not only rare, it is little known, and is found only in a few accessible spots; Yeso is perhaps the easiest place to see it. Not only that, this is an unusual bird all around, a plover with a sandpiper bill, a funny rounded wing, odd flight, unusual ecology. You name it, and this bird is far from the norm. A one of a kind bird!
- TAWNY-THROATED DOTTEREL** (*Oreopholus ruficollis*) – The Tawny-throated Dotterel is found in Patagonia as well as the Andes, but where it occurs it specializes in dry grasslands. This is the habitat we found this attractive shorebird in while in Magallanes. We were fortunate to see some relatively close up, sometimes they are rather far away and difficult to see. Another shorebird with nice pink legs!

Pluvianellidae (Magellanic Plover)

- MAGELLANIC PLOVER** (*Pluvianellus socialis*) – This guy is unique, the sole member of its family. It appears to be related to the Plains Wanderer and the sheathbills! We found one near Porvenir in Tierra del Fuego and had fantastic views of the bird as it fed and stomped the mud, a foraging technique they usually use. What a bird!!!

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus palliatus*) – Common on the coast of central Chile as well as the north. These are resident populations here; the American Oystercatcher is one of the most widespread shorebirds of the Americas.
- BLACKISH OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ater*) – The Blackish Oystercatcher is very similar to the North American Black Oystercatcher. However they differ vocally and the Blackish has a much thicker and robust bill. We saw our first Blackish in Viña del Mar, and then saw one in Arica as well.
- MAGELLANIC OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus leucopodus*) – The Magellanic Oystercatcher we only found in Magallanes. It is an unusual oystercatcher in that it can be found nesting inland. It also has an odd whistled call, the voice suggests that although it may resemble an American, it is likely not closely related to it.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

- BLACK-NECKED STILT (WHITE-BACKED)** (*Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*) – Common in the central zone, the White-backed or Southern Stilt is often considered a species separate from the Black-necked. Unusual was to see a pair in Lauca NP.
- ANDEAN AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra andina*) – We eventually saw them well in Lauca National Park.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

- GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – We found this species in the north of the country. [b]
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa flavipes*) – We saw this species in Magallanes as well as the central zone. [b]
- WHIMBREL (AMERICAN)** (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*) – Common on coasts of the center and north of the country. The major portion of west coast Whimbrels winter in Chile. Seeing that big group of several hundred sleeping on the iceplant at Cartagena Lagoon was a treat. [b]
- RUDDY TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*) – Small numbers were seen in central and northern coastal sites. [b]
- SURFBIRD** (*Aphriza virgata*) – We saw a few in the north of the country, on the coast of Arica. Also a few near Valparaiso on the coast. [b]
- SANDERLING** (*Calidris alba*) – Nice views on the beach at the mouth of the Lluta River. [b]
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** (*Calidris fuscicollis*) – Oddly uncommon this year, usually there are almost as many as Baird's Sandpipers in the Magallanes area. This year we only saw a few, probably just missed the big concentrations I gather. [b]
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** (*Calidris bairdii*) – Common in moist grassy areas in Magallanes. Also throughout the rest of Chile either on the coast or highland wetlands. This species is particularly associated with high elevation habitats, even as a

migrant in North America, so it is the most expected peep in the mountains. [b]

SOUTH AMERICAN SNIPE (MAGELLANIC) (*Gallinago paraguaiiae magellanica*) – We saw several rather well in Magallanes, including some winnowing. Also some folks saw this species at the mouth of the Maipo River and the Yeso Valley. The species will likely be separated into two in the coming years, the one we saw was the Magellanic Snipe (*magellanica*).

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) – Common on the Valparaiso pelagic and a few were seen on the Arica boat trip. [b]

Thinocoridae (Seedsnipes)

RUFOUS-BELLIED SEEDSNIPE (*Attagis gayi*) – Wow, another cool bird! This is a difficult seedsnipe to find as it is local and found in low numbers; Lauca National Park is a key spot to see the species.

GRAY-BREASTED SEEDSNIPE (*Thinocorus orbignyianus*) – Great views both in the Yeso Valley, Farellones and Lauca National Park.

LEAST SEEDSNIPE (*Thinocorus rumicivorus*) – This is the small seedsnipe of the Patagonian Steppe where we saw a few. A little less expected was to see a pair at Sierra Baguales.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

ANDEAN GULL (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) – One above Yeso Lake was unexpected there. Very common in Lauca National Park.

BROWN-HOODED GULL (*Chroicocephalus maculipennis*) – Common in the central and southern part of the country. All of the Chilean birds have extensive white on the wingtips, these have been separated as a subspecies at times. The Argentine birds are much darker winged, it is not clear where the two come together in Patagonia.

DOLPHIN GULL (*Leucophaeus scoresbii*) – What a gorgeous looking gull! The huge red bill, red legs and white eyes give this gull an edge in the beauty department. It was seen only in coastal areas of Magallanes.

