



*Mind-blowing Diademed Sandpiper-Plover; a classic Chilean special (Alistair McNee)*

# ULTIMATE CHILE

**26 OCTOBER – 10/15 NOVEMBER 2017**

**LEADER: MARK PEARMAN**

Once again, *Ultimate Chile* produced all of the mainland Chilean endemics, all eight tapaculos, some the size of a puffin, and an astonishing wader spectacle of 33 species, including Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, Magellanic Plover, Peruvian Thick-knee, Tawny-throated and Rufous-chested Dotterels, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe and Puna Snipe. Our two main pelagics, and various ferry crossings, delivered 17 species of tubenose with highlights of Northern Royal Albatross, Buller's Albatross, Markham's Storm Petrel and some 140 Pincoya Storm Petrels, not to mention six Sei Whales right beside our boat.

In all, we observed 283 species (of which 26 were only seen on the extension) plus an interesting haul of 18 species of mammal. As we travelled almost the entire spine of Chile we sampled three major biomes including several vast wilderness areas, from the Atacama desert to the high Andes and through Patagonian

forests to the Magellanic and Fuegian tundra steppe. Other unforgettable highlights, from north to south, included Puna Tinamou, the *critically endangered* Chilean Woodstar, Tamarugo Conebill, Andean and James's Flamingos, White-throated Sierra Finch, Magellanic Woodpecker, Burrowing Parrot, Spectacled Duck, White-throated Hawk, Rufous-legged Owl, Des Murs' Wiretail and the recently split Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper. For many, the extension was the cherry topping with two Pumas hunting in daylight, a visit to South America's only King Penguin colony, Ruddy-headed Goose, Magellanic Plover, both dotterels, Austral Rail, Magellanic Horned Owl, White-bridled and Yellow-bridled Finches, not to mention the impressive scenery of Torres del Paine. We enjoyed decent weather almost throughout including the notorious extreme south. Accommodations were very comfortable, our logistics ran smoothly and we enjoyed tasty local cuisine and fine wines which lead to a hugely successful tour.

The birding started out of Iquique, and after a short drive we reached the tamarugo woodlands surrounded by barren Atacama desert. Our prime target was the very localized Tamarugo Conebill which was singing in the nearest tree as soon as we stepped out of the bus. After enjoying many views of six birds including one on a nest, we headed on to a nearby oasis town, adding Variable Hawk, Croaking Ground Dove, Eared Dove, West Peruvian Dove, Oasis Hummingbird, a male Vermillion Flycatcher, Spot-billed Ground Tyrant, Blue-and-white Swallow, and finally an adult and juvenile Slender-billed Finch. After a huge tasty sit-down lunch we shot back to the coast where there was plenty of action with Blackish and American Oystercatchers, vast numbers of mewing Grey Gulls, as well as Belcher's, Franklin's and a few Kelp Gulls, and Black Skimmers. Peruvian Boobies and Elegant Terns flew past as we scoped Whimbrels, with many Surfbirds mixed with Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings.



*The majestic Markham's Storm Petrel is a regular on our Iquique pelagic (Mark Pearman)*

Just as we were about to leave port on our first pelagic, Jan-Joost spotted the endemic Chilean Seaside Cinclodes close to our moorings, providing much excitement. Colourful Inca Terns and Red-legged Cormorants adorned the port as we departed in calm seas which is typical at this latitude. Peruvian Diving Petrels were the first tubenoses to show and we managed to see forty this morning, quickly followed by a prize Peruvian Tern. Other than a multitude of Peruvian Boobies, Peruvian Pelicans, two sunfish and both Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, seabirds were slow to appear during the first hour or so, as we made distance to the deep water. Some 15 miles offshore Sooty Shearwaters were now abundant, and we soon

added three Pink-footed Shearwaters, some thirty Elliot's Storm Petrels, as well as two Wilson's, with increasing numbers of White-chinned Petrel and at least thirty majestic Markham's Storm Petrel. Our chumming efforts pulled in a Cape Petrel as well as repeated close-ups of three Salvin's and a Buller's Albatross. South American Terns, Chilean Skuas, an unusual Sabine's Gull, a Guanay Cormorant and three more Peruvian Terns plummeting from height, provided the supporting cast on our return to port.



*A juvenile Buller's Albatross, wing-dipping off Iquique (Mark Pearman)*

Heading north through the bleak, and astonishing, Atacama a first stop produced Cinereous Conebill and two very smart, local Pied-crested Tit-Tyrants. A second oasis stop found us Oasis Hummingbirds and where two female Chilean Woodstars were scrutinized at close range.

Soon after dawn, the Azapa valley was our next port of call where we quickly homed in on Peruvian (White-crested) Elaenia, two male Peruvian Sheartails, and another female Chilean Woodstar as well as Hooded Siskin, Peruvian Meadowlark, Blue-black Grassquit, Chestnut-throated Seedeater, two Aplomado Falcons while a pair of Harris's Hawks mobbed a pair of Peregrines overhead. Heading back to the coast, it was Jan-Joost again that got us onto two well camouflaged Peruvian Thick-knees from the moving bus in a ploughed field. Another great find from Glutton boy even if he never found another worthwhile bird on the entire tour and resorted to stringing a few tough-uns his best mate saw well.

The Lluta river mouth is always a must-see haven for waterbirds and waders, and our visit revealed four species of egret including Little Blue Heron (the blue egret), Common Gallinule, Cinnamon Teal and various boreal migrant waders plus the smart local race of Killdeer. A couple of Puna Ibis were quite a surprise here. A lunch stop in the Lluta valley produced smart Blue-and-yellow Tanager and, after some searching, the local race of Bran-coloured (Rufescent) Flycatcher while Andean Swifts screeched overhead. Higher up, half of the group managed to see a Greyish Miner before it quickly disappeared into the desert. Reaching the Andean shrub zone, the birding became much more prolific with Bare-faced Ground Dove, Mourning and Ash-breasted Sierra Finches, Canyon and Dark-winged Cinclodes, Straight-billed Eathcreeper, Streak-backed Tit-Spinetail and Greenish Yellow Finch. Then, in the town of Putre we quickly connected with Spot-winged Pigeons while Andean Hillstars were nesting the roof of our hotel, and (the soon to be split) Band-winged Nightjar showed well after dark.

