



SOUTHERN & CENTRAL ARGENTINA TOUR REPORT 2022

24 November - 9 December 2022

BY MARK PEARMAN

The 2022 edition of Central and Southern Argentina produced some 296 species with 126 diamond birds of restricted range: testimony to the unique avifauna of Patagonia. Among these, we secured all eight available Argentine endemics and all of Argentina's 12 endemic breeders, most of which are austral migrants.

The mega target bird of the tour was the now Critically Endangered Hooded Grebe which only breeds in western Santa Cruz province. It took some important logistics, coordination and a huge amount of luck, to see just a single bird. The fate of this stunning species, discovered new to science in 1974, hangs in the balance with all the odds against its survival, mainly due to five years of elevated temperatures, stronger winds and lack of meltwater flow from the Patagonian snowfields; numerous lakes have dried out over the past 25 years. The tour group was relieved to have seen it but, at the same time, bewildered to see a single bird seemingly paired with a Silvery Grebe (a classic survival tactic), and witness its breeding lakes drying out with no nesting material available, knowing that introduced trout, introduced American Mink and wandering predatory Kelp Gulls could thwart any breeding attempt.

The numerous highlights, beyond the tragic plight of the Hooded Grebe, included Spectacled Duck, Red-tailed Comet, Austral Rail, the unforgettable Magellanic Plover, Tawny-throated Dotterel, striking Dolphin and Olrog's Gulls, a vagrant Macaroni Penguin, raucous Rufous-legged Owl, impressive Magellanic Horned Owl at a daytime roost, the scarce Black-bodied Woodpecker, stunning male and female Magellanic Woodpecker (you have to see both!), the peculiar Black-legged Seriema, and even more peculiar Spot-winged Falconet, the macaw-like Burrowing Parrot, outrageous Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, whacky outsized tapaculos such as Black-throated Huet-huet and Crested Gallito, both forms of the colourful, skulking, Olive-crowned Crescentchest, the poorly known Dinelli's Doradito, stunning Black-crowned, Rusty-backed and Salinas Monjitas, Chocolate-vented Tyrant, Rufous-tailed and White-tipped Plantcutters, endangered Pampas Meadowlark and the smart Cinnamon Warbling Finch.

As usual the tour began in Cordoba, central Argentina, where a first visit into the forested foothills provided great views of the handsome and range-restricted Black-and-chestnut Warbling Finch and a superb male Blue-tufted Starthroat. Later in the day we bagged a highly cooperative pair of Chaco Sparrows, an endemic breeder, barely known outside of Argentina.

After a nice pre-dawn breakfast, we headed into the Sierras Grandes to gain altitude before our dawn birding. Our first stops produced a stunning Red-tailed Comet, Buff-necked Ibis, obliging Plumbeous Rail, and a number of perched Black-chested Buzzard-Eagles. The endemic Cordoba and Olrog's Cinclodes showed well along with White-winged Cinclodes for

comparison. Various interesting endemic subspecies were also found including Ash-breasted and Plumbeous Sierra Finches, Puna Canastero, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant and the distinctive local form of Long-tailed Meadowlark. A shockingly bright lime green Argentine Anole (an iguanid lizard, endemic to these mountains) also put on a fine show.

Dropping down the west slope of the moon-scaped sierras we scoured the thorn woodlands and gardens for the sleek Black-legged Seriema and enjoyed lengthy views of one hunting. Outrageous Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, smart Lark-like Brushrunner, raucous Brown Cacholote and the beasty "Chaco" Puffbird provided the supporting cast.

A final stop before reaching our hub in the Sierras Chicas produced two male Cinereous Tyrant (a chaco endemic) and our first Many-coloured Chaco Finches and Greater Wagtail-Tyrants. As we left, amazingly a male Black-crested Finch was observed foraging on a street in the town.

Our next objective was the endemic Salinas Monjita, known primarily from the Salinas Grandes salt lakes spanning three provinces and covering an area of over 3700 square miles. First on our agenda today was the enigmatic Spot-winged Falconet and we eventually had corking views of this characterful and scarce falcon. After adding a pair of Crested Horneros, we were itching to reach the salt pans. The monjita only inhabits the low sueda bordering the salt pans and the first of six was found as soon as we stepped out of the bus. A Lesser Shrike-Tyrant put in a brief performance, while back in the chaco woodlands we added the secretive Crested Gallito and poorly known Plain Inezia.