GRAY GULL (*Leucophaeus modestus*) – Another cool looking gull, this is an ecological counterpart of the Heermann's Gull. However it is more closely related to the Laughing Gull! There were thousands on the coast of Arica, smaller numbers in the central zone coast. The Grey Gull breeds deep in the desert where there are essentially no predators! Seeing a colony of this species is still a dream of mine...maybe one day.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) – The Franklin's Gull becomes one of the most common coastal birds in Chile for part of the year. It is neat to think that all of those birds spend the rest of the year in the Canadian Prairies and American Great Plains. [b]

BELCHER'S GULL (*Larus belcheri*) – Previously known as the Band-tailed Gull, although that was previous to the split of the Olog's Gull in the Atlantic. This is one of the few gulls that retains black on the tail as an adult. It is a Humboldt Current endemic, we only saw it on the coast of Arica.

KELP GULL (*Larus dominicanus*) – Common throughout Chile although much less common around Arica than farther south. Downright abundant in parts of Magallanes.

INCA TERN (*Larosterna inca*) – Oh my this is a pretty bird. That white moustache and the multi-colored bill on a deep grey tern is absolutely stunning. I like simple color schemes and bold patterns, this is certainly my favorite tern. They were moderately common off Valparaiso and even more common on the coast of Arica.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – The first medium sized tern that went over on the Arica pelagic was this species. [b]

SOUTH AMERICAN TERN (*Sterna hirundinacea*) – Common as breeding adults in Magallanes. Common as winter plumaged birds in the Central Zone, a few in Arica. This bird has a confusing natural history, one that is still being unraveled. Based on the plumage differences it appears that central zone birds are winter breeders and therefore in non-breeding plumage during the spring-summer! The southern birds are spring-summer breeders. Where the winter breeders actually breed is not clear yet.

ELEGANT TERN (*Thalasseus elegans*) – Migrant Elegant Terns from California and Mexico invade Chile's coast during the northern winter. We saw Elegant Terns in the central zone and the north. [b]

BLACK SKIMMER (CINERASCENS) (*Rynchops niger cinerascens*) – This is the skimmer which breeds in the Amazon Basin. During the high water period (non-breeding) they migrate to the Pacific Coast, many of them in Chile. When and where they cross the Andes to get to the coast is completely unknown.

BLACK SKIMMER (INTERCEDENS) (*Rynchops niger intercedens*) – Completely unexpected was the whiter version of the Black Skimmer, race *intercedens*. This one breeds in the La Plata Estuary and rivers of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and southern Brazil. It rarely ventures to the Pacific Coast.

Stercorariidae (Skuas and Jaegers)

CHILEAN SKUA (*Stercorarius chilensis*) – Common in Magallanes, and we also saw one on the pelagic off Valparaíso. The rusty underparts of this skua identify it. Also it is more gull like than other skuas both in food choices as well as behavior. It is much less aggressive than a classic skua.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Common in cities. [I]

SPOT-WINGED PIGEON (*Patagioenas maculosa albipennis*) – This is the highland form of this species, which may be different enough to separate as a species from the lowland maculosa form. They have recently invaded Chile in Putre. Interestingly, there is now at least one record of the maculosa form from central Chile, so that form may be moving into Chile as well. Doves and pigeons are generally expanding.

CHILEAN PIGEON (*Patagioenas araucana*) – This is the Band-tailed Pigeon dipped in wine, Cabernet perhaps? It is certainly part of a superspecies which includes the Band-tailed Pigeon. We saw it very well in the Temuco area.

WEST PERUVIAN DOVE (*Zenaida meloda*) – Also known as the Pacific Dove, a name I prefer over the clumsy West Peruvian Dove. Perhaps it should be re-named "Kukuli Dove" as that is the local name, and what the song sounds like - what do you think? Common in the valleys around Arica.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*) – Common throughout the country. A very close relative of the Mourning Dove, but shorter tailed.

PICUI GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina picui*) – We saw this little dove in the area near Santiago as well as in Chillan. It is small and has black underwings when it flies.

CROAKING GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina cruziana*) – Several showed up in the Lluta and Azapa valleys in the north. The song is very much a croak, not a coo as is typical of doves.

BARE-FACED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia ceciliae*) – This small dove was common in Putre. It is a much more attractive bird that one would believe, the scaling above, the shape and that great orange area around the eyes makes for a good looking bird.

BLACK-WINGED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia melanoptera*) – Common in the highlands of Santiago, also in the Putre area. This is a larger *Metriopelia* dove, and one that appears to have white headlights on the wings, as the bends of the wing have a white patch. There were two juveniles at our Putre hotel, a plumage I had not seen well before.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

AUSTRAL PARAKEET (*Enicognathus ferrugineus*) – The Austral Parakeet is the southernmost of the world's parrots! We saw our first at Torres del Paine National Park; we also saw many at Termas de Chillan.

SLENDER-BILLED PARAKEET (*Enicognathus leptorhynchus*) – This is thus far an endemic to Chile, although it may at some point show up in Argentina. The reason for the long and thin bill is still a mystery. We had great looks at Cerro Ñielol, as well as on our way up to Lonquimay. [E]

MONK PARAKEET (*Myiopsitta monachus*) – Seen by some folks while driving through Santiago. [I]

MOUNTAIN PARAKEET (*Psilopsiagon aurifrons*) – Wow, for those who got on these, the green is electric. Unfortunately all went down too quickly and they were gone before we could get everyone on them. This sighting occurred coming down off Putre.