At dawn, we birded a deep gulley which produced good numbers of Buff-breasted Earthcreeper, Cream-winged Cinclodes, Chiguanco Thrush, Black-winged and Bare-faced Ground Doves as well as delightful Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, Black-throated Flowerpiercer, Black-hooded Sierra Finch and amazing Giant Hummingbirds; often mistaken for a bird not remotely related to hummingbirds e.g. a martin or even a falcon.

Lauca national park beckoned and our first visit almost turned into a full blown Hoover job. We quickly located Andean Gull, Andean Goose, Crested Duck, Yellow-billed Teal and Silvery Grebe on the first lakes, while cushion-plant bogs provided plump Rufous-bellied and Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, White-winged Cinclodes, Puna and White-fronted Ground Tyrants, Plumbeous and highly sought-after White-throated Sierra Finch mixed in with White-winged Diuca Finches. A next lake stop provided us with forty superb Andean Flamingoes and five James's Flamingoes among a multitude of Chilean Flamingoes. Now, with a vast back drop of towering snow-capped volcanoes, we scoped some distant Lesser Rheas amongst the herds of Vicunas while two Mountain Caracaras cruised past. A short moon walk at 4500 metres produced abundant Giant Coots, Puna Teal and Andean Avocet. We cherry picked many other targets including Cordilleran Canastero, Andean Flicker, Puna Miner, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant and Bright-rumped Yellow Finch and Dutch Peter got us onto five superb Puna Tinamous.



*Parinacota and Pomerape volcanoes, Lauca National Park (Alistair McNee)*

First on the morning's agenda was the elusive White-throated Earthcreeper, which showed well thanks to Dutch Peter. A return visit to Lauca gave us sumptuous views of Ornate Tinamou and our first Andean Condor before we set out on a trek for the iconic Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. Two hours later, and with many having bagged some fine views of Puna Snipe, this splendid wader performed very nicely to an ecstatic audience. En route to the *Polylepis* woodlands a lucky few bagged a Pampas Cat crossing the road and then pounding down a gulley, although the woodlands were pretty quiet barring the usual D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrants although some managed reasonable views of Thick-billed Siskin.

After an early flight to Santiago, we were quickly on our way to the coast where Chimango Caracara, Picui Ground Dove, Austral Thrush, Chilean Mockingbird, Common Diuca Finch, Black-chinned Siskin and Long-tailed Meadowlark adorned the carpark, as Chilean Swallows foraged overhead. The beach and estuary held

a throng of shorebirds, gulls and terns including Grey Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-backed Stilt, Brown-hooded Gull and three Snowy-crowned Terns among three hundred Elegant Terns while a late Buff-winged Cinclodes would soon return to Patagonia. The reedbeds and surrounding shrubbery were teeming with birdlife including many views of stunning Many-coloured Rush Tyrant, Plumbeous Rail, Spectacled Tyrant, Wren-like Rushbird, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Yellow-winged Blackbird and Grassland Yellow Finch. Our next lake stop was teeming with waterfowl including Black-necked and Coscoroba Swans, Red Shoveler, Yellow-billed Pintail, Lake Duck and the often elusive Black-headed Duck as well as Pied-billed, White-tufted, Great and Silvery Grebes, Red-gartered Coot while Bob got us onto a smart Spot-flanked Gallinule which turned out to be the only one of the tour.

Soon after dawn we set out on our second pelagic. We were soon watching many Peruvian Diving Petrels, Sooty Shearwaters and growing numbers of Pink-footed Shearwater. Wilson's Storm Petrel, White-chinned and four Westland Petrels soon made their appearance but it was the albatrosses that ruled the waves with numerous Salvin's and Black-browed's and repeated superb views of a Northern Royal Albatross, not to mention six very close Sei Whales and a False Killer Whale.



*Trail birding in the Cordillera de la Costa, with the Andes and Mt Aconcagua (6962 m) in the backdrop (Alistair McNee)*

After a memorable seafood lunch in the yacht club we headed inland towards the highest reaches of La Campana national park. A trek produced a nice range of common birds such as Giant Hummingbird, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Fire-eyed Diucon, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch and Chilean Elaenia and here too we managed two top Chilean endemics. First we had magnificent views of a characterful Moustached Turca, cocking its tail and running about rocks, climbing fluorescent green plants to deliver its explosive haunting song. Then it was the turn of Crag Chilia which crept in under cover to climb trees and edge along the track showing off its colours and nail-like bill. Back towards town we were able to scope our first colourful Chilean Pigeons.



*The sensational Moustached Turca is a "size 5" endemic tapaculo (Alistair McNee)*



*A hurried take-off by Andean Condor at close range is not an expected sight; oh my lordy (Mark Pearman)*

At dawn, we were on the case of Chile's toughest endemic, the White-throated Tapaculo and it was obvious from the sparse vocalizations and ultra-secretive behaviour that the birds were either on eggs or with chicks. Finally, and after much stalking, over half of the group managed a variety of views ranging from excellent to brief but we had to cut the rope at some stage. In the process everyone managed fine looks at Striped Woodpecker, Chilean Flicker and the endemic Dusky-tailed Canastero. Moving on to Lampa marshes it was evident that there had been a severe drought and we only managed to add Cinereous Harrier, White-winged Coot and Correndera Pipit.

Back in the high Andes, this time above Santiago, the birdlife was abundant as we added Rufous-banded Miner, yet another Crag Chilia, Scale-throated Earthcreeper, Grey-flanked Cinclodes, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, Ochre-naped and abundant White-browed Ground Tyrants. A short walk produced the expected local specialties including White-sided Hillstar, Sharp-billed Canastero, Black-fronted Ground Tyrant, Greater Yellow Finch and Yellow-rumped Siskin, as well as a local form of South American Snipe.



*A hungry looking Culpeo Fox seemed to be begging from tourists (Mark Pearman)*

Then amazingly, just up the road, we bumped into three more point blank DSP's right next to our bus, as well as some twenty Andean Condors, Variable Hawk and Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle before we finally located the poorly known Creamy-rumped Miner to cream off a memorable day.



