



The magical White-winged Nightjar, our inevitable bird-of-the-trip! (Pete Morris)

PARAGUAY NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB FUNDRAISER

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LEADERS: ROB CLAY, PETE MORRIS (report author) & PAUL SMITH



The wonderful Sickie-winged Nightjar wasn't far behind! (Pete Morris)

Whilst we all love getting out to see the world's amazing avifauna, one cannot help but be tinged with a little sadness as we watch so many habitats and associated species disappearing in front of our eyes. Let's be honest, we all wish we could do more, feel we should do more, but it's not all that easy. So when Raymond and the Neotropical Bird Club (NBC) approached me with the idea of hosting a tour with the aim of having a great time birding, whilst raising funds for charity, I jumped at the chance! This was the first time that Birdquest had ever been involved in a specific charity fund raising tour, and all of us wanted to be sure it would be a great success. It was years in the planning, but with the combined powers of the NBC, Fauna Paraguay and Birdquest, we came up with a plan that worked, and with the generous participation of a hardy bunch of enthusiastic birders, I think we can all be proud of what we achieved. We went to Paraguay, saw nearly all of the special birds we were after, had quite a few laughs along the way and, between us, raised a very substantial sum of money for conservation! Can't be a bad way to spend a few weeks, and special thanks should go to our excellent in-country hosts, Paul, Rob and our three great drivers.

The tour itself focused on visiting many of Paraguay's birding hotspots with the express aim of seeing many excellent target species whilst also learning about the reserves, the habitats, the threats and the conservation efforts going on to counter the threats. It was a country that most of us knew little about before our visit, but we all came away more knowledgeable about a country that we all enjoyed visiting immensely, and with cherished memories of some really special birds. In just over two weeks we recorded well over 400 species of birds as well as a good number of interesting mammals, reptiles, amphibians, moths and other critters! Specific highlights included the wonderful White-winged and Sickie-winged Nightjars, both of which were seen at touching distance, some stunning Chaco, Tawny-browed and Rusty-barred Owls, Black-capped Screech Owl, two amazing Crowned Solitary Eagles, the fabulous Black-legged Seriema, brilliant Ocellated, Red-and-white and Rufous-faced Crakes, Giant Snipe, the localized Purple-crowned Plovercrest, impressive Helmeted and Black-bodied Woodpeckers, an amazing Pheasant Cuckoo, gorgeous Cock-tailed, Strange-tailed, Streamer-tailed Tyrants and Sharp-tailed Grass Tyrants, clanking Bare-throated Bellbirds, and dazzling Saffron-cowled Blackbirds. And that's just the tip of the iceberg!

We all assembled in Asunción at various times the day before the tour, giving ourselves time to acclimatize and prepare, but it wasn't long before we were loading up our four 4x4s (most of the time anyway!!) the following morning, and making our way over the Rio Paraguay and on into the humid chaco. Although not a huge country, we were intending to explore widely, and as a result, a fair amount of driving was required, with some pretty lengthy drives, and the first day, was the first of these! Essentially a travel day, we did make various stops along the way, picking up a good number of interesting species as we went. Initially we passed through palm-studded grasslands with scattered wetlands, and we soon became aware of the huge numbers of waterbirds these areas could hold. Wood and Maguari Storks were common and stately Jabirus were not infrequent. At our first major stop we were soon admiring Black-capped Donacobius, dazzling Scarlet-hooded Blackbirds and a cute little Rufous-sided Crake, whilst a flock of c40 Muscovy Ducks was an impressive sight. Another stop saw us peering into a dense marsh, looking for skulking little doraditos. Not an easy task. The many Unicoloured Blackbirds were a constant distraction, as were our first Tawny-bellied Seedeaters, but after much perseverance we did manage to lay our eyes on a Subtropical Doradito and the seldom-seen Dinelli's Doradito. Nanday Parakeets, Chotoy Spinetails and White and Grey Monjitas were also logged and we soon realized that then huge nests adorning many trees and pylons belonged to the ultra common Monk Parakeet!



Black-capped Donacobius and Scarlet-hooded Blackbird provided early entertainment (Pete Morris)



A welcome break for lunch (and a chance to escape from what were by now pretty fierce temperatures) also resulted in a few birds as Lark-like Brushrunners graced the lawn, a Chaco Puffbird cowered in the shade, and a Greater Thornbird and our first of many Giant Wood Rails graced a nearby pool. We also visited a nearby bat roost!. Continuing on, we paused at an area that yielded our only Little Thornbirds of the trip as well as a good selection of other chaco birds such as Checkered and White-fronted Woodpeckers and the perky little Crested Hornero. We paused at a wetland that held ridiculous numbers of Snail Kites and Limpkins as well as Southern Screamers, Plumbeous, Buff-necked, White-faced and hundreds of Bare-faced Ibises, three species of whistling-duck, our first Brazilian Ducks and gorgeous little Ringed Teals. By the time we headed off the main road, and made our way towards Laguna Capitan, the sun was beginning to sink, but we still had time to add huge Greater Rheas and a stately Red-legged Seriema to our list, as well as our first aptly-named Many-coloured Chaco Finch. By the time we arrived at our accommodation, the sun had set, but this was not enough to stop us as we soon had our first owl, a Tropical Screech Owl, fixed firmly in our torch beam.



This Tropical Screech Owl was the first of a good number of owls seen on the trip! (Pete Morris)

The following morning we set out on foot to explore the chaco habitats surrounding the lodge. A number of much-wanted species were available right on our doorstep. Pride of place went to the confiding chaco form of Olive-crowned Crescentchest which allowed marvellous views, but the supporting cast wasn't too bad! Amazing terrestrial Scimitar-billed Woodcreepers strutted their stuff like hoopoes, raucous Chaco Chachalacas showed well, Cinereous Tyrants perched on bush tops, and other pre-breakfast goodies included Great and Barred Antshrikes, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Greater Wagtail-Tyrants, subtle Southern Scrub-Flycatchers, Plain Inezias, Black-capped Warbling Finches and a fine male Ultramarine Grosbeak. There was also a fortuitous sighting of Geoffrey's Cat for a couple of the group.

We paused for breakfast and then set out to explore the surrounding areas by vehicle. By now it was warming up considerably, heading back towards the 40s, and the wind was picking up a little. We stopped at



Cinereous Tyrant and Olive-crowned (Chaco) Crescentchest at Laguna Capitan (Pete Morris)

various wetlands where we admired more delightful Ringed Teals as well as flocks of Chilean Flamingos, pastel-coloured Whistling Herons and a good variety of migrant waders which included American Golden Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, White-rumped, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers and spinning Wilson's Phalaropes, as well as resident Collared Plovers. We also bumped into a Chaco Nothura, a handsome Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and a showy Solitary Cacique, but as the mercury continued to rise, we sought lunch and air-conditioning back at base! In the afternoon we explored an area further afield, seeing Brushland Tinamou on the way. Here the highlight was the strangely arboreal Chaco Earthcreeper, and we also enjoyed comparing two distinctive subspecies of Black Skimmer side by side, and investigated a rather odious Vampire Bat roost! Time shot by, and it was soon time to get the lights out for the drive back and these were put to good use as we admired a fantastic Chaco Owl as well as Little and Scissor-tailed Nightjars.



Good numbers of gorgeous Ringed Teal were seen in the chaco (Pete Morris)

The following morning we just had a short time to explore around the lodge as we packed and got ready to move on. Little was added though we did find time to admire some impressive Great Rufous Woodcreepers before we left. En route we added another Brushland Tinamou, before calling in to Loma Plata for supplies. Here the main entertainment was provided by an *Empidonax* flycatcher 6,500 miles away, as we joined in on the attempt to identify the UK's first Acadian Flycatcher as events unfolded! Soon enough we were on our way again, admiring more gatherings of waterbirds before pulling into Fortin Toledo. Here Paul was quietly confident that he'd be able to show us the rare Black-bodied Woodpecker which had recently been excavating a nest in a roadside tree. Sadly, this was not to be! A pair of White Woodpeckers (usually a nice bird to see, but on this occasion despised!!) had apparently usurped their bigger relatives, of which there was no sign. We had to content ourselves with a Pearl Kite, Crane Hawks and Chaco Suiriris, as well as an amazing Red Tegú (a huge lizard) despite much searching! We still had a long drive ahead of us, much of which was on terrible road, so we couldn't linger, and headed on to our lunch venue. That afternoon we bumped along in searing heat at a rather slow pace, but the journey was made all that more bearable by a sensational pair of Black-legged Seriemas and some fabulous Turquoise-fronted Amazons. It was dusk by the time we arrived at our accommodation at Enciso National Park, but that did not deter us. The evening haul included a couple more lovely Chaco Owls as well as great views of Little and Rufous Nighthjars and some immense Rococo Toads!



The fabulous Chaco Owl was a big hit! (Pete Morris)



One of many Little Nightjars that were seen well (Pete Morris)

Our day exploring Enciso National Park was another hot one. We spent the morning in the vicinity of our accommodation, gradually notching up some of the chaco specialities we were seeking. The sneaky Crested Gallito took a while, but eventually obliged, and while looking a fine male Cream-backed Woodpecker flew over us. Noisy Brown Cacholotes and more circumspect Sooty-fronted Spinetails showed well, sneaky Stripe-backed Antbirds were teased from their epiphyte-laden lairs and other interesting species included White-barred Piculet, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl (of the form *pallens* which is sometimes aligned with Tucuman Pygmy Owl), Striped Owl (for a lucky few before it spooked!), Crested Hornero (with its classic oven nest), Red-billed Scythebill, Rufous Casiornis and colourful Orange-backed Troupials. As the mercury again headed towards the max, we took some time to relax before our afternoon excursion. This proved to be a hot and not overly productive affair. No Black-bodied Woodpeckers, tinamous or falconets, but we did find some cracking Black-crested Finches and our first Variable Antshrikes. That evening, the Chaco Owl was again in the tree by our accommodation, and for those that had missed it, we had another look at the Rufous Nightjar.



A striking Stripe-backed Antbird at Enciso NP , and the amazing Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper (Pete Morris)



Two views of the first magnificent Crowned Solitary Eagle! (Pete Morris)

The following morning, we tried in vain for the missing chaco goodies, just noting Laughing and Bat Falcons and a number of species we were now familiar with, before returning for breakfast and packing. We once again had a long drive, so headed south as soon as we were ready. Not far into the journey we bumped into one of the highlights of the trip in the shape of not one, but two, Crowned Solitary Eagles, the first of which treated us to magnificent views both perched and flying!! Another stop produced our only Short-billed Canastero of the tour, but the most significant 'stop' was somewhat unscheduled and resulted in us being squeezed into three vehicles for a couple of days while the fourth waited for spares!

It was late in the afternoon before we arrived back at Fortin Toledo. The proud new home owners, the White Woodpeckers, were again in residence, but there was again no sign of their bigger relatives. At least not for a while, and then, as if by magic, a very smart and very confiding Black-bodied Woodpecker put in an incredible



The fantastic female Black-bodied Woodpecker, the usurper, the White Woodpecker and captive Chacoan Peccaries (Pete Morris)

performance, restoring smiles to many a face. We also found time to visit the nearby peccary breeding pens, learning plenty about these fascinating piggies, and confirming the sighting of Chacoan Peccary for some of us from Laguna Capitan.