Strigidae (Owls)

GREAT HORNED OWL (MAGELLANIC) (*Bubo virginianus magellanicus*) – The Magellanic Horned Owl is often separated as a species from the Great Horned Owl. This is certainly the correct course to take, and one day it will be such. The issue is that some dark populations in Peru (*nigrescens*) sound intermediate between the two song types (Great Horned vs. Magellanic), but in fact this Peruvian form may represent a third entity rather than an intermediate one. The song of Magellanic with the final trill is consistent for thousands of km of range. We had great looks at birds Ricardo spotted while we drove by in Tierra del Fuego. The owls put on quite a show!

AUSTRAL PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium nanum*) – Great views of a rufous morph on our way up to Lonquimay, this was near Curacautin. A brown morph bird was seen in the Maipo Valley.

RUFOUS-LEGGED OWL (*Strix rufipes*) – Wow, we were lucky with this owl. He came in silently, after I had essentially given up hope of anything showing up, and showed himself well. Then he started calling and doing the wing droop display! This all occurred in the Las Trancas Valley, we were also lucky we went out that first night as the next was a rainy one. This owl is the equivalent of the Spotted Owl in North America.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

BAND-WINGED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus longirostris*) – Ok, this was definitely more luck. Our day had been too long, with traffic issues and we were tired and needed to get to bed. I just didn't think it was viable to go looking for the

nightjar, but what shows up right as we are getting on the bus after dinner - the nightjar! Not only that, it sat there for ages and allowed us to study it well, enough to see it was a female.

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*) – The last addition to our trip list, a couple of Chimney Swifts went by in the Chaca Valley. This swift is rare in Chile, but appears to be a regular winterer in the northern valleys of the country, at least in small numbers. [b]

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

SPARKLING VIOLETEAR (*Colibri coruscans*) – One in Putre, a relatively recent addition to the Chilean list, but it is regular in that one part of Putre.

GREEN-BACKED FIRECROWN (*Sephanoides sephanioides*) – Several in the Temuco - Chillan part of the trip. A bit less expected was a nice juvenile at Yerba Loca in the Santiago Andes.

ANDEAN HILLSTAR (*Oreotrochilus estella*) – Very common in Putre, where we saw males, females and several nests at our hotel.

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas peruviana*) – Great views of this colorful northern form in Putre. There is nothing quite like a Giant Hummingbird!!

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas gigas*) – Glimpsed in the Andes of the central zone.

CHILEAN WOODSTAR (*Eulidia yarrellii*) – This is certainly the smallest bird in Chile, and almost certainly the rarest bird as well. Estimates are that there may only be a few hundred left, and these are restricted largely to two valleys in the Arica area. In the Azapa where we saw them they were at one point common enough to be seen way down in town, in city parks!!! That was my first experience with them in the 80s. Now you have to go over 30km up the valley to find them, they are gone from the very same areas we used to look for them when I began with field guides. It is a sad situation, and not one that anyone has figured out yet, at least figured out exactly what to do.

OASIS HUMMINGBIRD (*Rhodopis vesper*) – The largest and longest billed of the desert hummers of the north. We had great looks at this guy in the Azapa Valley, including a nest with a female feeding young at Teresa's hummingbird sanctuary.

PERUVIAN SHEARTAIL (*Thaumastura cora*) – The Peruvian Sheartail is quite a looker when you see a male with a full tail as we did. Truly a stunning bird, and it loves to wag that tail around as it feeds. The females lack the long tail, but they do the tail wagging nonetheless. We saw the sheartail at Teresa's hummingbird sanctuary.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

RINGED KINGFISHER (PATAGONIAN) (*Megaceryle torquata stellata*) – I am convinced that this is a separate species from the more tropical Ringed Kingfisher populations. For one the bill shapes and sizes are entirely different in these two forms. Vocally they are similar although the Patagonian one has a higher and faster trill, and it does not tend to do the "chuck" call as it flies by. Size and shape wise, the Patagonian is somewhat inbetween the tropical Ringed and a Belted. We saw ours near Lonquimay.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

STRIPED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis lignarius*) – A nice little black and white woodpecker which we saw well on the day we were heading up to Lonquimay.

CHILEAN FLICKER (*Colaptes pitius*) – It took us a while to get good looks at this species although we did see it at several spots. Perhaps the best looks were at Mahuida in the Santiago foothills.

ANDEAN FLICKER (*Colaptes rupicola*) – A stunning woodpecker which we saw in Lauca national park at a breeding cliff.

MAGELLANIC WOODPECKER (*Campephilus magellanicus*) – Getting off the bus at our hotel in Las Trancas and then doing a bit of birding was a great decision. While we walked we heard the double knock which really was a heart stopper. Then she came in, flying like a black ghost through the forest and zooming up to perch on a trunk to give us great views. The female is certainly the best looking of the pair, so I felt real lucky it was a her rather than a him. The crest is expressive and unique. We heard others the next day, but this was our only sighting of this star of a bird.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

COMMON MINER (*Geositta cunicularia cunicularia*) – Common on the mainland of Magallanes, also at least one on Tierra del Fuego.

SHORT-BILLED MINER (*Geositta antarctica*) – This is almost an endemic breeder to Tierra del Fuego. This is also where we saw the species, and had some great looks at one bird that came in and showed its sandy coloration, short bill

and pale rump and long wings. The Short-billed is actually much more closely related to the Creamy-rumped than to the Common Miner.