*Hey Bob, your bill seems to be drooping...yes I'm beginning to feel Chile (Alistair McNee)*



*The endemic Chilean Tinamou walking through a flowering meadow (Bob Pease)*

Heading south to Vilches, we were soon veering back into the Andes and bagged great bus views of the elusive and shy endemic Chilean Tinamou at our regular site. The magnificent Patagonian forest of Vilches quickly delivered Green-backed Firecrown, Austral Parakeet, abundant Thorn-tailed Rayadito, smart White-throated Treerunner and even the localized Patagonian Tyrant, but it was a pair of Magellanic Woodpeckers which stole the show allowing magical walk-away views.

When there are highs there can also be lows and we had zero vocal response from Chestnut-throated Huet-huet, a major target, meaning we would be giving it all of our focus at dawn. Rain set in at dusk as we searched for Rufous-legged Owl, and we tried again through the night in another area to no avail.



*He who does not laud the monkey's head shall not see the huet-huet (Alistair McNee)*

At dawn we were back on the case of the huet-huet, and while many managed to see their first Chucao Tapaculo, only a couple managed decent views of Chestnut-throated Huet-huet which was undoubtedly nesting. Moving on to the Maule Valley, Upland Geese were in strong evidence as we homed in on the very local Chilean race of Burrowing Parrot, adding a male Band-tailed Sierra Finch and a pair of splendid Spectacled Duck in the process. Finally we reached the Chillan thermal springs where a dusk trip found us a Rufous-legged Owl, although the ensuing panic and noise in the spur of the moment flushed our bird away, never to be seen again. Our last chance of Rufous-legged Owl,.... or was it.

A pre-dawn Rufous-legged Owl attempt was a complete waste of time, as predicted by many. This morning's birding would produce two, very highly sought after, top birds however. At one site a Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper could be heard singing from the top of a tree as we parked up and stormed out to get scope views. It was to be the only one of the trip, a new species for Birdquest; split by Areta and Pearman (*The Condor* 2009). Shortly after, Paul got us onto a magnificent perched White-throated Hawk allowing blinding close-ups, followed by another; its mate? After finding a Des Mur's Wiretail by voice we soon realised that it was so pumped full of testosterone that the chances of seeing it perched for more than a millisecond would be impossible. The very long drive to Puyehue was punctuated by hundreds of Black-faced Ibis and a few cans of beer; what more can you say!



*A White-throated Hawk; top notch endemic Patagonian breeder (Bob Pease)*

After dinner we set out for yet another Rufous-legged Owl search and startled one along the side of the road. The driver was able to keep up with the flying bird and Mark spotlighted it as soon as it land in a large tree; a great result!

Our morning, and a large part of the day, at Puyehue was dominated by the glorious tapaculos when we all managed to get to grips with Black-throated Huet-huet at varying levels (we did everything posible!), Chucao and many close-ups of Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, even if it meant tobogganing down a 45 degree mud slope

in a bamboo jungle. Just down the road, a pair of Torrent Ducks and several Dark-bellied Cinclodes performed well. After an absolutely superb buffet lunch, we headed back to the forest tracking down four splendid, endemic Slender-billed Parakeets and a roadside Austral Pygmy Owl after much effort.

After the long drive to the Chiloe ferry, the crossing produced a Long-tailed Skua, Black-browed Albatross, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters as well as Rock Shag but no Pincoya Storm Petrels which was a downer, although a quick look at Caulin allowed us to scope a hundred and fifty steamer ducks of the as-yet-to-be-described species, before we continued on to Ancud. Finally, we set sail for the penguin colonies appreciating close-ups of mixed Humboldt and Magellanic Penguins as well as sixteen Kelp Geese and nesting Red-legged Cormorant; arguably the World's most stunning cormorant. En route to the hotel we enjoyed close ups of the runt Patagonian form of Ringed Kingfisher.



*The undescribed Chiloe Steamer Duck; note the orange bill base of the female left (Bob Pease)*



*The gaudy Red-legged Cormorant; shocking make-up that! (Bob Pease)*

In the morning we bagged our first Patagonian Sierra Finches and hundreds of Hudsonian Godwits were visible on roadside pools before we returned to port with just one thing on our mind; our only chance of Pincoya Storm Petrel described new to science by our leader *et al.* in 2013. Now, the sea was ripe, ripe with Pincoya, and we made three crossings to get every possible view of a multitude of Pincoya Stormies....wow! In all, we managed to see over 140 Pincoya, perhaps a record!



*Pincoya Storm Petrel, described new to science in 2013 (Bob Pease)*



*Fuegian Steamer Ducks on Tierra del Fuego; both sexes with entirely orange bills (Bob Pease)*

Now in Punta Arenas, and joined by New York Bob (alias *Yank Bob*, not to be confused with *Essex Bob*), an early search of the harbour, just steps from the hotel, produced a ton of jaw-dropping coral-billed Dolphin Gulls. Once aboard the ferry to Tierra del Fuego, it was by no means usual to see a Sei Whale in the harbour, and we enjoyed it playing around for an hour or so. Our two-hour crossing produced 50 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 8 Southern Fulmar, 30 Magellanic Diving Petrel and no less than 20 Chilean Skuas. Once at Porvenir we quickly scoped four Fuegian Steamer Ducks in the dock before we set out into the steppe.

It wasn't long before we began to get to grips with the fine identification distinctions between Common and Short-billed Miners with increasing numbers of Austral Negritos and Guanacos along the way. Our regular Ruddy-headed Goose pair had moved a few kilometres along the road which was no problem as Mark realised and stopped the bus accordingly.



*A small part of the only mainland King Penguin colony in South America (Mark Pearman)*

Our final destination was the only King Penguin breeding ground in South America and we were not to be disappointed when viewing 58 adults and 9 full size brown down-covered chicks. It was a unique experience without wind and there were smiles all around, with very helpful staff and where we also connected with close ups of many White-rumped Sandpipers and breeding Two-banded Plovers and Magellanic Oystercatchers. Then heading inland we added a pair of Flying Steamer Duck and homed in on the majestic Rufous-throated Dotterel finding three adults and a chick which kept us enthralled for an hour or so until it was time to head back to town. There was of course a final party piece; 5000 Kelp Gulls feeding on the stenching carcasses of thousands of King Crabs heaped in mountains on the outskirts of Porvenir; brilliant! What a day!