The following day we could take our foot off the gas a little. No need for an ultra early start, as it was really a travel day with the most interesting areas too far along the Ruta Trans Chaco to reach early in the day. We paused on the outskirts of Loma Plata to admire Ringed Teals for the last time as well as an impressive gathering of 20+ Jabirus. We again saw many waterbirds as we went, but with much distance to cover, stops were

really few and far between. Our lunch stop again produced a few interesting species, including Yellow-billed Cardinal, and we did pause to notch up Firewood-gatherer. We also made another extended hunt for doraditos, this time finding an excellent Crested Doradito that posed for all. We also witnessed some of the excitement that is the Trans-Chaco Rally!



The Trans-Chaco Rally is a massive event! (Raymond Jeffers)

After a comfortable night in Asunción, we were again on our way, though our first stop was just in Asunción Bay. This proved to be a little disappointing and doradito-less, with highlights including Yellowish Pipits, Burrowing Owls and a 'jessied' Aplomado Falcon! Heading on, in much reduced temperatures, our first major stop was near to the interestingly-named town, Arroyos y Esteros. Here the extensive wet grasslands were quartered by graceful Long-winged Harriers as South American Snipes displayed, but it was rather smaller species we were seeking, and it didn't take us too long! Amazing Strange-tailed Tyrants were soon found, the males bouncing along from perch to perch. Rather more retiring Bearded Tachuris showed superbly, Lesser Grass Finches, Pampa Finches and Long-tailed Reed Finches crept through the roadside vegetation, numerous Yellow-rumped Marshbirds bombed around the marsh and we also found a male Dark-throated Seedeater of the 'Ibera' type.

Well satisfied with our efforts we moved on and stopped to enjoy a fine buffet lunch! A post-lunch marsh stop produced some amazing displaying Streamer-tailed Tyrants as well as a distant flock of Upland Sandpipers and a fine male White-tailed Goldenthrout which kept returning to feed at a flowering Inga tree, though the noisy Blackish Rails steadfastly refused to show. We then continued to Laguna Blanca. Having settled in and watched the antics of our drivers getting stuck in the sand, we began our explorations. We had a fine Ash-throated Crake for starters, but the main had to wait until after dark. One of the most anticipated moments of the tour soon became reality as we enjoyed simply incredible views of three different White-winged Nightjars! First a female which was amazing enough, then a stunning male, followed by the absolute highlight – a male in display. This exquisite creature sat on its perch a foot off the ground, before suddenly dropping to the ground with an audible thud and fluttering back up to its perch like a moth whilst making a strange wing noise.

AMAZING!!! On the way back, an irresistible Common Potoo was watched at eye level, but the night, perhaps the trip, really belonged to the nightjars! This was really put into context when we learned about the fragility of the reserve and how, without action and help, the whole area could be turned into a soya farm in the near future in what would be a disastrous and irreversible change of land use.



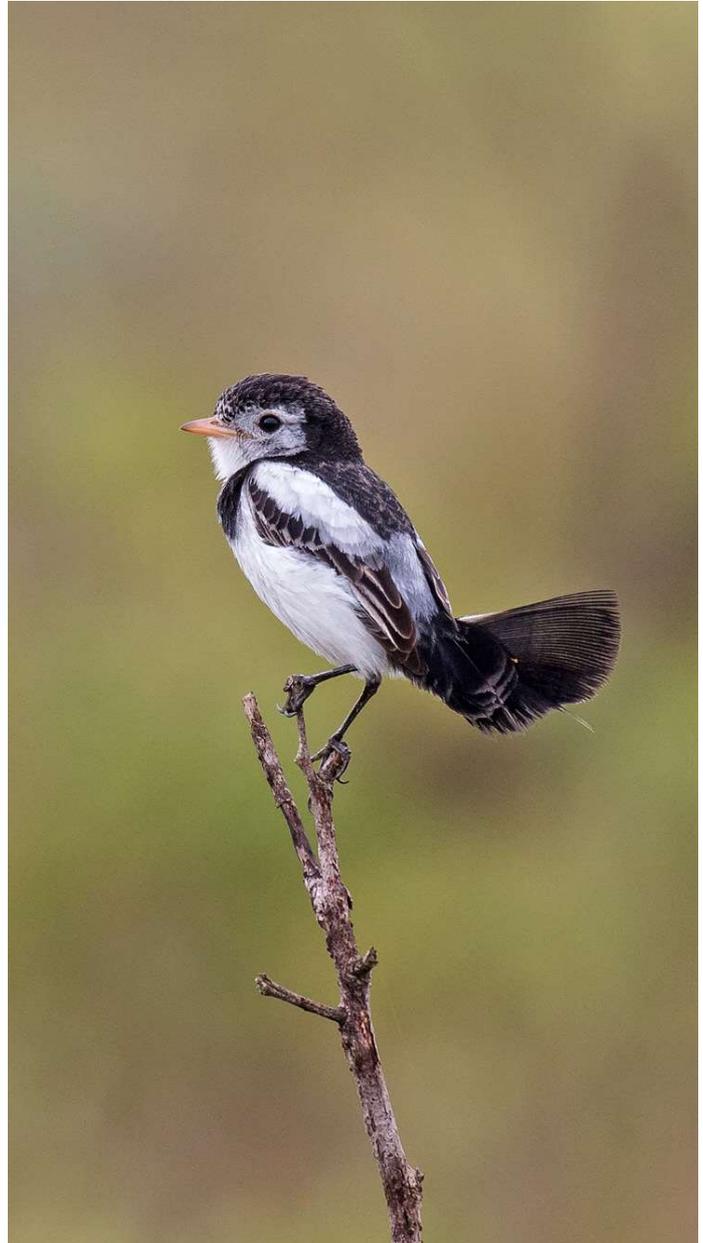
The magnificent White-winged Nightjars of Laguna Blanca. Female above, male below (Pete Morris)





A wonderful Common Potoo at Laguna Blanca (Pete Morris)

We then had a full day to explore Laguna Blanca, spending much of the time focused on the cerrado habitats. The weather had by now gone full circle, and was predominantly cool and wet. Although this deterred us for a while, we battled through and came away with most of the prizes which included stunning Cock-tailed Tyrants, subtle Sharp-tailed Grass Tyrants, fabulous White-rumped and Shrike-like Tanagers, Curl-crested Jays, Black-throated Saltators, smart Black-masked Finches and even more White-winged Nightjars accidentally disturbed from their day roosts. Red-winged Tinamous put in a few appearances and other species of interest included smart White-eared Puffbirds, Lesser Elaenia, White-rumped Monjita, Tawny-headed Swallow, Wedge-tailed Grass Finch and Plumbeous Seedeater.



Amazing Cock-tailed Tyrants put on a fine performance for us (Pete Morris)

In the middle of the day we spent some time around the lodge, adding a fine pair of Buff-bellied Puffbirds and a small flock which included Hooded Tanager and Chestnut-vented Conebill amongst others. That afternoon we explored another area of cerrado in search of nothuras. This ended up being tricky and somewhat comical as we were distracted by a ground nest of an Eared Dove! In the end we heard a few nothuras calling and flushed one bird which, in my opinion at least, was a Spotted Nothura. Heading back we added several Nacunda Nighthawks and our first Pauraques.

As usual, we had just the early morning to go out, this time adding a colourful Rufous-capped Motmot and Flavescent Warbler as well as admiring the sun-loving Guira Cuckoos and Purplish Jays. We then headed on



A fine Yellow-fronted Woodpecker at Mbaracayú and a Purplish Jay at Laguna Blanca (Pete Morris)



again, stopping in Curuguaty for lunch. Quite amazingly, right opposite the restaurant was a perched *Accipiter*-like Rufous-thighed Kite which proceeded to circle up and join four others. Further on, a roadside marsh yielded little other than a couple of Swainson's Flycatchers, and by mid afternoon we'd arrived at the fabulous Mbaracayú Reserve.

We spent four nights at the wonderful Mbaracayú Lodge, where we were looked after superbly by our attentive hosts. The lodge itself is a perfect model for a community run conservation initiative, and we were all totally impressed by the place. It also gave us three and a bit days to explore the excellent rainforest, gallery forest and grasslands that were within easy reach of our comfortable accommodation. The clearing itself was a great place to hang out. Here we were able to find Chestnut-eared Aracaris, colourful Toco Toucans, gorgeous Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers that were nesting just outside the buildings, three species of tityras, nesting Crested Becards and frequent Grey Elaenias. White-eyed, Yellow-chevroned and Maroon-bellied Parakeets frequently flashed by, occasionally pausing, and as dusk fell, Short-tailed Nighthawks dashed around over the clearing. After dark, within easy reach of the lodge we found Tropical Screech Owl, Western Barn Owl and several smart Black-capped Screech Owls!



Black-capped Screech Owl at Mbaracayú (Pete Morris)



A much-appreciated male Helmeted Woodpecker (Pete Morris)

We spent much time exploring the lush forests, and here our absolute highlight had to be the magnificent Helmeted Woodpecker which gave us two opportunities to enjoy its unique form – the first time a fine male, the second time a showy pair! Other flashy species included Surucua and Black-throated Trogons, a pair of Red-and-green Macaws, Spot-billed Toucanet, a gorgeous pair of Saffron Toucanets, Blue and Band-tailed Manakins, and an entertaining colony of Red-rumped Caciques. The frequent clanking of Bare-throated Bellbirds could even be heard from the lodge, and we had a couple of sessions admiring this strange turquoise-throated beast! More retiring forest species included a pair of scarce Rusty-breasted Nunlets, White-eyed and Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaners, Grey-bellied Spinetail, Planalto Woodcreeper, Black-capped and Rufous-winged Antwrens, a fabulous Southern Antpiper, White-throated Spadebill and Riverbank Warbler, though the noisy Undulated Tinamous only appeared for the lead vehicle.



Bare-throated Bellbird and Black-crowned Tityra (Pete Morris)



Those that came for another look for the Ocellated Crake were also rewarded with this Solitary Tinamou (check out the bizarre roosting posture, top left) and a fine Mottled Owl from the same trip (Pete Morris)





A smart Collared Crescentchest at Mbaracayú (Pete Morris)

We also spent some time exploring a couple of areas of grassland. At the more distant area, despite spider traumas, we were delighted to find an excellent Collared Crescentchest and, after considerable effort, a very good view of the rarely-seen Rufous-faced Crake. Here, a few White-collared Swifts drifted overhead, along with a Great Dusky Swift, and we also saw a fine Hook-billed Kite. We also made three visits to another area where Ocellated Crake was not uncommon. Not uncommon, but not easy to see either!! However, after much effort, some great views of this cracking little bird were achieved. Nearby, some of the group saw Rusty-margined Guan, and while looking we flushed a red-legged Small-billed Tinamou. Heading home after our final successful attempt, we were delighted to find a roosting Solitary Tinamou and a Mottled Owl.

After a final morning at Mbaracayú, group shots and lovely farewells, we were on our way once more. As long drives go, this was a long one, and other than a lunch stop and comfort breaks, we did little, and even then, it was well after dark when we arrived at the interesting and slightly unorthodox Tirol Hotel. The beers tasted good that evening!

Other than it being a good place to break the journey, the main reason for spending a night at the Hotel Tirol is that the small patch of forest surrounding the hotel can be quite productive. Our morning there was cool and relatively quiet, with the lure of breakfast providing a large distraction! However, we did manage to see a few good birds which included a fine male Ochre-collared Piculet, Plain-winged Woodcreeper, a bold Yellow Tyrannulet, another stunning Southern Antpiper, White-winged Becards, Purple-throated and Violaceous Euphonias, some melodious White-rimmed Warblers, Green-winged Saltator, Black-goggled Tanagers, a noisy gang of Red-crowned Ant Tanagers and a fine male Ruby-crowned Tanager.