CREAMY-RUMPED MINER (*Geositta isabellina*) – It took a while, but eventually one came in and showed itself nicely to us. This was at Valle Nevado in the Farellones highlands. This miner is not rare, but its center of distribution is in the third region of Chile where absolutely no one goes birding.

GRAYISH MINER (*Geositta maritima*) – What a surprise it was to stop for a cactus photo and find multiples of this uncommon and difficult to find species. It used to be something we saw regularly but since traffic has increased on the international road to Bolivia we have not found it with any regularity. Great to have them back on our checklist! I had not remembered how long billed this miner is, something we may have to fix in our guide as the bill there looks too short.

PUNA MINER (*Geositta punensis*) – The white breasted miner of Lauca National Park. We had several opportunities to see this Altiplano endemic well.

RUFOUS-BANDED MINER (*Geositta rufipennis fasciata*) – Common in the highlands of Santiago, a rather colorful miner at least when on the wing.

STRAIGHT-BILLED EARTHCREEPER (*Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus*) – We had that one last chance to see this species on our way down from Putre, I am so glad it came through!!! I like this miner, maybe because it reminds me of another favorite, the Crag Chilia.

CRAG CHILIA (*Ochetorhynchus melanurus*) – This is a unique bird, it is pretty and has a great habitat. Rocky cliffs and walls, most birds that like habitats like that are worth seeing! This one reminds one of a Canyon Wren. I was getting worried when it at first did not show up, but I have to learn to trust that the birds are there. Who could give up such a nice rock face? [E]

SCALE-THROATED EARTHCREEPER (*Upucerthia dumetaria*) – Common in Magallanes, anywhere there are shrubs mixed with grass. This is a rather widespread earthcreeper, it was unusual that we did not see it farther north as we usually do.

WHITE-THROATED EARTHCREEPER (*Upucerthia albigula*) – This earthcreeper is range restricted, found only in southern Peru and Northern Chile. It sings a slower and raspier song than the sympatric Plain-breasted Earthcreeper.

PLAIN-BREASTED EARTHCREEPER (*Upucerthia jelskii*) – It was neat to see this species minutes before seeing the White-throated, it is unusual to have two *Upucerthia* earthcreepers in the same place. This was in Putre, right outside our hotel!

CREAM-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes albiventris albiventris*) – Now officially split from the Buff-winged Cinclodes of the south. The Cream-winged is actually more closely related to the Gray-flanked than it is to the Buff-winged. We saw this one in Putre and Lauca.

BAR-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes fuscus*) – The name should be Buff-winged Cinclodes, I am not sure why Clements has not caught up to this. In any case, this was the Cinclodes we saw in the central Andes as well as Magallanes.

GRAY-FLANKED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes oustaleti*) – We had great looks at this cinclodes in Termas de Chillan. There was also one in the Yeso Valley. This highland cinclodes becomes coastal during the non-breeding season!

DARK-BELLIED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes patagonicus*) – Common in the southern forested sections of Chile, we had great views in Torres del Paine National Park, as well as the Temuco area.

SEASIDE CINCLODES (*Cinclodes nigrofumosus*) – This passerine is as much a seabird as many gulls and terns. The Seaside Cinclodes is found on the coast at all points of its life, including breeding. We had great looks in the Reñaca area. [E]

WHITE-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes atacamensis*) – Great views in Lauca national Park.

WREN-LIKE RUSHBIRD (*Phleocryptes melanops*) – It took us some time to get good looks at this species, but eventually at El Peral we had nice studies. Here we even found a nest. This furnariid is indeed wren-like, the ticking song is very cool.

THORN-TAILED RAYADITO (*Aphrastura spinicauda*) – Common throughout the Nothofagus forest south to Magallanes. A very unique and nice looking bird with a great personality. It is part creeper, part chickadee but looks nothing like either.

PLAIN-MANTLED TIT-SPINETAIL (GRISESCENS) (*Leptasthenura aegithaloides griseescens*) – On heard in the Chaca Valley.

PLAIN-MANTLED TIT-SPINETAIL (AEGITHALOIDES) (*Leptasthenura aegithaloides aegithaloides*) – The PM Tit-Spinetail we saw in the central zone of Chile.

PLAIN-MANTLED TIT-SPINETAIL (PALLIDA) (*Leptasthenura aegithaloides pallida*) – This was the PM Tit-Spinetail

we saw in Magallanes.

STREAKED TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura striata*) – Glimpsed by some, seen pretty well by others in Putre.

DES MURS'S WIRETAIL (*Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*) – We eventually had some good looks at this oddball furnariid of bamboo thickets. These were in Temuco.

CREAMY-BREASTED CANASTERO (DARK-WINGED) (*Asthenes dorbignyi arequipae*) – The Creamy-breasted Canastero needs some taxonomic revision as there are various forms that look different and sound different. The Chilean one we saw in Putre is the Dark-winged Canastero.

AUSTRAL CANASTERO (*Asthenes anthoides*) – On our first day of birding we had nice looks at the Austral Canastero at the Otway Sound Penguin Colony.

CORDILLERAN CANASTERO (*Asthenes modesta*) – Cordilleran Canasteros are widespread in Chile, but we only saw the species in Lauca National park.

SHARP-BILLED CANASTERO (*Asthenes pyrrholeuca*) – Also known as the Lesser Canastero, we had great looks at this bird in the Lonquimay area.