*Smart Rufous-chested Dotterel is a local Fuegian breeder (Alistair McNee)*

The most unique shorebird on the planet (afforded its own Order, not just Family) was our next target and as soon as we got to the site, we discussed how we would walk out across the vast landscape and find the bird. Essex Bob was however keen for a very quick start, but hey whoooa, we won't go into details but it was a proper messy acrobatic spectacle. Rescue over, we continued on our way to secure magnificent views of a red-eyed magical pair of grey ghost Magellanic Plovers that we will never forget. Just down the road, we visited a quarry to look for Magellanic Horned Owl and to cut a long story short, the owl found us, and was infact very interested at staring us down at close range! The ferry port provided several Patagonian Yellow Finches before we scoped two Peale's Dolphins and enjoyed five smart Commerson's Dolphin's on the crossing.

Back on the northern straits, we headed towards Torres del Paine through the back roads. It wasn't long before we connected with the first of four superb Chocolate-vented Tyrants, and numerous Lesser Rheas before we chanced upon our second isolated pair of Ruddy-headed Goose and nine Ashy-headed Goose. Our Band-tailed Earthcreeper site came up trumps once again with eventual point blank views. However it was the sheer numbers of the gorgeous White-bridled Finch that were astounding; often being a difficult bird to find, we managed to see a hundred and ten! Here too, we enjoyed great vews of four stunning Tawny-throated Dotterel; one quality bird after another. Nothing could prepare us for our next encounter as we drove into Torres del Paine national park, still with three hours of light. Suddenly our driver, José, spotted the head of a Puma sticking out of the vegetation some 300 metres up a slope, from the moving bus! Next, we were out of the bus and scoping two Pumas which we believed to be mother and offspring attempting a pincer movement on a wary Guanaco. This was a game of crawl and wait, which we enjoyed for over an hour until we just had to go.



*A Magellanic Horned Owl that found us (Mark Pearman)*



*Female Puma, perhaps a little surprised to see us (Mark Pearman)*



*..... while hunting guanaco (Mark Pearman)*

First on the morning's agenda was the rediscovered and range-restricted Austral Rail. After bumping into two Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunks we arrived at the first of several possible lakes and literally within just a few minutes we were watching this crane-sized rail crossing a more open area of rushes providing everyone with great looks; amazing! Just around the corner we were treated to a very obliging Austral Canastero; our sixth and final canastero of the tour. A variety of magnificent views of the towers and other snow-covered peaks, guanaco covered heath with some amazing flowers, turquoise lakes, waterfalls, glaciers and icebergs was to follow along with twelve Andean Condors before we reached the western side of the park. Here we watched a male Torrent Duck in a raging torrent and enjoyed a Striped Woodpecker before adding Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant to round off a memorable day.

To the east, the Sierra de Baguales, bordering Argentina was our next port of call where Paul got us onto our first quarry, the Patagonian Meadowlark which showed well, close to the bus. Hoping to see one or two Yellow-bridled Finches they came in droves (just as we had experienced with White-bridled Finch) and amazingly we ended up seeing sixty. Then, Alistair picked up a distant raptor which turned out to be a pair of the localized White-throated Caracara; a great find and a new bird for the tour. The drive back to Punta Arenas was punctuated by fifty Andean Condors, and yet another Ruddy-headed Goose on the outskirts of town, rounding off an extraordinary extension with exceptionally kind weather and all our targets showing well.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species and family sequence, taxonomy and species names follow the I.O.C. World Bird List which is available online at [www.worldbirdnames.org/](http://www.worldbirdnames.org/)

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

Species that were only seen on the tour extension are marked with (X).

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. only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; 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).