We then made our way to the charming San Rafael Reserve, and after a lovely lunch, began exploring this fine area. Our birding here was really split into three areas: the marsh adjacent to the lodge, the various excellent forest trails, and the more distant Kanguery area. As luck would have it, some routine maintenance was being carried out on the marshland/grazing pasture and this resulted in us seeing two or three fabulous Red-and-white Crakes. This usually shy and difficult species paraded in front of us, and we also saw a number of Brazilian Guinea-Pigs in the marsh.

The real 'meat' of the birding at San Rafael was provided by the forest trails. Here, we spent a fair bit of time lurking around dense bamboo, and with patience we were able to lure out such skulkers as delightful Rufous-capped Spinetails, a stealthy male Tufted Antshrike, confiding Dusky-tailed Antbirds, a sneaky



A gorgeous Red-and-white Crake at San Rafael (Pete Morris)

White-shouldered Fire-eye, a rather uninspiring Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, cute Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatchers, a couple of vocal Blackish-blue Seedeaters and some simply stunning Chestnut-headed Tanagers. Walking through the taller forest we found an excellent selection of woodpeckers which included the localized White-spotted Woodpecker, the attractive Blond-crested Woodpecker and the impressive Robust Woodpecker. Also in the canopy, we finally found an obliging Spot-backed Antshrike, spritely Streak-capped Antwrens and a pair of Olive Spinetails. A major target was the localized Purple-crowned Plovercrest, and although they proved hard to get for a while, we achieved some great views at a lek. A stunning Pheasant Cuckoo was another major bonus here, and other notable species included some endearing Sharp-tailed Streamcreepers, a hulking White-throated Woodcreeper, a showy Greenish Schiffornis and a lovely obliging family of Southern Bristle Tyrants. Of course, staying virtually in the forest, we were going to go out with our spotlights, and this we did to good effect, securing amazing views of brilliant Rusty-barred Owls and comical Tawny-browed Owls!

The grasslands and wetlands at Kanguery provided another spectacle. Here we were treated to fabulous views of the much-wanted Saffron-cowled Blackbird, which proved to be every bit as good as we hoped. A



Brilliant Rusty-barred (above) and Tawny-browed Owls at San Rafael (Pete Morris)





An amazing Pheasant Cuckoo at San Rafael (Pete Morris)

skulking Spix's Spinetail was teased into view, and the numerous seedeaters present included several smart Pearly-bellied Seedeaters. We waited here until dark, adding some fine views of a Giant Snipe, both on the deck and in flight.

As we were leaving San Rafael, a controversial pair of *Accipiters* drifted over. Luckily, I missed them (!!!) but research reveals that they were most likely Bicoloured Hawks, and sadly not the ultra-rare Grey-bellied Hawk. We made a few stops as we went at various marshlands where seedeaters included more Pearly-bellied and Tawny-bellied Seedeaters as well as some White-bellied Seedeaters. A sneaky Spotted Rail did its best to hide, but was clocked by all, and it was mid-afternoon by the time we arrived at our final destination, Isla Yacyreta. We first busied ourselves here in some open pasture where Spotted Nothuras were common. After a little searching we found our quarry, the scarce Ochre-breasted Pipit, and this stripey beauty showed well to all. Nearby, we enjoyed a pair of Little Woodpeckers.

We were now approaching the climax of the tour, and headed out to a rather ordinary looking area and waited for the sun to sink. As darkness began to fall, a strange call heralded the arrival of the first Sickie-winged Nightjar, and we spent the next hour or so watching several males and females of this magical species displaying at close range! As part of the ongoing research, we even got to see a male in the hand and boy, that wing is something else! Although visible in flight, an in-hand view really does show what an amazing shape the primaries are!



Two grassland megas! Ochre-breasted Pipit and Saffron-cowled Blackbird (Pete Morris)

The final morning could have been an anti-climax after that, but we picked ourselves up and went again! Some of us returned to Isla Yacyreta where we were richly rewarded with a superb male Bare-faced Curassow on the track, some impressive Black Howler Monkeys and a few other new birds included Blue-winged Parrotlets, Grey-fronted Doves (finally seen!), Large Elaenias, Saffron-billed Sparrows and Orange-headed Tanager as well as a number of other more familiar species. Those preferring to stay nearer to the hotel managed to add a Dark-billed Cuckoo and a write-in Silver Teal as well as more pipits and blackbirds.

All that remained now was to shower, pack, and make the simple transfer back to Asunción and on to the airport. Although tensions ran a little high as we passed through the busy city, we made it to the airport with time to spare, and people could begin to relax and reflect back on our incredible voyage through fantastic Paraguay. And let's hope that the considerable sum of money raised as a result of us seeing all those brilliant birds can go some way towards aiding the conservation of them and others, to enable future generations to enjoy them.



Wow - look at that wing!! Male Sickie-winged Nightjar (Pete Morris)



The stunning Black-legged Seriema was another much-wanted goodie in the chaco (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2015. IOC World Bird List (v 5.4)**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species which are introduced to the area where they were seen are marked with the symbol (I).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

(CR) = Critically Endangered, **(E)** = Endangered, **(V)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

Solitary Tinamou *Tinamus solitarius* (NT) See note.

Brown Tinamou *Crypturellus obsoletus* Heard at San Rafael [*obsoletus*].

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus* Heard by all and seen by some on the track at Mbaracayú [nominate].

Small-billed Tinamou *Crypturellus parvirostris* A few heard at Mbaracayú, and 1 flushed from the grassland there.

Tataupa Tinamou *Crypturellus tataupa* Heard frequently, and seen by some at Laguna Blanca [nominate].

Red-winged Tinamou *Rhynchotus rufescens* A few seen, including good views at Laguna Blanca [nominate].

Brushland Tinamou *Nothoprocta cinerascens* Several good looks in the chaco [nominate].

Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa* See note.

Chaco Nothura *Nothura chacoensis* One flushed at close range at Laguna Capitan, and one briefly crossing a road.

Quebracho Crested Tinamou *Eudromia formosa* (H) Heard briefly at Enciso NP, but sadly no luck.

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana* First seen on the way into Laguna Capitan. A few others in the chaco [*araneipes*].

Southern Screamer *Chauna torquata* Plenty seen well in the wet areas of the chaco.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Plenty seen well in the wet areas of the chaco.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Small numbers seen well in the wet areas of the chaco.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Three seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba* Small numbers, including cygnets, at Laguna Capitan.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* A few in the wet chaco, including an impressive flock of c40!

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis* Quite common, especially in the wet chaco.



Smart Brazilian Teals were especially common in the chaco (Pete Morris)

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys* A real cracker that was quite common in the wet chaco
White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* About ten seen at Laguna Capitan [*rubrirostris*].
Silver Teal *Anas versicolor* One near the hotel on the last day for those birding there.
Chaco Chachalaca *Ortalis canicollis* First seen very well at Laguna Capitan. Many seen subsequently [nominate].
Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris* Seen by some of the group at Laguna Blanco and Mbaracayú.
Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata* (V) Great views of a fine male on the forest track at Isla Yacyreta [nominate].
Spot-winged Wood Quail *Odontophorus capueira* Heard distantly at Mbaracayú.
Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* First seen near Laguna Capitan, and others in the wet chaco [*brachyrhynchus*].
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Seen on a couple of lakes near to Laguna Capitan [*antarcticus*].
Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* A couple of hundred seen in the Laguna Capitan area.
Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Common in the wet chaco.
Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari* Good numbers seen well in the wet chaco.
Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria* Many great views in the wet chaco, including 20+ together near to Loma Plata.
Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens* Quite a few seen well around Laguna Capitan.
Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus* Small numbers in the wet chaco, first around Laguna Capitan [*hyperorius*].
Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus* Hundreds on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan, and a few others.
White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* First seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan, and a few more.
Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* First seen at Laguna Capitan, and a few more in the .
Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum* An adult on the first day and a few others seen later in the trip [*marmoratum*].
Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris* (H) Heard by Paul on the first doradito hunt!
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A few seen on five dates [*hoactli*].
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Several at Laguna Blanca and a few others seen later in the trip [nominate].
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common. First seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* Quite common. First seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.
(American) Great Egret *Ardea [alba] egretta* Fairly common at most wetlands.



Giant Jabirus were frequently seen in the chaco (Pete Morris)



Plumbeous Ibis and Whistling Heron were both frequent in the chaco (Pete Morris)

- Whistling Heron** *Syrigma sibilatrix* Common in open country. An attractive species [nominate].
- Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Quite common, first seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.
- Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Quite common and widespread [nominate].
- Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* Just a handful seen, the first circling high over Lagunita at Mbaracayú.
- Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Very common and widespread [*ruficollis*].
- Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* Widespread in small numbers in the chaco [*urubitinga*].
- Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* Common and widespread.
- King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa* An adult seen over the forest at San Rafael.
- Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* One over a wetland on Isla Alta [*carolinensis*].
- Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* One scoped up at Fortin Toledo [nominate].
- Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* A single seen along the track fro Mbaracayú [nominate].
- Swallow-tailed Kite (American S-t K)** *Elanoides forficatus* One for some of the group at Mbaracayú.
- Rufous-thighed Kite** ◇ *Harpagus diodon* One seen well at the lunch stop in Curuguaty, and a few later in the trip.
- Rufous-thighed Hawk** *Accipiter erythronemius* One seen briefly as we were leaving San Rafael.
- Bicolored Hawk** *Accipiter bicolor* A pair seen by some over San Rafael were later identified as this species.
- Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* First seen at Arroyos y Esteros and fairly common towards the end of the trip. Crackers!
- Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* First seen at Laguna Blanca. Plenty seen at Mbaracayú.
- Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* A few. First seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan [*leucocephalus*].
- Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* Most impressive was the 400+ seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan.
- Crane Hawk** *Geranoospiza caerulescens* A few seen well. The form seen, *flexipes*, is pale, with white eyes and a buff vent!
- Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* Quite common. First seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan.
- Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* Around 10 noted on five dates in the chaco [nominate].
- Crowned Solitary Eagle** ◇ *Buteogallus coronatus* (E) Brilliant views of 2 adults perched and in flight near La Patria. Mega!
- Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* Common and widespread. The form concerned *saturatus* is quite dark.
- Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* Several, the first on the drive to Enciso NP [nominate].
- White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* The first of around 25 was near to Laguna Capitan.
- Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* A single at Laguna Capitan showed well, and one other [nominate].
- Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* One seen over the forest at San Rafael [nominate].
- Red-legged Seriema** *Cariama cristata* One seen well on the drive into Laguna Capitan.
- Black-legged Seriema** ◇ *Chunga burmeisteri* Great views of 3 by the roadside on the drive to Enciso NP, and another there.
- Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* (H) Heard a fair way off at Mbaracayú.
- Ocellated Crake** ◇ *Micropygia schomburgkii* See note.



A few raptors... Savanna Hawk (top), Crane Hawk (above left) and the elegant Long-winged Harrier (Pete Morris)

Rufous-sided Crane *Laterallus melanophaius* Brilliant views of one on the to Laguna Capitan [nominate].
Red-and-white Crane ◊ *Laterallus leucopyrrhus* Excellent views of two adults in the open at San Rafael.
Rufous-faced Crane ◊ *Laterallus xenopterus* (V) See note.
Giant Wood Rail *Aramides ypecaha* Quite common in the wetter chaco, but always impressive to see.
Slaty-breasted Wood Rail ◊ *Aramides saracura* (H) A few heard at San Rafael.
Ash-throated Crane *Porzana albicollis* Great views of one at Laguna Blanca, several others heard [nominate].