CANYON CANASTERO (*Asthenes pudibunda*) – Canyon Canastero is found only in southern Peru and northern Chile, we saw it in the valley below our hotel in Putre.

DUSKY-TAILED CANASTERO (*Pseudasthenes humicola*) – This endemic was harder to find this year than is usually the case. We eventually had great looks at Mahuida Park in the Santiago foothills. [E]

WHITE-THROATED TREERUNNER (*Pygarrhichas albogularis*) – This is a neat looking bird, not only due to its nuthatch like shape, but the coloration is great. The tone of rufous on it is unlike on any other birds, and the throat shines white. We saw this false nuthatch on various occasions in the Nothofagus forests of Chile.

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

CHESTNUT-THROATED HUET-HUET (*Pterotochos castaneus*) – This was not a good year for tapaculos, perhaps a harsh winter had beaten them down? We saw but one Chestnut-throated Huet-huet and this was on which crossed the trail at the big forest we visited in the Trancas Valley.

BLACK-THROATED HUET-HUET (*Pterotochos tarnii*) – The Black-throated Huet-huet is usually difficult to see and this year was no different. It took us a while but eventually most people had either a glimpse, a good look or even a super look depending on where they were and where in the shrubs they were looking.

MOUSTACHED TURCA (*Pterotochos megapodius*) – This is really a pale colored huet-huet, and it is the only one that is straight forward to see. We had great looks at several, but most memorable was the one carrying nesting material in its bill. This one really did look moustached. [E]

WHITE-THROATED TAPACULO (*Scelorchilus albicollis*) – Mahuida Park in the Santiago foothills came through with our only White-throated Tapaculos. They were very difficult to get out, but some folks got good or decent looks at them. [E]

CHUCAO TAPACULO (*Scelorchilus rubecula*) – The was heard often, but only glimpsed at Cerro Ñielol.

OCHRE-FLANKED TAPACULO (*Eugralla paradoxa*) – Another difficult to find tapaculo this year, we had some looks in dense bamboo at Cerro Ñielol.

MAGELLANIC TAPACULO (*Scytalopus magellanicus*) – The Magellanic Tapaculo sang a few times and we were able to bring a couple in. Also at Cerro Ñielol we saw one bird going into a nest about 10 feet up in a tree.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

YELLOW-BILLED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes flavirostris*) – Nice looks in Putre, more strikingly plumaged than the Tufted Tit-Tyrant.

TUFTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes parulus*) – Common in the central zone.

TICKING DORADITO (*Pseudocolopteryx citreola*) – Wow - I thought it was not going to happen, but we did hear one and have it come in for fantastic views. This species was recently resurrected, after the name citreola had been lost for years. Differences in vocalizations between it and the Warbling Doradito were key to this. [a]

WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (CHILEAN) (*Elaenia albiceps chilensis*) – Common in the central and southern part of the country. Known as the "fio-fio" due to its double call. [a]

WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (PERUVIAN) (*Elaenia albiceps modesta*) – The dozen or so that came in to that one peppertree looking for the pygmy owl voice was a neat event. But the next day seeing one down and close up was even more unusual. This species seldom shows so well. Although currently in the White-crested Elaenia, Chilean and Peruvian Elaenias deserve to be separated.

MANY-COLORED RUSH TYRANT (*Tachuris rubrigastra*) – Sometimes considered one of the most colorful of South

American birds. I am in no position to disagree, this is one colorful critter! We had super looks in the central coast marshes.

BRAN-COLORED FLYCATCHER (RUFESCENT) (*Myiophobus fasciatus rufescens*) – The Rufescent Flycatcher is currently a subspecies of the Bran-colored, but deserves species status based on vocal and morphological differences. We had a super look at one in the Lluta Valley, this species is rare and difficult to find. In fact it is a bit of a skulking flycatcher.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – Common in the valleys around Arica.

AUSTRAL NEGRITO (*Lessonia rufa*) – Abundant in Magallanes, less common in the central zone coastal areas. [a]

ANDEAN NEGRITO (*Lessonia oreas*) – Two were seen in Lauca National park.

SPECTACLED TYRANT (*Hymenops perspicillatus*) – This is a fantastic looking flycatcher, I particularly like the white primaries that flash when it flies. We saw them well in the central zone as well as at a roadside stop near Temuco. [a]

SPOT-BILLED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola maculirostris*) – Nice views of a displaying male on our way up the Farellones Road. This is the only ground tyrant that does a flight display and a good vocal display. Most others do the flight, but only a chip note as the "song." We saw it on the ground as well between flight displays. [a]

PUNA GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola juninensis*) – Common in Lauca National Park.

CINEREOUS GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola cinereus*) – This ground tyrant is usually relatively difficult to find. We were lucky to see one at Valle Nevado and then another the next day in the Yeso Valley. [a]

WHITE-FRONTED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola albifrons*) – The huge ground tyrant of Lauca National Park. It is very similar in shape but even larger than the Ochre-naped which we saw farther south.

OCHRE-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola flavinucha*) – The Ochre-naped is a distinctive ground tyrant as the pale nape spot is easily visible from a distance. It is also a large one and one with a bold white forehead, like its relative the White-fronted of farther north. [a]

DARK-FACED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola maclovianus*) – This is a common ground tyrant in winter and migration, but during the time of our tour it can be difficult to find as it tends to be on mountain tops at latitudes we do not visit. However, a spot that Ricardo has told me is good for this species came through again, it seldom does come through, but this time it did! There it was at the edge of Lago Grey at Torres del Paine, thanks Ricardo!