Surreal and beautiful sierran chaco woodlands mixed with Carandilla palms was the setting for another major target, the localized Black-bodied Woodpecker but we would have to work hard for this specialty. In the meantime, we enjoyed point-blank views of the stunning Olive-crowned Crescentchest, of the Andean form argentina. Moving on to another trail we finally scored a superb, Black-bodied Woodpecker flying back and forth across a valley with various perched views to round off an excellent day's birding.

Our drive across monotonous farmland to Mar Chiquita was punctuated by some unexpected raucous Chaco Chachalacas at a bridge and four Greater Rheas but very little else of note. Once we reached the "Small Sea", a lake of 2000 sq. km, we immediately homed in and got familiar with the poorly known Dinelli's Doradito which is common here. The rest of our Mar Chiquita experience included some reasonable looks at the skulking chaco (pallida) form of Olive-crowned Crescentchest, Brown-hooded Gulls, and Dot-winged Crake glimpsed by some. We had an interesting meal that strangely included a lot of Coypu on the menu.

After two short flights we reached our new hub of Bahia Blanca, in the south of the Buenos Aires close to some remnant pristine Pampas grasslands. Our number one target was the endangered Pampas Meadowlark although overnight rain could hamper our endeavour. Several Pampas and now Patagonian birds were new for us including Elegant Crested Tinamou, abundant Burrowing Parrots, Common Miner, the aptly named Firewood-gatherer, White-banded Mockingbird as well as Pampas and Short-billed Pipits to mention a few.

Eventually the mud was too much for our bus and we abandoned it and our driver Roy to continue on foot for the meadowlark, scrutinizing many Long-tailed Meadowlarks and White-browed Blackbirds on the walk. Eventually we reached the spot with a notable change in habitat and ten or more displaying Pampas Meadowlarks.... glorious ! We also had great looks at the crippling Bearded Tachuri. A swirling mass of forty or more Swainson's Hawk provided great entertainment while leaving the area.

In the afternoon we visited some lakes with the localized Hudson's Canastero in mind and scored immediately with repeated looks at four individuals. Here too we added Silver Teal, White-cheeked Pintail and Rosy-billed Pochard. Our final stop of the day was the Bahia Blanca estuary where we were treated to scope studies of the endemic breeding Olog's Gull with Kelp Gulls for comparison. We also enjoyed Great Grebe, Snowy-crowned Tern, Grey and Semipalmated Plovers, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper and Sharp-billed Canastero.

Leaving Bahia Blanca behind, we headed into La Pampa province and a first stop produced sought-after displaying endemic breeders such as Carbonated Sierra Finch and Hudson's Black Tyrant and now abundant Straneck's Tyrannulet. Bang, bang, bang !!! Here too, everyone caught up with "in your face" views of Brushland Tinamou, and we had great looks at both Ash-coloured and Dark-billed Cuckoos as well as Blue-crowned Parakeets. After a long drive, we rolled up to a prairie full of Maras playing around, at first nervous, trotting off on all fours, but then they got used to us. I don't remember ever seeing so many maras at once. More stops produced the stunning endemic Cinnamon Warbling Finch, a pair of endemic Rusty-backed Monjitas, the first of many Patagonian Mockingbirds and distant views of the endemic White-throated Cacholote. At dusk we added stunning views of the Patagonian form ("species") of Band-winged Nightjar, before a night out on the town where most of us got stuck into some serious seafood paellas and stews, except rib-eye John of course.

At first, Las Grutas doesn't really look like a birding hotspot, surrounded by low monotonous scrub-steppe. Those bushes are mostly three endemic species of creosote at the south end of the Monte Desert and it turns out to be the number 1 spot for endemics in Argentina with four outright endemics and seven breeding endemics. By now we were missing just a few of these, and soon after dawn we quickly bagged territorial endemic Sandy Gallito, stunning Black-crowned Monjita, endemic Patagonian Canastero, many more Cinnamon Warbling Finches and upgraded our White-throated Cacholote with point blank views.