The impressive Giant Wood Rail and a showy Ash-throated Crane (Pete Morris)

Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* Good views of an adult in a marsh between Isla Alta and Arroyos [nominate].
Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans* (H) Heard en route to, and at, Laguna Blanca [nominate]
Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* Heard calling from the marshes at Kanguery [nominate].
Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* A few seen, the first just outside Loma Plata [nominate].
Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Abundant, especially in the wet chaco [nominate].
White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus* Common, first seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.
Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* Very common [*lampronotus*].
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* A few seen at Laguna Capitan.
Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris* A few seen well at Laguna Capitan.
Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Quite common, seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.
South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiæ* Seen displaying over the grasslands near Arroyos y Esteros.
Giant Snipe ◊ *Gallinago undulata* One seen well perched and in flight at Kanguery, and others heard.
Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* A flock of c30 scoped distantly in flight near to Santa Rosa.
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* A few at Laguna Capitan.
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Common. First seen at Laguna Capitan.
Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* A few seen around Laguna Capitan.
White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Small numbers seen well around Laguna Capitan.
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Small numbers seen well around Laguna Capitan.
Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Small numbers seen well around Laguna Capitan.
Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* Good numbers at Laguna Capitan. Always great to see.
Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* See note.
Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* One for some as we headed into Asunción.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* Seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan, others at Chaco Lodge.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* 'feral' Introduced vermin!

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro* Common and widespread [nominate].

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* First seen flying over Asunción Bay; small numbers thereafter [*sylvestris*].

Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata* A few seen at Laguna Blanca [nominate].

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Common in the eastern half of the country [nominate].

Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui* Abundant! First seen on the journey from to Laguna Capitan [nominate].

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana* Heard a few times, notably at San Rafael. Glimpsed by some at Mbaracayú [nominate].

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Quite common and widespread [*chalcauchenia*].

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* Only seen well in the gallery forest at Isla Yacyreta [*reichenbachii*].

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Common and widespread [*chrysauchenia*].

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira* Another common and widespread species.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* A single seen by the river at Mbaracayú.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* First seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan, 20/9.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* One seen at Asunción Bay. Several others heard.

Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus* Superb views of a stunner at San Rafael. A real mega, very obliging!

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Very common. First seen at Laguna Blanca [*macroura*].

Dark-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus melacoryphus* Heard by some and one seen by some near the hotel on the last day.



The strange-looking Guira Cuckoo was surprisingly common (Pete Morris)



Western Barn Owl - more likely to be seen in the forest than marshland in Paraguay, and a brilliant female Rufous Nightjar (Pete Morris)



Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Great views of 3 at Mbaracayú [*tuidara*]. Daniel saw another paler individual.

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* See note.

Black-capped Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops atricapilla* Great views of 2-3 at Mbaracayú.

Rusty-barred Owl ◊ *Strix hylophila* (NT) Brilliant views of 2 or 3 in the spotlight at San Rafael. Real stunners!

Chaco Owl ◊ *Strix chacoensis* Great views of one near Chaco and 2 or 3 at Enciso NP. Great birds!

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* Excellent spotlight views of one for some of the group at Mbaracayú [*borelliana*].

Tawny-browed Owl ◊ *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana* Brilliant views of a pair in the spotlight at San Rafael. Real stunners!

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* See note.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* Seen well at several sites, the first at Enciso NP [nominate].

Striped Owl *Pseudoscops clamator* One seen by some at Enciso NP.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* Brilliant views of one at eye-level at Laguna Blanca. Many others heard [nominate].

Nacunda Nighthawk *Chordeiles nacunda* A few seen at Laguna Blanca. Also seen at Isla Yacyreta.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* A flock of c20 at Lagunita, Mbaracayú, were most likely this species.

Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus* Seen well at Mbaracayú, the Hotel Tirol, and at San Rafael [*nattererij*].

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* A few seen very well at Laguna Blanca, and common at Mbaracayú [*derbyanus*].



Pauraques were common at several sites in the east (Pete Morris)

Little Nightjar *Setopagis parvula* First seen near Chaco Lodge. Several more seen very well around Enciso NP and elsewhere.

Sickle-winged Nightjar ◊ *Eleothreptus anomalus* (NT) Brilliant views of both sexes at Isla Yacyreta. Amazing wings!!

White-winged Nightjar ◊ *Eleothreptus candicans* (E) See note.

Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis torquata* Several seen well, the first on the drive back from Chaco Lodge [*furcifer*].

Rufous Nightjar *Antrostomus rufus* See note.

Great Dusky Swift ◊ *Cypseloides senex* One over the grassland at Mbaracayú was unexpected.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* A couple over the grassland at Mbaracayú [nominate].

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* Best views were at Mbaracayú [*cinereiventris*].

Sick's Swift *Chaetura meridionalis* Quite a few seen well, the first over Laguna Capitan.

Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome* (H) Heard in the forest at San Rafael.
Purple-crowned Plovercrest ◊ *Stephanoxis loddigesii* Great views of a male, complete with purple crest, at San Rafael.
Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon lucidus* Several seen well, the first at Laguna Capitan [nominate].
Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* A male at the Hotel Tirol, and others at San Rafael [eriphile].
Gilded Sapphire *Hylocharis chrysura* A few seen, the first at the lunch stop at Parador Pirahú.
White-tailed Goldenthrout *Polytmus guainumbi* A few seen, best views being of a male near Santa Rosa [thaumantias].
Blue-tufted Starthroat ◊ *Heliomaster furcifer* Great views of two different superb males and a female at Enciso NP.
Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura* Several seen at Mbaracayú and at San Rafael [nominate].



A White-tailed Goldenthrout feeding on an Inga tree and a handsome Surucua Trogon (Pete Morris)



Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* A female seen along the forest trail at Lagunita, Mbaracayú [*chrysochloros*].
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda* One flew under the bridge we were on at Mbaracayú [*inda*].
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* Singles on the journey to and at Isla Yacyreta [*mathewsii*].
Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* Two on the drive back to Asunción and a few others seen later in the trip.
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Seen in small numbers throughout [nominate].
Rufous-capped Motmot *Baryphthengus ruficapillus* Good views at Laguna Blanca. Also seen well at Mbaracayú.
Buff-bellied Puffbird *Notharchus swainsoni* Excellent views of a pair at Laguna Blanca. Also seen at Mbaracayú.
White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacuru* Several seen well at Laguna Blanca [nominate].
Chaco Puffbird ◊ *Nystalus striatipectus* A few of these smart birds were seen very well in the Chaco.



Puffbirds, always great to see: White-eared Puffbird (top), Chaco Puffbird (above left) and Buff-bellied Puffbird (Pete Morris)

Rusty-breasted Nunlet *Nonnula rubecula* Great views of a pair, initially on roadside wires, at Mbaracayú [nominate].
Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis* A few seen well at Lagunita, Mbaracayú [*australis*].
Saffron Toucanet ◊ *Pteroglossus bailloni* (NT) Great views of a pair at Mbaracayú. Smart!
Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenidera maculirostris* One seen well at Mbaracayú. Others heard there.
Green-billed Toucan (Red-breasted T) *Ramphastos dicolorus* Relatively brief views of one at Mbaracayú.
Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco* Only a handful of these impressive beasts seen [*albogularis*].



Saffron Toucanet and Toco Toucan were both appreciated at Mbaracayú (Pete Morris)

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus* Two forms: *pilcomayensis* at Enciso NP; nominate at Mbaracayú.
Ochre-collared Piculet ◊ *Picumnus temminckii* Excellent views of a smart little male at the Hotel Tirol.
White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus* A few. The first seen at Fortin Toledo, having evicted the Black-bodied Ws!
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes flavifrons* Seen daily at Mbaracayú, just outside the accommodation.
White-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cactorum* Fairly common in the chaco where many seen well.
Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus* A pair seen well by the guard post at Isla Yacyreta [*olivinus*].
White-spotted Woodpecker ◊ *Veniliornis spilogaster* Excellent views of a pair at San Rafael.
Checkered Woodpecker *Veniliornis mixtus* Fairly common in the chaco where several seen well [*malleator*].
Golden-green Woodpecker *Piculus chrysochloros* Two seen by some on the journey back from the chaco to Asunción.
Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros* A few seen well, the first at Laguna Capitan [*nigroviridis*].
Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris* Two forms: nominate first near Santa Rosa; *campestrisoides* (white throat) at Isla Alta.
Blond-crested Woodpecker *Celeus flavescens* Great views of a male at San Rafael [nominate]
Helmeted Woodpecker ◊ *Dryocopus galeatus* (V) Brilliant views of a male and a pair at Mbaracayú. A real cracker!
Black-bodied Woodpecker ◊ *Dryocopus schulzii* (NT) Brilliant views of a smart female at Fortin Toledo. Took a while!
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* (H) Heard by some at Mbaracayú
Robust Woodpecker *Campephilus robustus* Great views on a couple of occasions at San Rafael.
Cream-backed Woodpecker ◊ *Campephilus leucopogon* A male flew over at Enciso NP and
Southern Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus* Common and widespread.
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* Seen widely in small numbers [nominate].
Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango* Common in the south. First noted at Kanguery.
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* First seen by the road at Enciso NP. Three others noted [nominate].
Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* Heard distantly at Mbaracayú where seen by Richard [nominate].
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Common, first seen near to Laguna Capitan [*cinnamominus*].
Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* A total of 8 noted, including one with jesses in Asunción!
Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* One flashed over the cars near to Enciso NP, and another at Mbaracayú [*ophryophanes*].
Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* Abundant! Amazing big spikey nests! [*cotorra*].



Monk Parakeets were ridiculously common in the Chaco. Woodpeckers seen included (from top to bottom) Robust Woodpecker, Little Woodpecker and Green-barred Woodpecker (Pete Morris)

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri* First seen at Laguna Blanca and fairly common at Mbaracayú.

Pileated Parrot ◊ (Red-capped P) *Pionopsitta pileata* (H) Heard over the forest at San Rafael.

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani* Common in the eastern forests. First seen at Mbaracayú [*siy*].

Turquoise-fronted Amazon ◊ *Amazona aestiva* Many great views in the chaco. A really stunning Amazon [*xanthopteryx*].

Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius* Several seen at the guard post at Isla Yacyreta [nominated].

Maroon-bellied Parakeet *Pyrhura frontalis* Common at Mbaracayú [*chiripepe*].

Nanday Parakeet ◊ *Aratinga nenday* Many in the humid chaco including some great scope views.

Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus* Good views of a pair by a nest hole at Mbaracayú.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Thectocercus acuticaudatus* Common in the Chaco [nominated].

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* Especially common at Mbaracayú.

Chaco Earthcreeper ◊ *Tarphonimus certhioides* Great views of an arboreal singing bird at Chaco Lodge [*estebani*].

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus* Common and widespread – great nests [*paraguayae*].

Crested Hornero ◊ *Furnarius cristatus* A few seen well in the chaco, especially in Enciso NP.



Crested Horneros showed at several sites in the chaco (Pete Morris)

Short-billed Canastero ◊ *Asthenes baeri* Excellent views of a singing bird on the journey back from Enciso NP.

Chotoy Spinetail *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus* A few seen well, first on the journey to Laguna Capitan.

Rufous-capped Spinetail *Synallaxis ruficapilla* Great views of a few at San Rafael.

Grey-bellied Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis cinerascens* Excellent views of this skulker at Mbaracayú and at San Rafael.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis* Excellent views of one at Enciso NP, and a few later in the trip [nominated].

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens* First seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan [*australis*].

Spix's Spinetail *Synallaxis spixi* Good views of a smart individual at Kanguery, 4/10.

Stripe-crowned Spinetail *Cranioleuca pyrrhophia* Best views were north of the accommodation in Enciso NP [nominated].