WHITE-BROWED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola albilora*) – This is the common and widespread ground-tyrant of the Santiago Andes. We also saw the species at Termas de Chillan. [a]

CINNAMON-BELLIED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola capistratus*) – The southernmost of the ground-tyrants, this one is often found at sea level. We saw several on our time in Magallanes. Some of you commented that it reminded you of a Say's Phoebe in coloration, indeed they do have similar colors. [a]

BLACK-FRONTED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola frontalis*) – A relatively uncommon ground tyrant of the Santiago Andes. This is a species for which you have to go to the highest elevations in order to have a chance of seeing it. Some folks saw one at Valle Nevado, although most of our group saw it well in the scope in the Yeso highlands.

BLACK-BILLED SHRIKE-TYRANT (*Agriornis montanus*) – This species is widespread but seldom plentiful. We saw one while coming down from our successful search for the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover in the Yeso Valley.

FIRE-EYED DIUCON (*Xolmis pyrope*) – Common in the central and southern part of the tour. This species is really a kind of "monjita" and one with crazy red eyes.

CHOCOLATE-VENTED TYRANT (*Neoxolmis rufiventris*) – This southern flycatcher is a rather interesting one. It is a strong migrant, wintering in central Argentina. It also is a terrestrial flycatcher related to the ground tyrants and shrike tyrants, but much more colorful. To me when it flies, it looks most unusual as it has a strong and colorful wing pattern but also sharply pointed wings almost like a shorebird or falcon! We had great views of this species nearing Cerro Sombrero on Tierra del Fuego. [a]

PATAGONIAN TYRANT (*Colorhamphus parvirostris*) – It took a while to find this little arboreal flycatcher in the woods, but we eventually did. This was in Valle Las Trancas during our morning there. In terms of size and bill shape, this flycatcher is equivalent to a kinglet in the north and probably fills a similar ecological role.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

RUFOUS-TAILED PLANTCUTTER (*Phytotoma rara*) – Common in the central and southern part of the country. Our first was at Lago Grey in Torres del Paine. These birds were at one point in their own family, but now are confirmed to be cotingas.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (PERUVIANA) (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca peruviana*) – Common in lowlands of

Arica, also a few in Putre. These have more black on the vent than patagonica.

- BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (PATAGONICA)** (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca patagonica*) – One of the two common swallows in much of Chile, being found all the way to Magallanes. It is a strong migrant, wintering north to Venezuela! This is a species I predict will some day go the wrong way and wind up in the United States somewhere as a vagrant. [a]
- ANDEAN SWALLOW** (*Orochelidon andecola*) – A few went by as we birded Lauca National Park. It is shaped like a Cliff Swallow and can have a buffy rump, but is not closely related to that species.
- CHILEAN SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta meyeri*) – Common in any wooded area of Chile, or where there are other places for it to nest such as farmland and even suburban areas. It is a cavity nester much like a Tree Swallow.
- BANK SWALLOW** (*Riparia riparia*) – One over the reservoir in the Azapa Valley. [b]
- BARN SWALLOW (AMERICAN)** (*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*) – Several Barn Swallows were found on our trip, the first north of Valparaiso and most in the Arica lowlands. These are migrants from the northern hemisphere. [b]
- CLIFF SWALLOW** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) – One, a pale forehead type, at the Azapa Valley pond. An uncommon migrant to Chile. [b]

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

- HOUSE WREN (SOUTHERN)** (*Troglodytes aedon tecellatus*) – The house wren of the northern lowlands, these birds often have barred backs. This is an unusual pattern in this widespread species.
- HOUSE WREN (SOUTHERN)** (*Troglodytes aedon chilensis*) – Common in much of Chile, south to Magallanes.
- SEDGE WREN (PLATENSIS GROUP)** (*Cistothorus platensis hornensis*) – Great looks at the Otway Sound penguin colony, as well as Victoria north of Temuco, and heard on the coast at the mouth of the Maipo River. This form deserves a species upgrade from the northern Sedge Wren due to various ecological and morphological differences. The problem is what to do with the birds that are inbetween, there may be more species involved there.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

- AUSTRAL THRUSH** (*Turdus falcklandii*) – The Chilean version of the Robin, the Austral Thrush was common in central and southern Chile. Behaviourally much like an American Robin, and even sings like one!
- CHIGUANCO THRUSH** (*Turdus chiguanco chiguanco*) – The Chiguanco Thrush is a thrush restricted to the north in Chile, it is particularly common around Putre. There are two forms of this species, a blacker more southern one and a browner-greier more northern one. We saw the more northern one, chiguanco. The two have been at times been suggested as separate species.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

- CHILEAN MOCKINGBIRD** (*Mimus thenca*) – A common endemic of the central zone. This mocker prefers agricultural areas as well as dry scrub and open dry forest. [E]
- PATAGONIAN MOCKINGBIRD** (*Mimus patagonicus*) – A relatively rare species in Chile, and largely restricted in a patchy manner to Magallanes. We saw it well on our way up the Sierra Baguales.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