To feel Patagonia, you have to live it and drive it, and by now we had that feel that nowhere was going to be close, towns were few and far between and the real journey had begun. You drive hundreds and hundreds of miles through wilderness and the scenery can stay the same. You've never seen such straight roads or endless horizons. There are no people or towns or villages, and soon you become used to seeing herds of roaming guanaco. So, finally we reach Welsh Patagonia where 4,000 people speak Welsh; bloody mental. A lake in town provided us with parasitic Black-headed Duck among hundreds of Lake Ducks.

No journey to Patagonia would be complete without a visit to a Magellanic Penguin colony. Today we modified the itinerary to visit a different colony knowing that a vagrant Macaroni Penguin had just been found there. The bird seemed quite lethargic but in spectacular plumage and may have been carrying an egg. Meanwhile the scene of thousands of Magellanic Penguins mixed with guanacos was surreal, and unforgettable. We even watch a chick hatching. A viewing platform overlooked an action-packed South American Sea Lion colony, complete with numerous Snowy Sheathbills, Brown Skuas and Dolphin Gulls as Southern Giant Petrels sailed by. The endemic Chubut Steamer Duck proved to be common here, and other additions included now numerous Lesser Rhea, Least Seedsnipe, Two-banded Plover, Rock and Imperial Shags and the near endemic Band-tailed Earthcreeper. Finally, we also had a bizarre experience with a Large Hairy Armadillo trotting around us, presumably looking for handouts.

In the morning we visited a stake-out for Magellanic Horned Owl which was readily found under a bush. With a little extra time on our hands due to flight changes, we made a visit to Rawson and had a productive seawatch from the pier which included Black-browed Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, Manx Shearwater and both Cabot's and Royal Terns. Embarking a short distance into the ocean we enjoyed repeated looks at several smart Commerson's Dolphin, a Patagonian endemic, as well as several South American Terns.

On our final morning in Trelew we visited Laguna Negra where the sheer numbers of Chilean Flamingos and ducks, not to mention a flock of over a thousand Wilson's Phalaropes was extraordinary. Red Shovelers alone may have numbered over ten thousand. A lone Franklin's Gull was a vagrant here.

After flying to El Calafate we had quite a drive to a remote estancia which would be our base while searching for Hooded Grebe. En route we added the stunning Chocolate-vented Tyrant and scoped a perched Andean Condor.

Soon after dawn we helped ourselves to prolonged scope views of Austral Rail just inside the rush bed which was a great start the day. We re-checked a staging lake for Hooded Grebe drawing a blank and quickly headed up onto the Strobel Plateau. Various quality birds came thick and fast with good numbers of amazing Tawny-throated Dotterels, Grey-breasted Seedsnipe and a White-throated Caracara. Small numbers of Hooded Grebes had been moving between lakes and with most of the lakes now dried out, we had to check all the available water bodies after a bumpy drive in four-wheel-drives. A first lake, where there had been six grebes the previous day, had none although we added Flying Steamer Duck and Andean Ruddy Duck. The next lake had a very low water level and we were surprised to see a Magellanic Plover here. We did our best to enjoy the plover, being such a top bird, but the thought of Hooded Grebe was nagging in the back of the mind, and we had to move on. Another lake drew a blank but did provide us with Patagonian and Greater Yellow Finches, Buff-winged Cinclodes and nearby Rufous-banded Miner. This only left one lake to check. In the distance we could see a pair of grebes that we thought were probably just Silvery Grebes and moved closer just to be sure. They turned out to be a Hooded Grebe seemingly paired with a Silvery Grebe. We got as close as possible in somewhat windy conditions to make the most of it. We had scored with a lot of odds stacked against us. This bird wasn't there the previous day, and we had run out of options anyway, so luck was really on our side.

Moving on to the picturesque town of El Chalten with its dramatic backdrop of Mount Fitzroy we soon headed to the Patagonian beech forest. This quickly provided us with protracted views of a family group of Spectacled Duck, Striped Woodpecker, Patagonian Sierra Finch, Austral Pygmy Owl, unique White-throated Treerunner, the abundant, yet crippling, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Chilean Elaenia, Dark-faced and White-browed Ground Tyrants as well as obliging Austral Parakeets much to the joy of Helge. At night we lost no sleep in bagging an amazing pair of Rufous-legged Owls in a 40-minute round trip from the hotel.... no messing !