**Lesser Rhea** *Rhea pennata* 5 at Lauca (*tarapacensis*), abundant in the far south (*pennata*).  
**Ornate Tinamou** *Nothoprocta ornata* Protracted looks at 4 above Putre.  
**Chilean Tinamou** ◊ *Nothoprocta perdicaria* Great looks out of Talca.  
**Puna Tinamou** ◊ *Tinamotis pentlandii* Close-ups of 5 and 2 at Lauca NP.  
**Coscoroba Swan** ◊ *Coscoroba coscoroba* Various encounters in C and S Chile.  
**Black-necked Swan** ◊ *Cygnus melanocoryphus* Scarce in C Chile, common from Chiloe southwards.  
**Flying Steamer Duck** ◊ *Tachyeres patachonicus* (X) 16 on Tierra del Fuego and up to Paine.  
**Fuegian Steamer Duck** ◊ (Flightless SD) *Tachyeres pteneres* (X) 7 near Porvenir and Pta Arenas.  
**Chiloe Steamer Duck** ◊ *Tachyeres sp. nov.* 100 or more on Chiloe Island. 1 at Pargua.  
**Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* A pair at El Yeso, a pair at Puyehue and a male at Paine (*armata*).  
**Andean Goose** *Chloephaga melanoptera* Common at Lauca NP.  
**Upland Goose** ◊ *Chloephaga picta* 51 in the Maule valley, and abundant in the far south.  
**Kelp Goose** ◊ *Chloephaga hybrida* 16 on Chiloe Island.  
**Ashy-headed Goose** ◊ *Chloephaga poliocephala* (X) 9 and 4 en route to Paine.  
**Ruddy-headed Goose** ◊ *Chloephaga rubidiceps* (X) 2 pairs near Porvenir and Oazy. 1 at Pta. Arenas.  
**Crested Duck** *Lophonetta specularioides* 10 at Lauca, and common in the far south.  
**Spectacled Duck** ◊ *Speculanus specularis* 2 in the Maule valley, and 1 (LO) en route to Paine.  
**Puna Teal** *Anas puna* 25 at Lauca NP.  
**Red Shoveler** ◊ *Anas platalea* 10 at Laguna El Peral, 60 at Batuco, and 1 (NL) at Punta Arenas.  
**Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera* 10 at the Lluta river mouth, and 16 in C Chile.  
**Chiloe Wigeon** ◊ *Anas sibilatrix* Increasingly common from C to S Chile.  
**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica* Regular encounters.  
**Yellow-billed Teal (Speckled T)** *Anas flavirostris* 4 at Lauca (*oxyptera*), widespread elsewhere (*flavirostris*).  
**Black-headed Duck** ◊ *Heteronetta atricapilla* 7 at Laguna El Peral.  
**Lake Duck** ◊ *Oxyura vittata* Common at C Chilean lakes.  
**California Quail** (Intr) *Calipepla californica* Regular encounters in C Chile.  
**King Penguin** ◊ *Aptenodytes patagonicus* (X) 58 adults and 9 chicks at the Tierra del Fuego colony.  
**Magellanic Penguin** ◊ *Spheniscus magellanicus* Over 70 at Chiloe and the Magellan Straits.  
**Humboldt Penguin** ◊ *Spheniscus humboldti* 9 at Chiloe.  
**Wilson's Storm Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus* 2 off Iquique and Quintero, 50 in the Magellan Straits.  
**Elliot's Storm Petrel** ◊ *Oceanites gracilis* 60 or more on the Iquique pelagic.  
**Pincoya Storm Petrel** ◊ *Oceanites pincoyae* 140 or more on crossings to Chiloe.  
**Northern Royal Albatross** *Diomedea sanfordi* 1 on the pelagic from Quintero.  
**Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophrys* 20 off Quintero, common in the far south.  
**Salvin's Albatross** *Thalassarche salvini* 3 on the Iquique pelagic, 25 on the Quintero pelagic.  
**Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri* 1 on the Iquique pelagic.  
**Markham's Storm Petrel** ◊ *Oceanodroma markhami* 30 or more on the Iquique pelagic.  
**Southern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus* 1 on the Quintero pelagic, 12 in the far south.  
**Southern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (X) 8 in the Magellan Straits.  
**Cape Petrel** *Daption capense* 1 on the Iquique pelagic.  
**White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis* 10 off Iquique, 3 off Quintero, 1 in the far south.  
**Westland Petrel** ◊ *Procellaria westlandica* 4 or more on the Quintero pelagic.  
**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* Common to abundant on all pelagics and ferry crossings.  
**Pink-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus creatopus* 3 off Iquique, 50 off Quintero and 4 off Chiloe.  
**Peruvian Diving Petrel** ◊ *Pelecanoides garnotii* 40 off Iquique and 20 off Quintero.

Magellanic Diving Petrel ♦ *Pelecanoides magellani* (X) 30 and 2 in the Magellan Straits.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* 1 at Laguna El Peral. 3 at Codelco lake.

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland* 11 in C Chile, 3 at Punta Arenas.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major* 6 in C Chile, 5 in the lake district (*major*), and 2 at Paine (*navasi*).

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis* 6 at Lauca (*juninensis*), 8 at Laguna El Peral, 8 off Porvenir (*occipitalis*).

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* 250 at Lauca, 16 in the far south.

Andean Flamingo ♦ *Phoenicopterus andinus* 40 at Lauca.

James's Flamingo ♦ *Phoenicopterus jamesi* 5 at Lauca.

Black-faced Ibis ♦ *Theristicus melanopis* Ubiquitous from the lake district southwards.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* 1 at Batuco lake.

Puna Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus* 2 at the Lluta river mouth, and 6 at Lauca NP.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Regular encounters.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Small numbers in C Chile with a colony of 160 at Codelco lake.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* 2 at Batuco lake.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Regular in small numbers south to Puyehue.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* 2 adults at the Lluta river mouth.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Regular in C Chile and the lake district.

Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* Abundant south to Chiloe.

Peruvian Booby *Sula variegata* Abundant in N and C Chile.

Red-legged Cormorant *Phalacrocorax gaimardi* Common at Iquique and Chiloe.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Widespread encounters.

Rock Shag ♦ *Phalacrocorax magellanicus* 4 at Chiloe, and 50 or more at the Magellan Straits.

Guanay Cormorant *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii* 1 off Quintero.

Imperial Shag ♦ *Phalacrocorax atriceps* Abundant off Chiloe and in the far south.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Ubiquitous south to Chiloe.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Small numbers from Talca south to Chiloe.

Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* 1 below Putre, 20 at El Yeso, and 70 or more in the far south.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* 1 N of Talca and 1 near Linhares.

Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus* 2 at Lampa/ Batuco, 1 on Chiloe, seen daily in the far south.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* 2 in the Azapa valley, 1 at La Campana and 1 on Chiloe.

Variable Hawk (Red-backed H) *Geranoaetus polyosoma* Regular encounters.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* 1 at El Yeso, 3 at Paine, 1 N of Pta Arenas.

White-throated Hawk ♦ *Buteo albigula* 2 perched at Chillán, and 2 at Puyehue.

Austral Rail ♦ *Rallus antarcticus* (X) Surprisingly easy at Torres del Paine.

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* 4 at Rocas de Santo Domingo.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* 30 and 6 at the Lluta river mouth, and 1 (NL) at Batuco lake.

Spot-flanked Gallinule *Gallinula melanops* 1 at Laguna El Peral.

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera* 10 at Batuco, 3 on Chiloe and 20 near Paine.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata* The commonest coot in C and S Chile.

Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea* 50 at Lauca NP.

Peruvian Thick-knee *Burhinus superciliaris* 2 in the Azapa valley.

Magellanic Plover ♦ *Pluvianellus socialis* (X) A pair near Porvenir, Tierra del Fuego.

Magellanic Oystercatcher ♦ *Haematopus leucopodus* (X) Small numbers daily in the far south.

Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater* 8 at or near Iquique, 2 at Quintero and 1 on Chiloe.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* Widespread encounters south to Chiloe.

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus* Common in C Chile.

Andean Avocet *Recurvirostra andina* 2 at Lauca.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* Ubiquitous in C and S Chile (*fretensis* and *chilensis*).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 10 at Rocas de Santo Domingo.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* Singles at the Lluta river mouth on two dates.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* 1 at the Lluta river mouth.

Two-banded Plover ♦ *Charadrius falklandicus* (X) 16 on Tierra del Fuego, 10 at Gallego Chico.