Olive Spinetail ◊ *Cranioleuca obsoleta* Great views of a pair at San Rafael and seen again at Isla Yacyreta.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* Regular in marshy habitats.

Little Thornbird ◊ *Phacellodomus sibilatrix* A pair seen well at Buffalo Bill's on the to Laguna Capitan.

Greater Thornbird *Phacellodomus ruber* Several seen well and many impressive nests adorning the bushes!

Firewood-Gatherer *Anumbius anumbi* Good scope views of one on the journey back from Loma Plata to Asunción.



The unusual Lark-like Brushrunner showed well on a number of occasions (Pete Morris)

- Lark-like Brushrunner** ◊ *Coryphistera alaudina* Fairly common in the chaco - many great views. Charismatic [*campicola*].
- Brown Cacholote** ◊ *Pseudoseisura lophotes* Several seen very well around Enciso NP [nominate].
- Buff-browed Foliage-Gleaner** *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata* A couple seen well at San Rafael [*acrita*].
- Ochre-breasted Foliage-Gleaner** *Philydor lichtensteini* Several seen well at Mbaracayú.
- Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner** *Philydor rufum* First seen at the Hotel Tirol. Also seen at San Rafael.
- White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner** *Automolus leucophthalmus* Excellent views at Mbaracayú and San Rafael [*sulphurascens*].
- Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper** *Lochmias nematura* Brilliant views at San Rafael – another cracker [nominate].
- Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* One at Mbaracayú was seen by some.
- Plain-winged Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla turdina* Excellent views of one at the Hotel Tirol and again at San Rafael.
- Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Seen well at Mbaracayú and at San Rafael [*sylviellus*].
- Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper** ◊ *Drymornis bridgesii* Walking round like a Hoopoe at Laguna Capitan and in Enciso NP.
- White-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes albicollis* Excellent views of one at San Rafael - monster bill!! [nominate].
- Great Rufous Woodcreeper** ◊ *Xiphocolaptes major* A few noted. First and best views at Laguna Capitan [nominate].
- Planalto Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris* Seen well at Mbaracayú and a few others seen later in the trip.
- Lesser Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus fuscus* Good views of one along the forest trail at Kanguery [nominate].
- Narrow-billed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris* Two forms: *certhiolus* in the chaco; nominate in the east.
- Red-billed Scythebill** *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris* Excellent views of 2-3 at Enciso NP [*lafresnayanus*].
- Spot-backed Antshrike** ◊ *Hypoedaleus guttatus* Frequently heard and great views at San Rafael [nominate].
- Large-tailed Antshrike*** ◊ *Mackenziaena leachii* (H) Heard briefly by Paul at San Rafael.
- Tufted Antshrike** ◊ *Mackenziaena severa* Good views for most of a male foraging on the ground at San Rafael.
- Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* Several seen well, including a female eating a small desiccated frog!
- Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* Just a few, first seen at Laguna Capitan [*radiatus*].
- Variable Antshrike** *Thamnophilus caerulescens* See note.
- Plain Antwren** *Dysithamnus mentalis* Frequently heard and one seen at Mbaracayú [nominate].
- Stripe-backed Antbird** *Myrmorchilus strigilatus* Great views of a pair at Enciso NP. Others seen briefly [*suspicax*].
- Black-capped Antwren** *Herpsilochmus atricapillus* Good views of a male to playback at Mbaracayú.
- Rufous-winged Antwren** *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* A couple seen at Mbaracayú, and at San Rafael [nominate].
- Dusky-tailed Antbird** *Drymophila malura* Excellent views of one at San Rafael. Several others heard there.



Great Rufous Woodcreeper and a female Great Antshrike with a dessicated frog (Pete Morris)



Streak-capped Antwren ◊ *Terenura maculata* Heard at Mbaracayú then great views of a pair at San Rafael.

White-shouldered Fire-Eye *Pyriglena leucoptera* Easier to hear than see, then seen quite well at San Rafael.

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona* (H) Heard at San Rafael, but wouldn't show [nominate].

Variiegated Antpitta *Grallaria varia* A few heard at Mbaracayú, and at San Rafael [*imperator*].

Speckle-breasted Antpitta ◊ *Hylopezus nattereri* (H) Heard at close range at San Rafael though not enough time.

Rufous Gnateater *Conopophaga lineata* One seen well at San Rafael [*vulgaris*].

Crested Gallito ◊ *Rhinocrypta lanceolata* After some effort, good views in Enciso NP [*saturata*].

Collared Crescentchest ◊ *Melanopareia torquata* Great views of one, and others heard at Mbaracayú [*rufescens*].

Olive-crowned Crescentchest ◊ *Melanopareia maximiliani* See note.

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* (H) Heard briefly at Mbaracayú.

Grey Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps* Fairly common at Mbaracayú with many great looks. Also at San Rafael [nominate].

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* Several seen well during the latter half of the trip [nominate].

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* Several in the east, the first at a marsh just outside Santa Rosa [nominate].

Large Elaenia *Elaenia spectabilis* A couple of pairs seen well by the guard post at Isla Yacyreta.

Chilean Elaenia *Elaenia chilensis* Quite a few noted at Mbaracayú.

Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris* First seen well at Laguna Capitan. Also in a fruiting at San Rafael.

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis* Excellent views of a drab calling bird at Laguna Blanca [*albivertex*].

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* First seen in Enciso NP. A few others noted [nominate].

Suiriri Flycatcher *Suiriri suiriri* First seen well at Fortin Toledo and several more subsequently. Nominate = Chaco Suiriri.

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola* Best were the views at the Hotel Tirol [nominate].

Bearded Tachuri ◊ *Polystictus pectoralis* (NT) Great views of a pair near Arroyos y Esteros. Also at Kanguery [nominate].

Dinelli's Doradito ◊ *Pseudocolopteryx dinelliana* (NT) One seen well at the 'Doradito Marsh'.

Crested Doradito ◊ *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri* Excellent views of one at the 'Doradito Marsh'. Distinctive bird!

Subtropical Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis* One resembling this species seen well but briefly at the 'Doradito Marsh'.



The lovely little Bearded Tachuri showed well on a few occasions (Pete Morris)

Southern Antpipit ◊ *Corythopsis delalandi* A little cracker, seen very well at Mbaracayú and at the Hotel Tirol.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus* Great views of one at Laguna Capitan [nominate].

Greater Wagtail-Tyrant *Stigmatura budytoides* A few in the chaco, first seen well at Laguna Capitan [*inzonata*].

Southern Bristle Tyrant ◊ *Pogonotriccus eximius* (NT) Excellent views of a family group of 3+ at San Rafael.

Grey-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris* (H) One heard briefly at Mbaracayú.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* A few at Mbaracayú and San Rafael [nominate].

Southern Scrub Flycatcher ◊ *Sublegatus modestus* Great views of several in the Chaco [*brevirostris*].

Plain Inezia *Inezia inornata* Common in the chaco. First seen at Laguna Capitan.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* Just two, the first near Arroyos y Esteros [*fasciatus-group*].

Sharp-tailed Grass Tyrant ◊ *Culicivora caudacuta* (V) Excellent views of a few lovely pairs at Laguna Blanca.

Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant *Hemitriccus diops* One seen well at San Rafael.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* Several seen in dry woodland/scrub [nominate].

Eared Pygmy Tyrant *Myiornis auricularis* Seen very well at Mbaracayú and again at San Rafael [nominate].

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps* A couple seen well at San Rafael.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurens* A few seen well at San Rafael [*sulphurens*].

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus* Excellent views at Mbaracayú and at Kanguery. Yellow crest! [nominate].

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri* A few seen towards the end of the trip. First seen at the Hotel Tirol [*argentinus*].

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* One seen well near to the lodge at Mbaracayú [*bimaculatus*].

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* Just a few noted in the chaco where first seen at Enciso NP. .

Cinereous Tyrant *Knipolegus striaticeps* Great views of several at Laguna Capitan and a few others at Enciso NP.

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus* A few, first seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.

Grey Monjita *Xolmis cinereus* A few, again, first seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan [*pepoaza*].

White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velatus* Several seen well at Laguna Blanca.

White Monjita *Xolmis irupero* Quite common, first seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan.

Streamer-tailed Tyrant *Gubernetes yetapa* Many great views, especially the displaying birds near to Santa Rosa.

Black-backed Water Tyrant *Fluvicola albiventer* Several seen, first seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala* A few in the grasslands near Arroyos y Esteros.

Cock-tailed Tyrant ◊ *Alectrurus tricolor* (V) Brilliant views of 10+ in the grassland at Laguna Blanca. Great display!

Strange-tailed Tyrant ◊ *Alectrurus risora* (V) Great views of at least two males and two females near Arroyos y Esteros.



Strange-tailed Tyrants danced across the marshes at Arroyos y Esteros (Pete Morris)

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* A few seen near to Mbaracayú.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa* Common and widespread [nominate].

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Best views were at the Hotel Tirol [nominate].

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Common in the east where first seen at Laguna Blanca [*pallidiventris*].

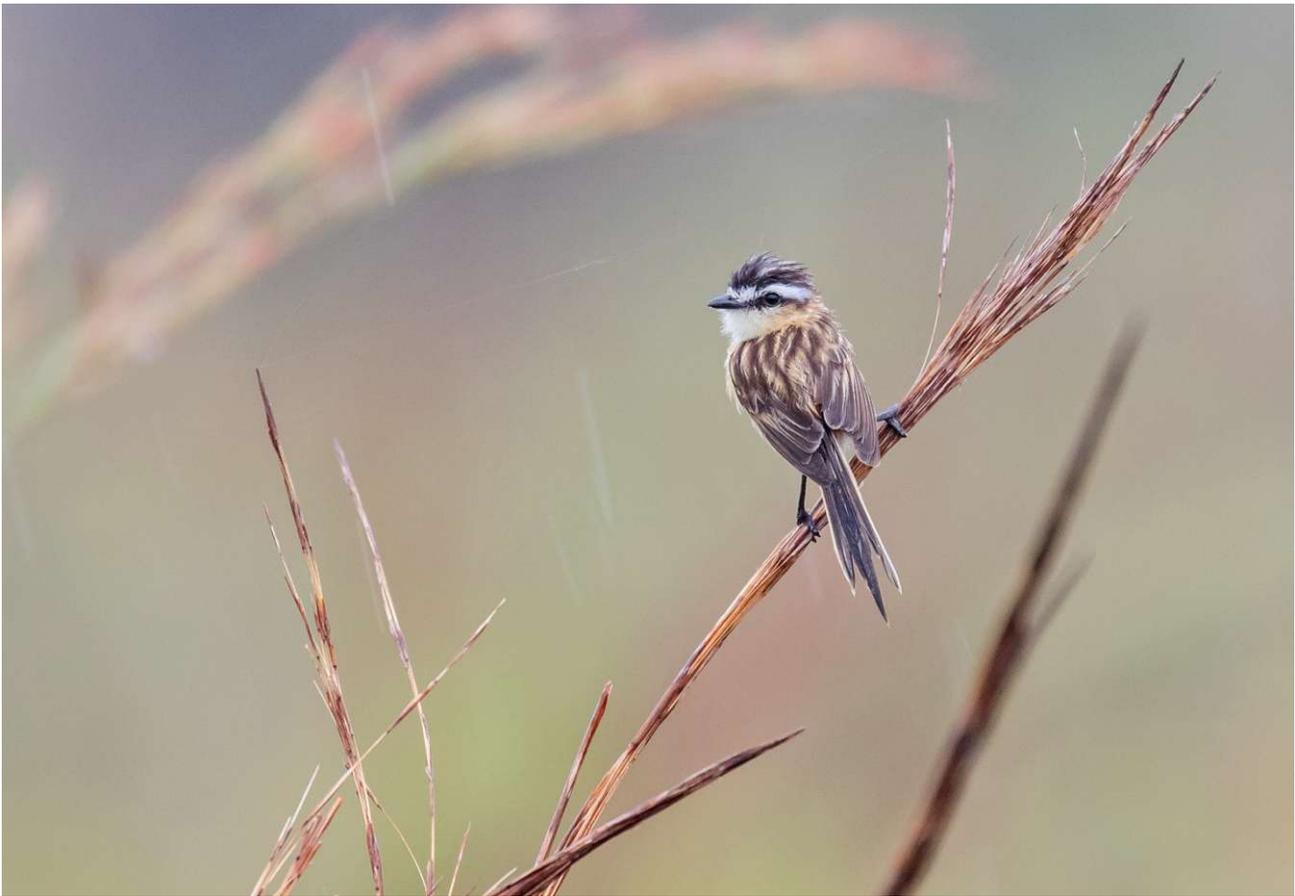
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Two forms seen: *maximiliani* in the west; *argentinus* in the east.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Frequently seen at Mbaracayú and subsequent sites [*solitarius*].