In the morning we were back in the forest scoring a superb male Magellanic Woodpecker (get innnnn !!!!!), an amazing Black-throated Huet-huet nesting in a tree cavity, and a pair of smart Ashy-headed Goose. Back in town we studied the now overdue Rufous-tailed Plantcutter and Chilean Flicker. Moving on to El Calafate we enjoyed close-ups of our second Magellanic Plover.

A full day at the Perito Moreno glacier provided a jaw-dropping experience as we gazed at 100 sq. km of ice, with chunks cracking off and thundering into deep blue water, floating away as icebergs. The park also gave us our now awaited Austral Blackbirds, Dark-bellied Cinclodes and nearby memorable Austral Canastero as well as scope views of a female Magellanic Woodpecker.

On the final morning we added the fantastic Many-colored Rush Tyrant and several Magellanic Snipe to round off a magnificent tour.

BIRDS OF THE MAIN TOUR

1st: Hooded Grebe

2nd=: Black-bodied Woodpecker & Spot-winged Falconet

4th: Magellanic Plover

5th: Magellanic Woodpecker

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*

Lesser Rhea ♦ (Darwin's R) *Rhea [pennata] pennata*

Brushland Tinamou ♦ *Nothoprocta cinerascens*

Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii*

Darwin's Nothura ♦ *Nothura darwinii* Heard only.

Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa*

Elegant Crested Tinamou ♦ *Eudromia elegans*

Southern Screamer *Chauna torquata*

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Coscoroba Swan ♦ *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Black-necked Swan ♦ *Cygnus melancoryphus*

Flying Steamer Duck ♦ *Tachyeres patachonicus*

Chubut Steamer Duck ♦ (White-headed SD) *Tachyeres leucocephalus* Endemic.

Upland Goose ♦ *Chloephaga picta*

Ashy-headed Goose ♦ *Chloephaga poliocephala*

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides*

Bronze-winged Duck ♦ (Spectacled D) *Speculanus specularis*

Silver Teal *Spatula versicolor*

Red Shoveler ♦ *Spatula platalea*

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*

Chiloe Wigeon ♦ *Mareca sibilatrix*

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*

Yellow-billed Teal (Speckled T) *Anas flavirostris*

Rosy-billed Pochard ♦ *Netta peposaca*

Black-headed Duck ♦ *Heteronetta atricapilla*

Andean Duck (A Ruddy D) *Oxyura ferruginea*

Lake Duck ♦ *Oxyura vittata*

Chaco Chachalaca ♦ *Ortalis canicollis*

Band-winged Nightjar ♦ **[Patagonian N]** *Systellura [longirostris] bifasciata*

Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis torquata*

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus*

Red-tailed Comet ♦ *Sappho sparganurus*

Blue-tufted Starthroat ♦ *Heliomaster furcifer*

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon lucidus*

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* Heard only.

Ash-coloured Cuckoo ♦ *Coccyua cinerea*

Dark-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus melacoryphus*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa*

Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

Austral Rail ♦ *Rallus antarcticus*

Red-fronted Coot ♦ *Fulica rufifrons*

Red-gartered Coot ♦ *Fulica armillata*

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

Dot-winged Crake ♦ *Laterallus spiloptera*

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland*

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*

Hooded Grebe ♦ *Podiceps gallardoi* Endemic breeder.

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

Snowy Sheathbill ♦ *Chionis albus*

Magellanic Plover ♦ *Pluvianellus socialis*

Magellanic Oystercatcher ♦ *Haematopus leucopodus*

Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater*

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola*

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Two-banded Plover ♦ *Charadrius falklandicus*

Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis*

Grey-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus*

Least Seedsnipe *Thinocorus rumicivorus*

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Magellanic Snipe ♦ *Gallinago magellanica*

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Brown-hooded Gull ♦ *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

Dolphin Gull ♦ *Leucophaeus scoresbii*

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Olog's Gull ♦ *Larus atlanticus* Endemic breeder.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Cabot's Tern ♦ *Thalasseus aculavidus*

South American Tern ♦ *Sterna hirundinacea*

Snowy-crowned Tern ♦ **(Trudeau's T)** *Sterna trudeaui*

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*

Chilean Skua ♦ *Stercorarius chilensis*

Brown Skua ♦ *Stercorarius antarcticus*

Magellanic Penguin ♦ *Spheniscus magellanicus*

Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus* A vagrant, likely to originate from Falklands stock.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari*