Rufous-chested Plover (R-c Dotterel) ♦ *Charadrius modestus* (X) 4 near Porvenir, 1 at Gallego Chico.

Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis* (X) 4 on at Gallego Chico.

Diademed Sandpiper-Plover ♦ *Phegornis mitchellii* 1 at Lauca, and 4 at El Yeso. Wow!

Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi* 6 and 30 at Lauca NP on different dates.

Grey-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus* 21 at Lauca, and 15 or more at El Yeso.

Whimbrel (Hudsonian W) *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus* Common and widespread.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* 20 at Rocas de Santo Domingo, over 400 on Chiloe.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 12 at Iquique, 2 at Arica and 3 at Rocas de Sto Domingo.  
 Surfbird *Aphriza virgata* 20 or more at Iquique.  
 Sanderling *Calidris alba* 80 or more at Iquique, and 10 at the Lluta river mouth.  
 Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* Regular encounters throughout.  
 White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (X) 10 at Bahia Inutil, Tierra del Fuego.  
 Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* 1 at Rocas de Santo Domingo.  
 South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae* 2 at El Yeso, seen daily in the far south (*magellanica*).  
 Puna Snipe *Gallinago andina* After a tough walk, 4 at Lauca was way above the batting average.  
 Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus wilsoni* 4 at the Lluta river mouth, and 4 at Lauca.  
 Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 15 on the Iquique pelagic.  
 Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* 25 on the Iquique pelagic.  
 Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* 2 at the Lluta river mouth.  
 Willet *Tringa semipalmata* 1 at Iquique (*inornatus* alias Western Willet).  
 Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* 7 and 1 at the Lluta river mouth on two dates; H at Batuco.  
 Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* 17 at Iquique and Arica, 30 at Sto Domingo, 8 on Chiloe (*cinerascens*).  
 Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* 1 on the Iquique pelagic, and 1 on the Quintero pelagic was surprising.  
 Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* 7 at Lauca NP.  
 Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis* Common in C Chile, numerous in the S.  
 Dolphin Gull ♦ *Leucophaeus scoresbii* (X) Over 100 out of Punta Arenas.  
 Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* Regular in N and C Chile.  
 Grey Gull ♦ *Leucocephalus modestus* Abundant on the coasts of N and C Chile.  
 Belcher's Gull ♦ *Larus belcheri* Common on Iquique and Arica shores.  
 Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* Ubiquitous at all coastal and some inland sites.  
 Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* Common at Iquique, Arica and Rocas de S. Domingo; 1 at Chiloe.  
 Peruvian Tern ♦ *Sternula lorata* 4 not far offshore during our Iquique pelagic.  
 South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea* 2 at Iquique, 20 off Quintero, common S of Chiloe.  
 Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui* 3 at Rocas de Santo Domingo.  
 Inca Tern ♦ *Larosterna inca* 300+ at Iquique, 20 at Rocas de S. Domingo, 10 off Quintero.  
 Chilean Skua ♦ *Stercorarius chilensis* 5 off Iquique, 1 off Quintero, 7 off Pto Montt, 26 in the M Straits.  
 Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudatus* 1 from the Chiloe ferry.  
 Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia* The less said the better.  
 Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa* 4 and 15 in Putre (*albipennis*).  
 Chilean Pigeon ♦ *Patagioenas araucana* Regular in small numbers from C Chile to the lake district.  
 Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui* 4 and 6 at Rocas de Santo Domingo and Chillán.  
 Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana* 1 at Pica and 2 in the Azapa valley.  
 Bare-faced Ground Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae* 2 at Zapahuira and 20 at Putre.  
 Black-winged Ground Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera* Common at Putre.  
 Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Widespread.  
 West Peruvian Dove ♦ *Zenaida meloda* Common in the lowlands and oasis strips of the far N.  
 Lesser Horned Owl (Magellanic HO) ♦ *Bubo magellanicus* (X) 1 on N Tierra del Fuego.  
 Rufous-legged Owl ♦ *Strix rufipes* 1 showed well at Puyehue.  
 Pacific Pygmy Owl (Peruvian PO) *Glaucidium peruanum* 1 alive in the talons of an Aplomado Falcon.  
 Austral Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium nana* H distantly at Vilches. 1 seen by Lago Puyehue.  
 Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris* Repeated looks at 1 near Putre (*atripunctatus*).  
 Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus* 6 in the Lluta valley.  
 Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans* H at Putre.  
 Andean Hillstar *Oreotrochilus estella* Well over 40 above Zapahuira and around Putre.  
 White-sided Hillstar ♦ *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus* Two males and a female at El Yeso.  
 Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas* 2 at Putre (*peruviana*), and 2 at La Campana (*gigas*).  
 Green-backed Firecrown ♦ *Sephanoides sephaniodes* Regular encounters from Vilches to Chiloe.  
 Oasis Hummingbird ♦ *Rhodopis vesper* Daily sightings in the high N Andes.  
 Peruvian Sheartail ♦ *Thaumastura cora* Two young males in the Azapa Valley.  
 Chilean Woodstar ♦ *Eulidia yarrellii* Two females at Chaca and another in the Azapa valley.  
 Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Two on Chiloe (*stellata*).  
 Striped Woodpecker ♦ *Veniliornis lignarius* 1 at La Campana and another at Paine.  
 Chilean Flicker ♦ *Colaptes pitius* Regular encounters from C Chile to the far S.  
 Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola* 1 at Lauca NP.  
 Magellanic Woodpecker ♦ *Campephilus magellanicus* A pairs at Alto Vilches, watched at leisure.



**Mountain Caracara** *Phalcoboenus megalopterus* 2 at Lauca NP.

**White-throated Caracara** ♦ *Phalcoboenus albogularis* (X) A pair at Sierra de Baguales.

**Southern Crested Caracara** *Caracara plancus* Increasingly common from C to S Chile.

Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*: Ubiquitous from C Chile southwards.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Regular encounters.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* 8 in the Lluta valley and around Putre.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines* A pair in the Azapa Valley (*cassini*).

Austral Parakeet ♦ *Enicognathus ferrugineus* Often numerous from Vilches southwards.