- CORRENDERA PIPIT** (*Anthus correndera*) – The common pipit in Chile, which we saw in Magallanes as well as coastal areas in the central zone. It is a well striped species, with white lines down the back that appear like suspenders.
- HELLMAYR'S PIPIT** (*Anthus hellmayri dabbenei*) – The distribution and abundance of this species in Chile is still being figured out. We saw one in Victoria carrying food, so confirmed breeding! A very good start to the Chilean atlas project.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

- CINEREOUS CONEBILL** (*Conirostrum cinereum*) – Common in Putre and the lowlands of Arica. A warbler like conebill.
- TAMARUGO CONEBILL** (*Conirostrum tamarugense*) – I must admit that I was thinking we had missed this species when it did not come in at first. But with a bit of perseverance and looking for dense shrubs, we were able to get amazingly good looks at this range restricted species. This was the last speciality we found on the trip, hours before our flight back north! A nice way to end things with a bang.
- BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER** (*Thraupis bonariensis darwinii*) – This Andean form of the Blue-and-yellow Tanager is sometimes known as Darwin's Tanager. It has a green back and is slightly less colorful than the black backed form of the lowlands. We saw this pretty tanager in Putre.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

- BLACK-HOODED SIERRA-FINCH** (*Phrygilus atriceps*) – Perhaps the nicest looking of the sierra-finches, the Black-

hooded males can be stunning. When you see this species it becomes clear that all the hooded sierra finches go in a pattern of brightest to dullest in the order Black-hooded, Patagonian, Grey-hooded. The taxonomy of the Sierra-finches is muddled currently and the genus includes several unrelated groups. The hooded group is likely close to the Yellow-finches. The Mourning, Band-tailed, White-throated may be in one or two other groups. Then the Plumbeous and Ash-breasted appear to be related to an entirely different group of birds, the Haplospiza finches! You will see much shifting around in this group in the coming years, the English names will likely remain but the scientific and order in the checklist will change for sure.

GRAY-HOODED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus gayi*) – Common in the central Andes and Magallanes. This is the first of the hooded sierra finches we saw on our trip.

PATAGONIAN SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus patagonicus*) – Once we reached the Nothofagus forests of the south, this finch popped up. It is found in central and southern Chile, but only in forested areas, unlike the Grey-hooded which likes open and shrubby country.

MOURNING SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus fruticeti*) – A large and dark Sierra Finch of the Andes and shrubby areas in Magallanes. We saw them well in various spots, but Putre is where this species is very common.

PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus unicolor*) – A species with a very large distributional range, and as I mentioned on the trip likely two species are involved. We saw Plumbeous Sierra-Finches from Sierra Baguales north to Lauca; this is always a species of the mountains.

WHITE-THROATED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus erythronotus*) – This is a sierra-finch with a relatively small distributional range. One of the best places to see it is Lauca National Park, and indeed this is where we found it.

ASH-BREASTED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus plebejus*) – A sierra finch of arid highlands, the more desert-like the place, the more this finch likes it. We saw it best coming down from Putre, as the habitat became drier and drier.

BAND-TAILED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus alaudinus*) – Our views of this rather unique looking sierra-finch were on the Farellones Road. This and the Plumbeous are two sierra-finches that perform an aerial display.

WHITE-WINGED DIUCA-FINCH (*Diuca speculifera*) – My guess is that this and the Common diuca-finches are not closely related. Time and molecular work will tell. We saw the White-winged Diuca in Lauca National Park.

COMMON DIUCA-FINCH (*Diuca diuca*) – Common in central Chile where it can be one of the easy birds to see in the countryside.

WHITE-BRIDLED FINCH (*Melanodera melanodera*) – Formerly known as the Canary-winged, or Black-throated finch! Certainly this is about the prettiest species in the steppe of Magallanes. However it requires particularly good bunch grass and does not do well in heavily grazed areas. We saw it best on the road to Morro Chico, where one bird came in close and allowed for fantastic looks, in low wind even!

SLENDER-BILLED FINCH (*Xenospingus concolor*) – A slim and unique looking finch (tanager likely) of the northern desert oasis valleys. We found it both in the Lluta and Azapa valleys.

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*) – Although widespread in the tropics, the Arica area is as far south as this little tanager gets on the West Coast. We were able to see two different males doing the jumping flight display that gives them the name "Johnny Jump-Up" in Trinidad.

CHESTNUT-THROATED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila telasco*) – Nice views of this streak-backed seedeater in the lowlands near Arica. It does well in agricultural areas.

BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia analis*) – The Band-tailed is a seedeater of the highlands. The only place it is common in Chile is Putre, and this is exactly where we found it, right at our hotel in fact.

BLACK-THROATED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa brunneiventris*) – This is a more handsome species than the book makes it out to be. Again, Putre was the place to find this flowerpiercer. For some reason it gravitates to Eucalyptus, I gather their flowers provide good nectar for this species.

GREATER YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis auriventris*) – The common yellow-finch of the central Andes. We saw this finch superbly well in the Yeso and Farellones areas.

GREENISH YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis olivascens*) – A widespread Andean yellow-finch that loves living near towns. We found it in Putre.

PATAGONIAN YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis lebruni*) – Over the years this yellow-finch seems to have become easier and easier to find. Now we have a great looking flock regularly at the Seno Otway penguin colony in Magallanes! Suits me fine, and allows us to obtain rather good looks at this subtly attractive species.