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* Frequently seen and heard in the east, first at Laguna Blanca [nominate].



The remarkable Streamer-tailed Tyrant (Pete Morris)



The delightful Sharp-tailed Grass Tyrant at Laguna Blanca (Pete Morris)

- Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonomus varius* One at the Hotel Tirol and another at San Rafael [nominate].
- Crowned Slaty Flycatcher** *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus* Fairly common in the Chaco [nominate].
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common and widespread... as usual! [nominate].
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* Common and widespread [nominate].
- Sibilant Sirystes** *Sirystes sibilator* Fairly common at Mbaracayú, also heard at San Rafael [nominate].
- Rufous Casiornis** ◊ *Casiornis rufus* A pair seen well at Enciso NP. Also seen very well at Mbaracayú.
- Swainson's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus swainsoni* A couple seen well and heard at a marsh near to Curuguatú [nominate].
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* Several in the chaco where first seen at Laguna Capitan [nominate].
- Bare-throated Bellbird** ◊ *Procnias nudicollis* (V) Several heard at Mbaracayú, where a males showed very well.
- Blue Manakin (Swallow-tailed M)** *Chiroxiphia caudata* Good views of a male at Mbaracayú. Mostly heard otherwise.
- Band-tailed Manakin** *Pipra fasciicauda* Great views of a male at Lagunita, Mbaracayú [*scarlatina*].
- Sharpbill** *Oxyruncus cristatus* (H) One heard calling (just a single call) at Mbaracayú [nominate].
- Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor* Frequent in the clearing at Mbaracayú, and at San Rafael [nominate].
- Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana* A few sightings at Mbaracayú, and at San Rafael.
- Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* A male (and a nest!) seen at Laguna Blanca, and several at Mbaracayú.
- Greenish Schiffornis** *Schiffornis virescens* Excellent views of one at San Rafael. Others heard
- Chestnut-crowned Becard** *Pachyramphus castaneus* One seen well at San Rafael [nominate].
- White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* Seen well at the Hotel Tirol and heard at San Rafael [*spixii*].
- Crested Becard** *Pachyramphus validus* A pair nesting in the clearing at Mbaracayú, and several others seen [nominate].
- Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Two forms noted: *viridis* in the west, *ochrocephala* in the east.
- Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* A few in the east, the first near to Arroyos y Esteros. Assumed to be *diversus*.
- Purplish Jay** *Cyanocorax cyanomelas* Great views at Laguna Blanca, and also common at Mbaracayú etc.
- Curl-crested Jay** ◊ *Cyanocorax cristatellus* Several smart individuals seen very well at Laguna Blanca.
- Plush-crested Jay** *Cyanocorax chrysops* Best seen at Laguna Blanca and Mbaracayú where common [nominate].
- White-rumped Swallow** *Tachycineta leucorrhoa* Noted at several sites. First seen at Laguna Capitan.
- Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* Pretty common and widespread [*macrorhamphus*].
- Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera* Surprisingly common at some wetland sites [*fusca*].
- Blue-and-white Swallow** *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Seen by some of the group twice in the east of the country

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Just small numbers, first on the way to Mbaracayú [nominate].

Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopocheilidon fucata* A few over the grassland at Laguna Blanca.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Small numbers of wintering birds, first seen at Laguna Capitan, [*erythrogaster*].

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* Several, with some amazing views! [nominate].

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* A few including a showy pair at Laguna Blanca [*unicolor*].

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* (H) Heard by Rob at Kanguery.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Two forms noted: *rex* in the west; *musculus* in the east.

Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher ◊ *Polioptila lactea* (H) Heard at San Rafael, but sadly went quiet...

Masked Gnatcatcher *Polioptila dumicola* Common in the chaco. First seen at Laguna Capitan [nominate].

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus* Scattered sightings of small numbers [*modulator*].

White-banded Mockingbird *Mimus triurus* Quite a few, especially in the chaco. First seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan.

Eastern Slaty Thrush ◊ *Turdus subalaris* (H) Sadly, only heard, briefly, at San Rafael.

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris* Common and widespread, especially in the east [nominate].

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas* First seen at Laguna Blanca. Also common at Mbaracayú and San Rafael [nominate].

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus* Widespread in small numbers, first on the journey to Laguna Capitan.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* (H) Heard only at San Rafael [*paraguayensis*].

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Introduced nonsense!

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens* Seen very well at Asunción Bay [nominate].

Ochre-breasted Pipit ◊ *Anthus nattereri* (V) Excellent views of a pair at Isla Yacyreta. Smart birds!

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus* Two forms noted: *alleni* in the west; *ictericus* in the east.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica* Heard more than seen. Seen well in the clearing at Mbaracayú [*serrirostris*].

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* Seen well at Mbaracayú, and again at the Hotel Tirol [*auranticollis*].

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis* Seen very well at Mbaracayú.

Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata* A few in the east, after the first at Asunción Bay.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiaiyumi* Just a few noted. Best views were at the Hotel Tirol [*pitiaiyumi*].

Flavescent Warbler *Myiothlypis flaveola* Excellent views of 3+ Laguna Blanca [nominate].

White-rimmed Warbler *Myiothlypis leucoblephara* Great views at the Hotel Tirol and San Rafael etc. Great song. [nominate].

Riverbank Warbler *Myiothlypis rivularis* Good views of one at Mbaracayú. Others heard.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* Common at Mbaracayú and San Rafael [*azarae*].

White-browed Blackbird *Sturnella superciliaris* Common in wetlands. First seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan.

Solitary Cacique (S Black C) *Cacicus solitarius* Best views were near to Laguna Capitan.

Golden-winged Cacique *Cacicus chrysopterus* Just a couple of brief sightings during the tour.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous* Great views of an active colony at Mbaracayú [*affinis*].



Red-rumped Cacique at the colony at Mbaracayú (Pete Morris)

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus* Great views of several smart birds at Enciso NP [*strictifrons*].

Variable Oriole *Icterus pyrrhopterus* Scattered sightings throughout the trip [nominate].

Screaming Cowbird *Molothrus rufoaxillaris* First seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan. Distinctive voice at least!

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* A few seen including a perched male at Mbaracayú [nominate].

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Pretty common, more or less throughout [nominate].

Scarlet-headed Blackbird *Amblyramphus holosericeus* Real stunners seen well at several wetlands.

Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi* Another grim black icterid that was fairly common – big and shaggy looking [nominate].

Greyish Baywing *Agelaioides badius* Best views were at the doradito marsh on the drive back to Asunción [nominate].

Unicolored Blackbird *Agelasticus cyanopus* Common in wetlands. At least the females are distinctive [nominate].

Chestnut-capped Blackbird *Chrysomus ruficapillus* Seen well at Buffalo Bill's and at Asunción Bay [nominate].

Saffron-cowled Blackbird ◊ *Xanthopsar flavus* (V) Great views of c10 at Kanguery and c25 seen near to Isla Yacyreta.

Yellow-rumped Marshbird *Pseudoleistes guirahuro* Several seen well in various wet grasslands.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Small numbers seen throughout [*subtorquata*].

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis* Common but unobtrusive in drier grassland areas [*xanthornus*].

Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris* Good views of a couple in the forest at Isla Yacyreta [*polionotus*].

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata* Common in the chaco. First seen on the journey to Laguna Capitan.

Yellow-billed Cardinal *Paroaria capitata* Only seen well at, Parador Pirahú and at Asunción Bay [nominate].

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus* First seen at Mbaracayú. A few others noted [*major*].

Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata* A pair seen at Laguna Blanca, and a few others seen subsequently [*caerulea*].

Orange-headed Tanager *Thlypopsis sordida* Good views of one in the forest track at Isla Yacyreta [nominate].

Chestnut-headed Tanager ◊ *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps* Several seen well at San Radael. A really smart bamboo skulker!!

White-rumped Tanager ◊ *Cypsnagra hirundinacea* Brilliant views of a pair (others seen/heard), at Laguna Blanca [nominate].

Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops* First seen at Mbaracayú. A few others noted.

Ruby-crowned Tanager ◊ *Tachyphonus coronatus* A few seen, the first, a male complete with ruby crown, at the Hotel Tirol.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca* Common and widespread blue-grey replacement [nominate].

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis* A male seen at Parador Pirahú on the journey back to Asunción.

Shrike-like Tanager ◊ (White-banded T) *Neothraupis fasciata* Excellent views of a couple of pairs at Laguna Blanca.



Attractive White-rumped and Shrike-like Tanagers were found in the cerrado at Laguna Blanca (Pete Morris)

Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana* Just one seen at Mbaracayú [*chloroptera*].

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis* A few including a fruiting tree with several at San Rafael [nominate].

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* A female seen at Laguna Blanca and a few subsequently [*paraguayensis*].

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira* A few seen. First at the Hotel Tirol [*fosteri*].

Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum* A pair seen well at Laguna Blanca and a male at Mbaracayú [nominate].