Slender-billed Parakeet ♦ *Enicognathus leptorhynchus* 2 nr Entre Lagos, 4 at Puyehue, 15 on Chiloe.

Burrowing Parrot ♦ *Cyanoliseus patagonus* 35 or more in the Maule valley (*byroni*).

Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia* (X) 7 in N Tierra del Fuego; 20 at Gallego Chico.

Puna Miner *Geositta punensis* 4 at Lauca NP.

Short-billed Miner ♦ *Geositta antarctica* (X) 14 on N Tierra del Fuego; 4 at Gallego Chico.

Greyish Miner ♦ *Geositta maritime* 1 above the Lluta valley.

Rufous-banded Miner *Geositta rufipennis* 3 at El Yeso, 1 at Paine; H at Sra de Baguales (*fasciata*).

Creamy-rumped Miner ♦ *Geositta isabellina* 2 at El Yeso.

Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus* 2 near Zapahuira.

Band-tailed Earthcreeper ♦ *Ochetorhynchus phoenicurus* (X) 1 near Oazy showing well.

Crag Chilia ♦ *Ochetorhynchus melanura* Singles performed well at La Campana and El Yeso.

Buff-breasted Earthcreeper *Upucerthia validirostris* 4 near Putre.

White-throated Earthcreeper ♦ *Upucerthia albigula* 1 at Putre; another seen by Peter.

Scale-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia dumetaria* 3 at El Yeso (*hypoleuca*), H in the far south.

Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper ♦ *Upucerthia saturator* 1 singing at the top of a tree at Chillán.

Buff-winged Cinclodes ♦ *Cinclodes fuscus* 1 at Rocas de Sto Domingo, 2 at El Yeso, 2 at Paine.

Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris* 14 around Putre and at Lauca on two dates.

White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis* 2 at Lauca.

Grey-flanked Cinclodes ♦ *Cinclodes oustaleti* 2 at El Yeso (*oustaleti*).

Dark-bellied Cinclodes ♦ *Cinclodes patagonicus* 3 at Puyehue, 6 on Chiloe, and 1 at Paine.

Chilean Seaside Cinclodes ♦ *Cinclodes nigrofumosus* 1 in Iquique harbour, and 1 at Quintero.

Des Murs's Wiretail ♦ *Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii* H at Chillán, 3 at Puyehue, H on Chiloe.

Thorn-tailed Rayadito ♦ *Aphrastura spinicauda* Common from Vilches to Puyehue.

Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides* 2 at El Yeso, 2 (NL) at Puyehue (nom.).

Streak-backed Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura striata* 2 at Zapahuira, 1 at the *Polylepis* woodland.

Sharp-billed Canastero (Lesser C) *Asthenes pyrrholeuca* 2 at El Yeso, 1 at Sierra de Baguales.

Canyon Canastero ♦ *Asthenes pudibunda* 2 at Zapahuira.

Cordilleran Canastero *Asthenes modesta* 1 at Lauca.

Dark-winged Canastero *Asthenes arequipae* 1 at Zapahuira, 5 at Putre, 3 at the *Polylepis* woodland.

Austral Canastero ♦ *Asthenes anthoides* (X) 1 in Torres del Paine NP.

Dusky-tailed Canastero ♦ *Pseudasthenes humicola* 2 at La Campana NP.

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops* 5 at Lampa marshes, and 1 at Torres del Paine.

White-throated Treerunner ♦ *Pygarrhichas albogularis* Small numbers from Vilches to Puyehue.

Chestnut-throated Huet-huet ♦ *Pterotochos castaneus* One seen by few at Vilches. H also at Chillán.

Black-throated Huet-huet ♦ *Pterotochos tarnii* Two sightings and seen by most at Puyehue.

Moustached Turca ♦ *Pterotochos megapodius* 1 at La Campana and 10+ at El Yeso showed well.

White-throated Tapaculo ♦ *Scelorchilus albicollis* One seen by most at La Campana with many heard.

Chuco Tapaculo ♦ *Scelorchilus rubecula* 1 seen at Vilches, 3 at Puyehue and 1 on Chiloe; many H.

Ochre-flanked Tapaculo ♦ *Eugralla paradoxa* Repeated and protracted looks at Puyehue.

Magellanic Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus magellanicus* Various aural records; 1 showed well at Puyehue.

Dusky Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus fuscus* 1 showing well at La Campana.

White-crested Elaenia ("Peruvian E") *Elaenia albiceps* 6 seen in N woodlands and oasis.

Chilean Elaenia *Elaenia chilensis* Common to abundant in all Patagonian forest.

Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant ♦ *Anairetes reguloides* 2 showed well, but briefly, between Iquique and Arica.

Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes flavirostris* 2 at Putre.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus* Regular encounters from La Campana to Puyehue.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* Eventually we nailed 1 in the Lluta valley (*rufescens*).

Many-coloured Rush Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra* 10 or more showed well at Rocas de Santo Domingo.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* 1 at the Tamarugo woodland, and 16 in the Lluta valley.

Austral Negrito ♦ *Lessonia rufa* 2 (NL) in C Chile; abundant in the far south.

Andean Negrito *Lessonia oreas* 1 above Zapahuira and 1 at Lauca NP.

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillata* 4 at Rocas de Santo Domingo, 1 at Paine.

Spot-billed Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maculirostris* Singles at Pica, Zapahuira and El Yeso.

Puna Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola juninensis* 10 or more at Lauca NP.