GRASSLAND YELLOW-FINCH (GRASSLAND) (*Sicalis luteola luteiventris*) – The common yellow finch of the central Chilean lowlands. This one is much easier to locate as the males tend to make buzzing aerial displays, often hovering right over females in order to impress them. They are particularly common in open grassy areas that are moist.

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Common throughout, a bird we found on every day of the tour! There are major geographic variations however. The Magallanes population is large, migratory and lacks crown stripes. Similarly the highland populations are large and some (Yeso) also lack crown stripes. The lowland birds in the north are big and have a peaked head, also very different vocalizations. It is a much more diverse species than first meets the eye.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

PERUVIAN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella bellicosa*) – Common in the lowland valleys of the north.

LONG-TAILED MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella loyca*) – Common in central and southern Chile; a striking looking blackbird!

AUSTRAL BLACKBIRD (*Curaeus curaeus*) – To me this blackbird which inhabits forest and forest edge is somewhat like an ecological replacement for the jays. It is common in the central and southern part of the country all the way south to Magallanes.

YELLOW-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelasticus thilius*) – Our first we saw at Torres del Paine National Park; this is about their southern range limit. They are much more common farther north to the central zone, where again we saw a bunch. This is a blackbird of Scirpus (Tule/Rush) marshes, however it is not all that closely related to the Red-wing; similarities are convergent.

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*) – Common in the central zone of Chile. A little less expected was seeing them in the lowlands of Arica, where they appear to be becoming a tad more common. Ecologically quite similar to the Brown-headed Cowbird which also is a brood parasite.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

HOODED SISKIN (*Spinus magellanicus bolivianus*) – Common in Putre, a few were also seen in the upper portion of the Azapa Valley.

BLACK SISKIN (*Spinus atratus*) – Wow - this is a stunning species in black and yellow. I guess it is a Steeler's fan? In any case, we did see them well, right besides the bus in Lauca National Park.

YELLOW-RUMPED SISKIN (*Spinus uropygialis*) – Superb looks at this Andean siskin on our way up the Yeso Valley. Their abundance of this siskin varies quite a bit, it would be interesting to know what plant is the preferred one it follows.

BLACK-CHINNED SISKIN (*Spinus barbatus*) – This is the widespread siskin of the central and southern part of the country. Common in forest and forest edge.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – Common in towns and cities, even way up there at the edge of Lauca National Park.

MAMMALS

OLD WORLD RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) – Common in the central zone. [I]

EUROPEAN BROWN HARE (*Lepus europaeus*) – Common in Magallanes. [I]

BOLIVIAN PERICOTE (BIG-EARED MOUSE) (*Auliscomys boliviensis*) – Superb views of this cute little animal as we ate lunch by Lake Chungara in Lauca national park.

MUSKRAT (*Ondatra zibethica*) – One in Tierra del Fuego where introduced for the fur trade. [I]

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN VISCACHA (*Lagidium peruanum*) – A funny sleepy looking animal that reminds people of a rabbit, It is not even closely related to a rabbit. Ours were found in Lauca National Park, some folks saw it also heading down from Putre.

NUTRIA (*Myocastor coypus*) – One swam by at Laguna Cartagena in the central zone.

DEGU (*Octodon degus*) – Nice views of this endemic mammal as we looked for the White-throated Tapaculo. The Degu has recently become popular as an exotic pet! This is in North America that I am talking about.

HIGHLAND TUCO-TUCO (*Ctenomys opimus*) – This was the funny digging rodent we saw in Lauca National Park.

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN (*Tursiops truncatus*) – Brian saw this species while we were out on the boat.

COMMERSON'S DOLPHIN (*Cephalorhynchus commersonii*) – We had fantastic views of this black and white dolphin on the First Narrows crossing of the Strait of Magellan.

SOUTHERN GRAY FOX (*Pseudalopex griseus*) – Common in Magallanes.

CULPEO FOX (*Pseudalopex culpaeus*) – This may have been the species glimpsed in Yerba Loca reserve.

PATAGONIAN HOG-NOSED SKUNK (*Conepatus humboldti*) – Seen dead on road, Magallanes.

SOUTHERN SEA LION (*Otaria byronia*) – Common at the port of Arica, also on the Valparaiso pelagic and the rock north of Valparaiso.

GUANACO (*Lama guanicoe*) – Common in Magallanes, as well as in the elevations immediately below Lauca National Park. It is thought that this is the wild form of the Llama.

LLAMA (*Lama glama*) – A domesticated species, larger than the alpaca.

ALPACA (*Lama pacos*) – The smaller domesticated camelid, perhaps derived from the Vicuna. Common in the Lauca highlands.

VICUNA (*Vicugna vicugna*) – One of the reasons Lauca National Park was established was to preserve the Vicuna, and it has worked. We saw many during our visit there, even through all the construction and dust.

ANDEAN DEER (*Hippocamelus antisensis*) – A real highlight was finding this rare deer as we left Putre to visit the park. Three individuals were present, one was a young male. This deer is part of a pair in this genus, the other (*Huemul*) is on the Chilean coat of arms.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The Tarantula we saw in Mahuida was Grammostola rosea.

There was a Pseudoscorpion seen.

Totals for the tour: 281 bird taxa and 19 mammal taxa