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*

Rock Shag ♦ *Leucocarbo magellanicus*

Imperial Shag ♦ *Leucocarbo atriceps*

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus*

Black-faced Ibis ♦ *Theristicus melanopsis*

Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus*

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*
Great Egret (G White E) *Ardea alba*
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*
Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*
Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni*
Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus*
Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*
Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*
American Barn Owl *Tyto furcata*
Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*
Austral Pygmy Owl ◊ *Glaucidium nana*
Lesser Horned Owl ◊ (Magellanic H O) *Bubo magellanicus*
Rufous-legged Owl ◊ *Strix rufipes*
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*
Chaco Puffbird ◊ *Nystalus striatipectus*
White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*
Checkered Woodpecker *Veniliornis mixtus*
Striped Woodpecker *Veniliornis lignarius*
Green-barred Woodpecker [Golden-breasted W] *Colaptes [melanochloros] melanolaimus*
Chilean Flicker ◊ *Colaptes pitius*
Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*
Black-bodied Woodpecker ◊ *Dryocopus schulzii*
Magellanic Woodpecker ◊ *Campephilus magellanicus*
Black-legged Seriema ◊ *Chunga burmeisteri*
White-throated Caracara ◊ *Phalcoenus albogularis*
Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*
Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*
Spot-winged Falconet ◊ *Spizapteryx circumcincta*
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Austral Parakeet ◊ *Enicognathus ferrugineus*

Burrowing Parrot ◊ *Cyanoliseus patagonus*

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Thectocercus acuticaudatus*

Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia*

Rufous-banded Miner ◊ **[Trilling Miner]** *Geositta [rufipennis] fasciata*

Short-billed Miner ◊ *Geositta antarctica*

Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper ◊ *Drymornis bridgesii*

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*

White-throated Treerunner ◊ *Pygarrhichas albogularis*

Band-tailed Earthcreeper ◊ *Ochetorhynchus phoenicurus*

Chaco Earthcreeper ◊ *Tarphonomus certhioides*

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*

Crested Hornero ◊ *Furnarius cristatus*

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops*

Scale-throated Earthcreeper ◊ *Upucerthia dumetaria*

Buff-winged Cinclodes ◊ *Cinclodes fuscus*

Cordoba Cinclodes ◊ *Cinclodes comechingonus* Endemic.

Olog's Cinclodes ◊ *Cinclodes ologi* Endemic.

White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis*

Dark-bellied Cinclodes ◊ *Cinclodes patagonicus*

Thorn-tailed Rayadito ◊ *Aphrastura spinicauda*

Brown-capped Tit-Spintail ◊ *Leptasthenura fuliginiceps*

Plain-mantled Tit-Spintail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides pallida*

Firewood-gatherer *Anumbius annumbi*

Lark-like Brushrunner ◊ *Coryphistera alaudina*

Hudson's Canastero ◊ *Asthenes hudsoni*

Austral Canastero ◊ *Asthenes anthoides*

Puna Canastero ◊ *Asthenes sclateri*

Cordilleran Canastero *Asthenes modesta*

Sharp-billed Canastero ◊ *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*

Stripe-crowned Spintail ◊ *Cranioleuca pyrrhophia*

Patagonian Canastero ◊ *Pseudasthenes patagonica* Endemic.

Brown Cacholote ◊ *Pseudoseisura lophotes*

White-throated Cacholote ◊ *Pseudoseisura gutturalis* Endemic.

Chotoy Spintail *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*

Pale-breasted Spintail ◊ **[Austral S]** *Synallaxis [albescens] australis*

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis*

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

Great Antshrike *Taraba major*

Black-throated Huet-huet ♦ *Pterotochos tarnii*

Crested Gallito ♦ *Rhinocrypta lanceolata*

Sandy Gallito* ♦ *Teledromas fuscus* Endemic.

Magellanic Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus magellanicus*

Olive-crowned Crescentchest ♦ *Melanopareia maximiliani argentina* Endemic.

Olive-crowned Crescentchest ♦ *Melanopareia maximiliani pallida* The chaco form of this cryptic species complex.