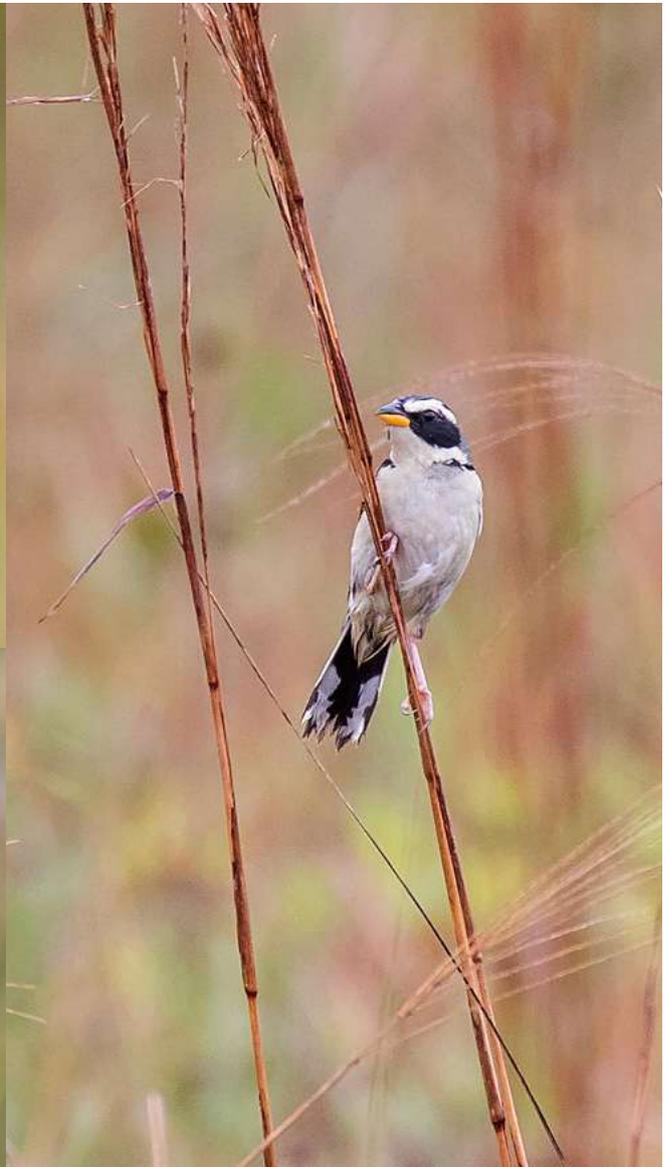


Lovely Many-coloured Chaco Finches were quite plentiful for the first few days, and below, a smart Lesser Grass Finch (Pete Morris)



- Many-coloured Chaco Finch** ◇ *Saltatricula multicolor* A smart bird seen brilliantly in the chaco on several occasions.
- Black-masked Finch** ◇ *Coryphaspiza melanotis* (V) Excellent views of a few at Laguna Blanca. Great birds [nominate].
- Red Pileated Finch** *Coryphospingus cucullatus* Two forms noted: *rubescens* in the west; *fargoii* in the east.
- Black-crested Finch** ◇ *Lophospingus pusillus* Great views of c6, north of the accommodation at Enciso NP.
- Long-tailed Reed Finch** *Donacospiza albifrons* A pair seen well in the near Arroyos y Esteros.
- Black-capped Warbling Finch** *Poospiza melanoleuca* Quite common in the Chaco. First seen at Laguna Capitan.
- Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* Quite common: first seen on the journey from Asunción to Laguna Capitan [*pelzelni*].
- Grassland Yellow Finch** *Sicalis luteola* A few seen. First noted in the marshes at Isla Alta, [*luteiventris*].
- Wedge-tailed Grass Finch** *Emberizoides herbicola* Common at Laguna Blanca. A few others seen [nominate].

Lesser Grass Finch ◇ *Emberizoides ypiranganus* Great views in the grasslands near Arroyos y Esteros. A few others seen.
Pampa Finch *Embernagra platensis* Two forms noted: *olivascens* in the west; nominate in the east.
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Widespread in small numbers [nominate].
Buffy-fronted Seedeater ◇ *Sporophila frontalis* (H) Heard by some of the group briefly at Mbaracayú.
Plumbeous Seedeater ◇ *Sporophila plumbea* Excellent views of a few at Laguna Blanca [nominate].
Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris* Quite common. First seen on the journey from to Laguna Capitan [*melanocephala*].
Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens* A few in marshes near Santa Rosa and Curuguaty [nominate].
White-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila leucoptera* Good views of a singing bird in the marshes at Isla Alta [nominate].
Pearly-bellied Seedeater ◇ *Sporophila pileata* First seen in the marshes at Kanguery. Also excellent views at Isla Alta.
Tawny-bellied Seedeater ◇ *Sporophila hypoxantha* Seen very well at the doradito marsh and in the marshes at Isla Alta.
Dark-throated Seedeater ◇ *Sporophila ruficollis* (NT) See note.
Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* One seen at Mbaracayú, and a couple of others heard [nominate].
Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica* Good views of a group at the Tirol Hotel. Also heard at San Rafael [nominate].
Blackish-blue Seedeater ◇ *Amaurospiza moesta* (NT) Excellent views of a couple of males at San Rafael.
Green-winged Saltator ◇ *Saltator similis* Seen well at the Hotel Tirol. Also heard at San Rafael [nominate].
Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* A few seen, mostly in the chaco [nominate].
Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantirostris* Quite common in the chaco. First seen at Laguna Capitan [nominate].
Black-throated Saltator ◇ *Saltator atricollis* Several seen very well at Laguna Blanca.
Ultramarine Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa brissonii* Two forms noted: *argentina* at Laguna Capitan; *sterea* at San Rafael.



Clockwise from top left, the interesting 'Ibera' form of Dark-throated Seedeater; the lovely Black-masked Finch and Pearly-bellied Seedeater (Pete Morris)



A Pampas Fox takes cover from the fierce heat in the chaco (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS

Southern Black-eared Opossum *Didelphis aurita* (NL) One for some at Mbaracayú.

Larger Hairy Armadillo (Greater H A) *ChaetophRACTUS villosus* A couple of brief sightings in the chaco.

Southern Three-banded Armadillo *Tolypeutes matacus* Seen by some of the group on the first day.

European Hare (Brown H) *Lepus europaeus* Introduced!

Forest Rabbit (Brazilian Cottontail, Tapiti) *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* A couple seen at Laguna Blanca.

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae* A few, best at Isla Yacyreta.

Brazilian Guinea-Pig (Cavy) *Cavia aperea* Even in the hand at San Rafael!

Chacoan Mara (Chaco M) *Dolichotis salinicola* A few seen around Enciso NP.

Conover's Tuco-tuco *Ctenomys conoveri* (NL) One in Enciso NP for some.

Capybara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* (NL) One for some of the group.

Coypu *Myocastor coypus* (NL)

Plains Viscacha *Lagostomus maximus* A few seen around Enciso NP.

Geoffroy's Cat *Oncifelis geoffroyi* A close but brief sighting for some of us at Laguna Capitan.

Pampas Fox (Azara's F, Argentine Grey F) *Lycalopex gymnocercus* Several close sightings in the chaco.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* About four noted in total.

Common Vampire Bat *Desmodus rotundus* A rather smelly roost at Chaco Lodge!

Diminutive Serotine (D Brown Bat) *Eptesicus diminutus* Lots in the roost at Pirahú.

Riparian Myotis (Riverside M) *Myotis riparius* One seen at San Rafael.

Red Myotis *Myotis ruber* One in the roost at Pirahú was a bit of a rarity!

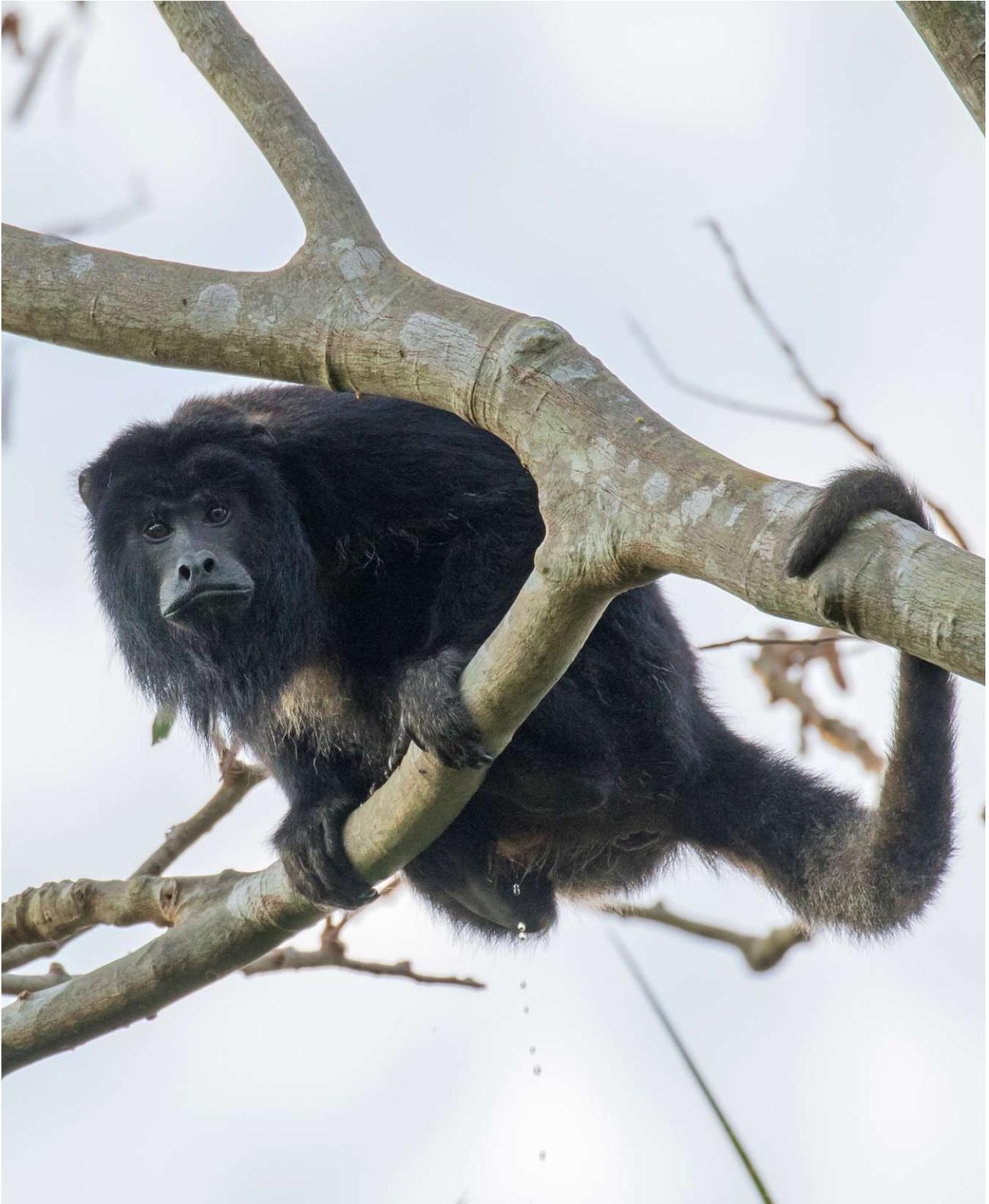
Brown Tufted Capuchin (Brown C) *Cebus apella* (H)

Black Howler Monkey (B Howler) *Alouatta caraya* Great views at Isla Yacyreta.

Chacoan Peccary (Chaco P) *Catagonus wagneri* Seen by a couple of us at Laguna Capitan.

Grey Brocket (G Brocket-Deer) *Mazama gouazoupira* A few sightings.

Brazilian Tapir (Lowland T) *Tapirus terrestris* A brief sighting, little more than eye shine, at Enciso NP>



An impressive Black Howler at Isla Yacyreta on the last morning (Pete Morris)



The wonderful Turquoise-fronted Amazon showed well in the chaco (Pete Morris)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2015. IOC World Bird List (v 5.4)**. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Solitary Tinamou *Tinamus solitarius*

Some of us enjoyed great views of a roosting bird close to Lagunita at Mbaracayú. The bird roosted in a bizarre posture with the rear end raised up, making it look almost like an eyeless owl from behind!

Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa*

Good views of several flushed, and briefly on the deck, at Isla Yacyreta. We also heard several and flushed one nothura from the cerrado at Laguna Blanca. There was some debate as to whether these may have been Lesser Nothuras and this is not an easy one to resolve. To me at least, the flushed bird appeared to be a Spotted Nothura, as it seemed too large for Lesser and gave an apparently identical alarm call to those flushed at Yacyreta. The vocalizations too seemed very similar, and it may be that there is some confusion over the vocalizations of the two forms as the literature conflicts [nominate].

Ocellated Crane *Micropygia schomburgkii*

It took some effort. Initially heard and just glimpsed in the grassland at Lagunita, Mbaracayú. After a couple of other sessions, we eventually achieved some excellent views of this stunning little bird, and everyone at least managed some views [chapmani].