White-fronted Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albifrons* 9 at Lauca NP.  
 Ochre-naped Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola flavinucha* 8 or more at El Yeso, 1 at Sierra de Baguales.  
 Rufous-naped Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola rufivertex* 1 (NL) en route to Putre, and 1 (NL) at Lauca.  
 White-browed Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albifrons* 30 or more at El Yeso, 1 at Paine.  
 Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola capistrata* (X) 2 at Paine, 2 at Sierra de Baguales.  
 Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant ♦ *Muscisaxicola frontalis* 3 at El Yeso.  
 Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus* 1 (NL) at Zapuhura, 1 at Lauca and 3 at El Yeso.  
 Fire-eyed Diucon ♦ *Xolmis pyrope* Regular encounters from La Campana southwards.  
 Chocolate-vented Tyrant ♦ *Neoxolmis rufiventris* (X) 4 at Gallego Chico.  
 D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca oenanthoides* 5 at the *Polylepis* woodland.  
 White-browed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca leucophrys* 1 near Putre.  
 Patagonian Tyrant ♦ *Colorhamphus parvirostris* A pair at Vilches Alto.  
 Rufous-tailed Plantcutter ♦ *Phytotoma rara* 2 at Rocas de Santo Domingo, 3 on Chiloe, 5 in Paine.  
 Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia* 1 in the Lluta Valley.  
 Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni* Ubiquitous in C and S Chile.  
 Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* Regular encounters.  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 2 in the Lluta valley, and 2 out of Porvenir.  
 House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Small numbers throughout the tour.  
 Chilean Mockingbird ♦ *Mimus thenca* Common in central Chile and the lake district. NOT endemic!  
 Patagonian Mockingbird ♦ *Mimus patagonicus* (X) 1 at Sierra de Baguales.  
 Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco* 4 around Putre.  
 Austral Thrush ♦ *Turdus falcklandii* Common throughout C Chile and Patagonia.  
 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Present.  
 Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera* 2 at Lampa, and H on Tierra del Fuego.  
 Black-chinned Siskin ♦ *Carduelis barbata* Regular encounters from La Campana southwards.  
 Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanica* 2 in the Lluta Valley, 1 at Putre and 15 or more at El Yeso.  
 Black Siskin *Spinus atrata* 15 (NL) at Lauca.  
 Yellow-rumped Siskin ♦ *Spinus uropygialis* 15 or more at El Yeso.  
 Thick-billed Siskin ♦ *Spinus crassirostris* 5 at the *Polylepis* woodland.  
 Peruvian Meadowlark ♦ *Sturnella bellicosa* 5 and 1 at the Lluta river mouth.  
 Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca* Common in C and S Chile.  
 Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Small numbers in C Chile and the lake district.  
 Austral Blackbird ♦ *Cureus cureus* Generally common in C and S Chile.  
 Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelaius thilius* Regular in C Chile.  
 Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Widespread and common.  
 Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis* A pair at Ponconchile, singles at Putre and Chapiquiña.  
 Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum* 6 in N oasis strips.  
 Tamarugo Conebill ♦ *Conirostrum tamarugense* 6 or more at the Pampa de Tamarugal; one on a nest.  
 Black-throated Flowpiercer *Diglossa brunneiventris* 3 at Putre.  
 Black-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus atriceps* 2 at Putre; 1 at the *Polylepis* woodland.  
 Grey-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi* Regular encounters in C Chile and the far south.  
 Patagonian Sierra Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus* Small numbers in Patagonian forest; 6 seen on Chiloe.  
 Mourning Sierra Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus* Common in the high N Andes; 1 at El Yeso.  
 Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Phrygilus unicolor* 4 at Lauca, 1 at El Yeso and 3 at Sierra de Baguales.  
 White-throated Sierra-Finch ♦ *Phrygilus erythronotus* 4 at Lauca.  
 Ash-breasted Sierra Finch *Phrygilus plebejus* 6 at Lauca and the *Polylepis* woodland.  
 Band-tailed Sierra Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus* A male in the Maule valley.  
 White-bridled Finch ♦ *Melanodera melanodera* (X) 110 or more from Oazy to Gallego Chico. Amazing!  
 Yellow-bridled Finch ♦ *Melanodera xanthogramma* (X) 60 or more at Sierra de Baguales.  
 White-winged Diuca Finch *Diuca speculifera* 15 over two visits to Lauca.  
 Common Diuca Finch *Diuca diuca* Small numbers almost daily in C Chile south to Chiloe.  
 Slender-billed Finch ♦ *Xenospingus concolor* 18 or more in oasis valleys of the north.  
 Bright-rumped Yellow Finch *Sicalis uropygialis* A male at Lauca.  
 Greater Yellow Finch ♦ *Sicalis auriventris* 7 or more at El Yeso.  
 Greenish Yellow Finch *Sicalis olivascens* 1 at Zapuhura and 6 at Putre.  
 Patagonian Yellow Finch ♦ *Sicalis lebruni* (X) 8 on northern Tierra del Fuego. 5 at Sierra de Baguales.  
 Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola* Regular sightings in C Chile.  
 Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* 5 in the Azapa valley.  
 Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco* 4 in the Azapa and Lluta valleys.



*The Grey Glacier and icebergs at Torres del Paine national park (Mark Pearman)*

## MAMMALS

Large Hairy Armadillo *Chaetophractus villosus* (X) 1 at the Sierra de Baguales.

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* 1 at Vilches, and 3 at Puyehue.

European Hare *Lepus europeus* 1 at Puyehue; abundant in the far south.

Coypu *Myocastor coypus* 4 at Puyehue.

Southern Viscacha (Mountain V) *Lagidium viscacia* 6 at Lauca NP and 1 at El Yeso.

Puma *Puma concolor* (X) Mother and offspring hunting together provided an awesome moment.

Pampas Cat *Leopardus pajeros* 1 seen by some near Chapiquiña.

South American Grey Fox (Argentine GF) *Pseudalopex griseus* (X) 12 in the far south.

Culpeo *Pseudalopex culpaeus* 1 at El Yeso, seemingly begging from tourists. Quite sad really.

Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk *Conepatus humboldti* (X) 2 at Paine, and 1 at Sierra de Baguales.

South American Sea Lion *Otaria byronia* Common at most coastal sites.

Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis* 6 off Quintero at close range, and 1 off Punta Arenas.

False Killer Whale *Pseudorca crassidens* 1 off Quintero.

Peale's Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis* (X) 2 in the Magellan Straits at Bahia Azul.

Commerson's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus commersoni* (X) Great looks at 5 in the Magellan Straits.

Guanaco *Lama guanicoe* (X) Abundant in the far south.

Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna* Abundant at Lauca NP.

Marine Otter *Lontra felina* 1 (NL) at Quintero. Great views of 1 at Chiloe.

## OTHER

Ocean Sunfish *Mola mola* 2 off Iquique.



*The amazing towers of Torres del Paine (Mark Pearman)*