Chilean Elaenia (White-crested E) *Elaenia chilensis*

Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris*

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Suiriri Flycatcher *Suiriri suiriri*

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

Straneck's Tyrannulet ♦ *Serpophaga griseicapilla* Endemic breeder.

Bearded Tachuri *Polystictus pectoralis*

Dinelli's Doradito ♦ *Pseudocolopteryx dinelliana* Endemic breeder.

Fulvous-crowned Scrub Tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus*

Greater Wagtail-Tyrant *Stigmatura budytoides*

Plain Inezia ♦ *Inezia inornata*

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

Many-colored Rush Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra*

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*

Scarlet Flycatcher [Vermilion F] *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

Dark-faced Ground Tyrant ♦ *Muscisaxicola maclovianus*

White-browed Ground Tyrant ♦ *Muscisaxicola albilora*

Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant ♦ *Muscisaxicola capistratus*

Austral Negrito ♦ *Lessonia rufa*

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus*

Cinereous Tyrant ♦ *Knipolegus striaticeps*

White-winged Black Tyrant *Knipolegus aterrimus*

Hudson's Black Tyrant ♦ *Knipolegus hudsoni* Endemic breeder.

White Monjita *Xolmis irupero*

Fire-eyed Diucon ♦ *Pyrope pyrope*

Black-crowned Monjita ♦ *Neoxolmis coronatus* Endemic breeder.

Rusty-backed Monjita ♦ *Neoxolmis rubetra* Endemic breeder.

Salinas Monjita ♦ *Neoxolmis salinarum* Endemic.

Chocolate-vented Tyrant ◊ *Neoxolmis rufiventris*

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*

Lesser Shrike-Tyrant ◊ *Agriornis murinus* Endemic breeder.

Grey-bellied Shrike-Tyrant ◊ *Agriornis micropterus*

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Crowned Slaty Flycatcher *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni*

Rufous-tailed Plantcutter ◊ *Phytotoma rara*

White-tipped Plantcutter ◊ *Phytotoma rutila*

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi*

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*

Chilean Swallow ◊ *Tachycineta leucopyga*

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata*

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*

Southern Martin *Progne elegans*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Grass Wren *Cistothorus platensis*

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Masked Gnatcatcher *Polioptila dumicola*

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

Patagonian Mockingbird ◊ *Mimus patagonicus*

White-banded Mockingbird ◊ *Mimus triurus* Endemic breeder.

Common Starling (introduced) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco*

Austral Thrush ◊ *Turdus falcklandii*

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

Short-billed Pipit ◊ *Anthus furcatus*

Pampas Pipit ◊ *Anthus chacoensis* Endemic breeder.

Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*

Black-chinned Siskin ◊ *Spinus barbatus*

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*

Chaco Sparrow ♦ *Rhynchospiza strigiceps* Endemic breeder.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

White-browed Blackbird *Leistes superciliaris*

Long-tailed Meadowlark ♦ *Leistes loyca*

Long-tailed Meadowlark (Sierran M) ♦ *Leistes [loyca] obscura* Endemic. The distinctive form from the sierras of Cordoba which is being split.

Pampas Meadowlark ♦ *Leistes defilippii*

Solitary Cacique *Cacicus solitarius*

Variable Oriole *Icterus pyrrhopterus*

Screaming Cowbird ♦ *Molothrus rufoaxillaris*

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Austral Blackbird ♦ *Curaeus curaeus*

Greyish Baywing *Agelaioides badius*

Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius*

Brown-and-yellow Marshbird *Pseudoleistes virescens*

Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata*

Brown-capped Whitestart *Myioborus brunniceps*

Pampa Finch *Embernagra platensis*

Mourning Sierra Finch *Rhopospina fruticeti*

Carbonated Sierra Finch ♦ *Porphyrospiza carbonaria* Endemic.

Many-colored Chaco Finch ♦ *Saltatricula multicolor*

Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantiirostris*

Red Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*

Cinnamon Warbling Finch ♦ *Poospiza ornata* Endemic breeder.