Rufous-faced Crake ◇ *Laterallus xenopterus*

A good long flight view of one in grassland near the guard post at Mbaracayú. After an extended search and an attempted flush, one flew up and gave good, side-on flight views for c50m. The rufous head very apparent but more surprising was the obvious black and white barring on the upperparts and wing coverts. Great bird and the views were pretty good considering it was a flight view of a crake!

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

It was very interesting to see two subspecies feeding alongside each other at the lake at Chaco Lodge. Here we watched three or four *cinerascens* in with a large flock of *intercedens*. The former were clearly smaller, with darker underwings and little white trailing edge. The two have been mooted as a potential split.

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba*

We saw two forms. Excellent views of *wetmorei* at Laguna Capitan, and near Chaco Lodge, and others heard. At Laguna Blanca and Mbaracayú we saw several individuals of the nominate form.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

We saw two forms: a single *pallens* seen well in along the trail at Enciso NP and the nominate *brasilianum* was seen at Mbaracayú. The form *pallens* is interesting as some authors include it within Tucuman Pygmy Owl *G. tucuman* whilst others do not. Handbook of Birds of the World for example, split Tucuman Pygmy Owl, but list *pallens* as a subspecies of Ferruginous.

White-winged Nightjar *Eleothreptus candicans*

Brilliant views of a female and then two males at Laguna Blanca, and three males flushed and seen well in the grassland the following day. One male was watched in full display, dropping from its perch on to its bare sand display area with an audible thud, and then fluttering like a moth back to its perch whilst making a strange wing noise! MEGA!!

Rufous Nightjar *Antrostomus rufus*

Great spotlight views of a couple in Enciso NP. Also heard at Laguna Blanca. Several at Mbaracayú, including a stunning female in daylight which was near a nest which was found by Rob the following day [*rutilus*].



This lovely little Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper performed very well at San Rafael (Pete Morris)

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

Two quite different forms were noted. A couple seen around Enciso NP were of the pale *paraguayensis* form whilst in the east the darker nominate form was first seen well at the Hotel Tirol.

Olive-crowned Crescentchest *Melanopareia maximiliani*

Brilliant views of a couple at Laguna Capitan. Also heard at Fortin Toledo. An excellent bird, the distinctive song of the form concerned, *pallida*, may well lead to it being split.

Dark-throated Seedeater *Sporophila ruficollis*

We saw a rather strange-looking pallid male very well in the grasslands near Arroyos y Esteros. It lacked rufous and looked very washed out! This 'form' is presumably an immature or perhaps scarce colour morph of Dark-throated Seedeater, though it has also been suggested that it is actually a new and yet-to-be described species, the Ibera Seedeater.



Common favourites included Yellowish Pipit, Burrowing Owl, Pearly-vented Tody Tyrant and Campo Flicker (Pete Morris)

APPENDIX 1 – Other fauna

Thanks very much to Paul Smith for providing the following summaries of the other critters that entertained us!

REPTILES (See www.faunaparaguay.com/replist.html for further reference)

Yacare Caiman *Caiman yacare* Chaco.

Point-Nosed False Chamaleon *Polychrus acutirostris* Near Laguna Blanca.

Chaco Leaf-toed Gecko *Phyllopezus pollicaris* Chaco only.

Chaco Straight-toed Gecko *Homonota fasciata* Chaco only.

Four-toed Whiptail Lizard *Teius teyou* Central chaco.

Green Jungle Runner *Ameiva ameiva* Mbaracayú.

Patagonian Racer *Philodryas patagoniensis* Central chaco.

Eastern Collared Spiny Lizard *Tropidurus etheridgei* Central chaco.

Chaco Spiny Lizard *Tropidurus spinulosus* Enciso.

Red Tegu *Salvator rufescens* Fortin Toledo.

Black Tegu (Black-and-white T) *Salvator merianae* Mbaracayú, Pirahú.

Brongersma's Blind Snake *Amerotyphlops brongersmianus* Laguna Blanca.

Painted Liophis *Erythrolamprus sagittifer* Central chaco.

Aesculapian False Coral *Erythrolamprus aesculapi* Mbaracayú.

Tropical Rattlesnake *Crotalus durissus* Enciso.



An impressive Red Tegu at Fortin Toledo and a Tropical Rattlesnake in the chaco (Pete Morris)

AMPHIBIANS (See www.faunaparaguay.com/anflist.html for further reference)

Chaco Frog *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Thousands Near Chaco Lodge etc.
Speckled-bellied Frog *Leptodactylus podicipinus* At pizza place in Ayolas.
Lesser Snouted Tree Frog *Scinax nasicus* At sinks in Laguna Capitan.
Yellow-legged Snouted Tree Frog *Scinax fuscovarius* Bathroom in Enciso.
Muellers Narrow Mouthed Frog *Dermatonotus muelleri* Down stinking well at Fortin Toledo.
Rococo Toad *Rhinella schniedereri* All over the place.
Central Dwarf Frog *Physalaemus centralis* Laguna Blanca.
Pale-legged Dwarf Frog *Physalaemus albonotatus* Formula 1 frog - lots of places!
Cuviers Dwarf Frog *Physalaemus cuvieri* Laguna Blanca.
Natterers Eyed Frog *Eupemphix nattereri* Laguna Blanca.
Rinky Dink Tree Frog *Hypsiboas caingua* San Rafael.

Many more species heard which I wont list but Blacksmith Tree Frog *Hypsiboas faber* at Mbaracayú had several people asking what it was, the sound like drumbeats TONK-A-TONK-A-TONK.



The amazing Rococo Toad! (Pete Morris)



Although we did not keep a list, the butterflies were frequently impressive. These were at Mbaracayú (Pete Morris)

HAWKMOTHS (See <http://www.faunaparaguay.com/listsphingidae.html> for further reference, though this page is in a bit of a mess construction wise at the moment!)

Xylophanes tersa Laguna Capitan.

Xylophanes ceratomioides Mbaracayú.

Xylophanes tyndarus Mbaracayú.

Callionima grisescens Enciso.

Manduca rustica Enciso and Mbaracayú (see picture below)

Manduca florestan Ayolas.

Errinyis oenotrus Enciso.

Errinyis ello Mbaracayú.

Unzela japix Laguna Blanca - 5th record for Paraguay!

Adhemarius daphne Mbaracayú and San Rafael.

Adhemarius gannascus Mbaracayú.



EMPEROR MOTHS (See <http://www.faunaparaguay.com/saturniidae.html> for further reference, though this page is in a bit of a mess construction wise at the moment!)

Psilopygida crispula Laguna Capitan.

Adelonaevaia subangulata Laguna Blanca, Mbaracayú.

Eubergia caisa Laguna Blanca.

Oiticella convergens Mbaracayú.

Automeris hamata Mbaracayú.

Rothschildia sp. Ayolas – didn't get time to catch it, it was flying round while we were doing that ridiculous check in at the hotel!!

OTHER MOTHS

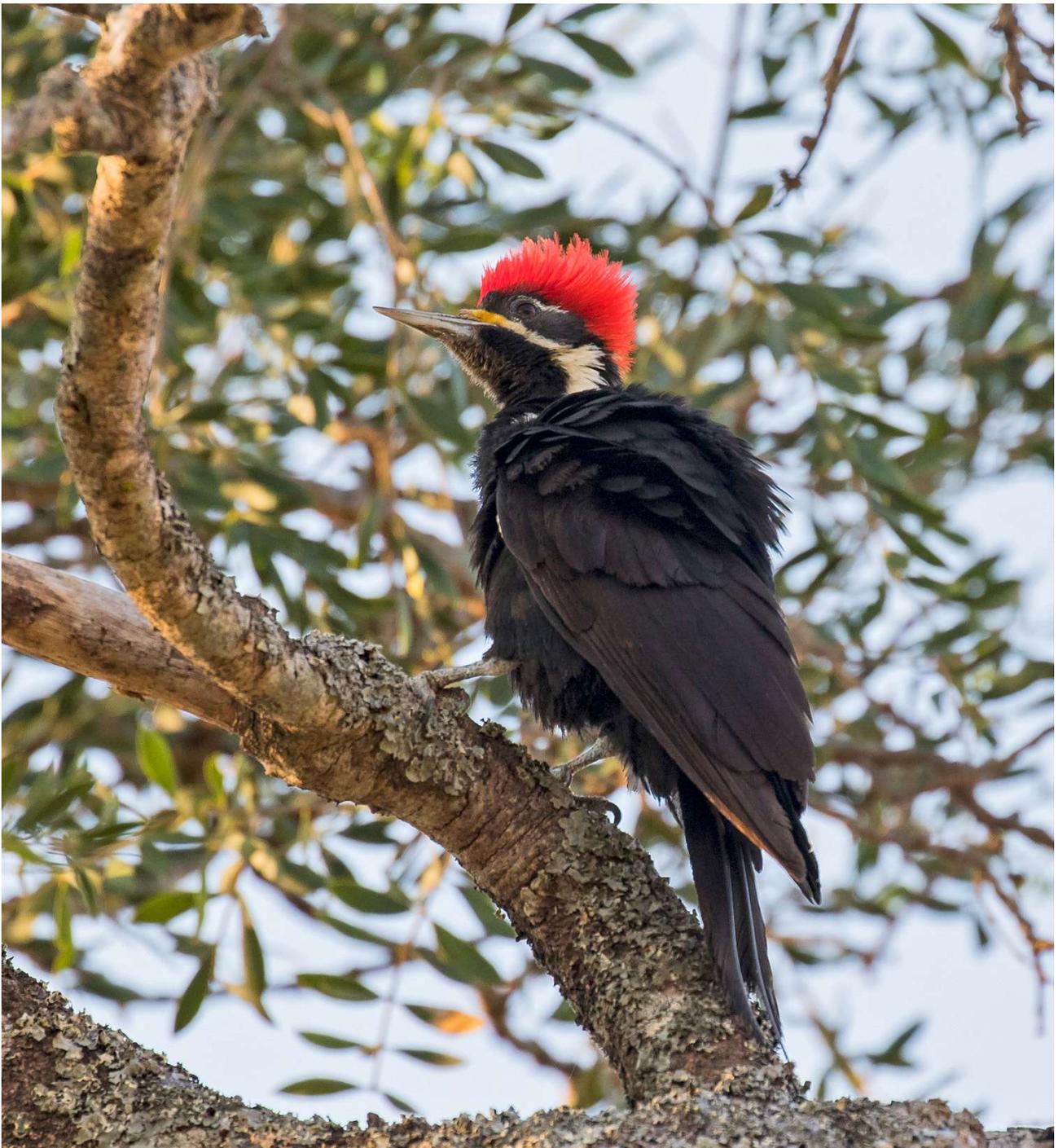
Bat Moth *Ascalapha odoratum* Big dark one seen at a few places that lots of people photographed (see below).



APPENDIX 2

TOP TEN BIRDS OF PARAGUAY

- 1st **WHITE-WINGED NIGHTJAR**
- 2nd **SICKLE-WINGED NIGHTJAR**
- 3rd **CHACO OWL**
- 4th= **Helmeted Woodpecker**
- 4th= **Crowned Solitary Eagle**
- 6th **Cock-tailed Tyrant**
- 7th **Black-bodied Woodpecker**
- 8th= **Ocellated Crake**
- 9th= **Tawny-browed Owl**
- 9th= **Black-legged Seriema**



This female Black-bodied Woodpecker gave much joy (Pete Morris)



The stunning Chaco Owl (Pete Morris)



The group and staff at Mbaracayú (Pete Morris) and sunrise at Laguna Blanca (Raymond Jeffers)