Black-and-chestnut Warbling Finch ♦ *Poospiza whitii*

Ringed Warbling Finch [Chaco W F] *Microspingus [torquatus] pectoralis*

Black-capped Warbling Finch *Microspingus melanoleucus*

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

Grassland Yellow Finch *Sicalis luteola*

Patagonian Yellow Finch ♦ *Sicalis lebruni*

Greater Yellow Finch ♦ *Sicalis auriventris*

Grey-hooded Sierra Finch ♦ *Phrygilus gayi*

Patagonian Sierra Finch ♦ *Phrygilus patagonicus*

Ash-breasted Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis plebejus*

Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis unicolor*

Band-tailed Seedeater *Catamenia analis*

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Rauenia bonariensis*

Black-crested Finch ♦ *Lophospingus pusillus*

Diuca Finch *Diuca diuca*

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*

MAMMALS

Big Hairy Armadillo (Large H A) *Chaetophractus villosus*

Yellow Armadillo (Six-banded A) *Euphractus sexcinctus*

Andean Fox (Culpeo) *Lycalopex culpaeus*

Argentine Gray Fox (South American G F) *Lycalopex griseus*

Azara's Fox ♦ **(Pampas F)** *Lycalopex gymnocercus*

South American Sea Lion *Otaria flavescens*

Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk *Conepatus humboldtii*

Guanaco *Lama guanicoe*

Commerson's Dolphin ♦ *Cephalorhynchus commersonii*

European Hare *Lepus europaeus*

Brazilian Guinea Pig *Cavia aperea*

Patagonian Cavy ♦ **(Mara)** *Dolichotis patagonum* Endemic.

Southern Mountain Cavy *Microcavia australis*

Coypu (Nutria) *Myocastor coypus*

Patagonian Tuco-tuco ♦ *Ctenomys haigi* Endemic, heard only.

REPTILES

Argentine Anole *Prystidactylus achalensis* Endemic.

Di Tada's Lizard *Liolaemus ditadai* Endemic.

Graceful Tree Iguana *Liolaemus gracilis* Endemic.

Four-toed Tegu (F-t Whiptail) *Teius teyou*



Endemic male Chubut Steamer Duck, flightless yet highly aggressive towards other males (image by Mark Pearman)



Shy or unusually not so shy Spectacled Duck; here a family group (image by Mark Pearman)



La Angostura (image by Mark Pearman)



The somewhat scarce Chaco Sparrow is a near endemic (image by Dave Williamson)



Smart male Ashy-headed Goose, A scarce and small Patagonian sheldgoose (image by Mark Pearman)



Magellanic Horned Owl, southern cousin to Great Horned Owl (image by Mark Pearman)



Male Argentine Anole, endemic to the central Sierras (image by Mark Pearman)



Black-throated Huet-huet at nest crevice (image by Mark Pearman)



Delightful tiny Commerson's Dolphin, endemic to Patagonia (image by Dave Williamson)



A scarce male Black-crested Finch (image by Mark Pearman)



Magellanic Penguins and Guanaco; a classic scene from coastal Patagonia (image by John Oates)



The long misidentified Straneck's Tyrannulet is common in places (image by Mark Pearman)



The elegant Tawny-throated Dotterel is a classic Neotropical grassland specialist (image by Mark Pearman)



The poorly known Dinelli's Doradito (image by Mark Pearman)



Lark-like Brushrunner, another stick nest fanatic (image by Mark Pearman)



Plain Inezia; not so plain yet plain hard to get (image by Mark Pearman)



Recently fledged Austral Pygmy Owls (image by Mark Pearman)



A splendid vagrant Macaroni Penguin (image by Mark Pearman)



Macaw-like Burrowing Parrot is found all over northern Patagonia (image by Mark Pearman)



Scarce and declining Hudson's Canastero, a Pampas speciality (image by Mark Pearman)



Rufous-legged Owl is a large denizen of Patagonian forest (image by Dave Williamson)



A fantastic Hooded Grebe was bird of the tour (image by Mark Pearman)



Endangered Pampas Meadowlark has become trickier in the last decade (image by Mark Pearman)



The mid-blowing Perito Moreno Glacier (image by Mark Pearman)



Delightful, endemic Patagonian Mara, often described as a cross between a kangaroo and deer (image by Mark Pearman)



Short-billed Pipit; one of 8 species of pipit in Argentina (image by Mark Pearman)



The unbelievable Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant, at home in any rush bed (image by Mark Pearman)