

# CHILE TOUR REPORT 2024

15 / 16 November - 2 / 7 / 8 December

by Mark Pearman

Of a record-breaking total of 302 species seen, highlights included all eight species of tapaculo, from the striking White-throated and giant Moustached Turca to the elusive huet-huets and skulking Ochre-flanked and Dusky Tapaculos. As usual, we enjoyed a clean sweep on all of the mainland Chilean endemics among which Crag Chilia and Slender-billed Parakeet stood out. Our endeavours to see the Critically Endangered Chilean Woodstar also met with success when we first found a female on a nest, and eventually had repeated views of a superb male. Chile is also renowned for its unusual waders, even though they all occur in Argentina as well. First on the agenda was the stunning Diademed Sandpiper-Plover at over 4000 metres in the picturesque Lauca National Park easily found in its usual territory. In the south we enjoyed the enigmatic Magellanic Plover, Tawny-throated and Rufous-chested Dotterels but seeing all four species of seedsnipe on one tour really took us to another level. No tour to Chile could be complete without one or more pelagic trips into the famous Humboldt Current. Of our three pelagics, the northern one produced fantastic looks at hundreds of Markham's Storm Petrels while central Chile allowed us views of what has recently been described as a new species: the Andean Storm Petrel. Meanwhile, the ferry crossing to Tierra del Fuego provided us with the recently split Fuegian Storm Petrel. Other major highlights included the iconic Magellanic Woodpecker, which took us many days and walking to find, both of the equally stunning White-bridled and Yellow-bridled Finches, such fantastic ovenbirds as Des Murs's Wiretail and White-throated Treerunner, and the unforgettable Puna Tinamou, alias the *walking bush*. Two new extensions were added to this year's tour, one for the enigmatic Horned Coot and Red-backed Sierra Finch at high altitude in the Atacama Desert, and the other for the highly sought-after White-bellied Seedsnipe. Securing point blank views of all of these goodies, as well as three Puma helped to make this tour one of the best I remember in well over 20 years of tours to Chile.

The tour began with a visit to some high Andean lakes above the town of San Pedro de Atacama. With increasing numbers of Vicuña, a miniature cousin of the llama, we connected with a pair of Lesser Rheas of one of the "Puna" forms, probably *garleppi*. Our first lake stop was teaming with a fantastic ensemble of Andean waterbirds. The light was good, the birds were very close and we had arrived before the tourist wagon. All three flamingo species were present with a hundred James's and four hundred Andeans which was a mega eye-opener and the tour had only just started. The localized and bizarre Horned Coot was our main target and we managed fifteen with two pairs attending nests. Giant and Andean Coots were common as were Silvery Grebes, Andean Geese, Puna and Yellow-billed Teals, Andean Gulls, Andean Negritos, four smart Andean Avocets and a distant Puna Plover. Cordilleran Canastero, Cream-winged Cinclodes and Black-hooded Sierra Finch were all singing from a rocky slope.

Other lake stops provided us with Puna Ibis, a singing male Grey-breasted Seedsnipe and a foraging group of seven Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe which was just as well as they were not to be found elsewhere on the tour. Greenish Yellow Finch and Ash-breasted Sierra Finch proved to be common while small numbers of Ochre-naped, Cinereous and Rufous-naped Ground Tyrants were appreciated along with a surprise Black-fronted Ground Tyrant, usually found much further south. Our second major target was the localized Red-backed Sierra Finch which we first found on some distant rocks, but eventually had one scavenging at our feet. Here too we studied the bizarre Mountain Viscacha, a giant chinchilla.

The long drive to Iquique was punctuated by a stop for a roadside Mountain Caracara and a few Least Seedsnipe in the middle of the barren Atacama. Once on the coast we began to grasp the magnitude of the Grey Gull population with their immaculate appearance and strange mewing, as Peruvian Boobies dived at high speed into the ocean. A few stops provided us with Kelp and Belcher's Gulls, Peruvian Pelican, Cinnamon Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Common Gallinule, Red-fronted and White-winged Coots, Blackish and American Oystercatchers, Ruddy Turnstone, Little Blue Heron and somewhat surprisingly, a pair of Spot-billed Ground Tyrants right on the coast.

A search through the picturesque port of Iquique soon after dawn turned up a Spotted Sandpiper and only fleeting views of Chilean Seaside Cinclodes while throngs of smart Inca Terns adorned colourful ship decks, masts, ropes, piers, even tires and were just about everywhere. We set sail on our pelagic in calm waters, as is pretty much always the case in Iquique. Half an hour from port and we started to get to grips with numerous Peruvian Diving Petrels. Then we steamed through a sea zone favoured by Red-necked Phalaropes with a minimum of 116 counted by Frank, our experienced counter. Sooty Shearwaters were common and we also saw Pink-footed Shearwater, White-chinned and a Westland Petrel, Southern and Northern Giant Petrels, Black-browed, Salvin's and two Buller's Albatrosses, a couple of Humboldt Penguins, a Franklin's Gull and two Long-tailed Skuas. The highlights were undoubtedly the storm petrels with around 700 Markham's, over a thousand Elliot's and two Wedge-rumped. Back on dry land, the endemic Chilean Seaside Cinclodes was now a priority for the late afternoon along with Surfbird which proved easy to find. Being a Sunday the beaches were heaving with people and it was hard to get away from the crowds, or find a rocky section unexposed to wind. Perseverance paid off and eventually everyone caught up with the cinclodes.

Our visit to Reserva Nacional Tamarugal gave us multiple looks at the localized Tamarugo Conebill, with, as is usual, the first being found as soon as we stepped out of the bus. There are hardly any other birds at this location and after briefs looks at our first Scale-throated Earthcreeper we were on our way. The Critically Endangered Chilean Woodstar was way up there on our target list for the entire trip and today we had a decent chance in several oasis strips in the barren Atacama. As Andean Swifts screeched overhead we quickly got to grips with the rather common, yet localized Slender-billed Finch, the Peruvian form of White-crested Elaenia, Cinereous Conebill, a pair of very smart Pied-crested Tit-Tyrants and Oasis Hummingbird, ubiquitous Vermilion Flycatcher, plus our first Variable and Harris's Hawks. Suddenly, John got us on to a nesting Chilean Woodstar which appeared to be incubating and rarely left her nest. In the next oasis strip we managed to find two pairs of Peruvian Sheartail, two more female woodstars and the now obligatory Oasis Hummingbird, plus brief views of a Chestnut-throated Seedeater. Would we ever see a male Chilean Woodstar, or would we have to be content with our numerous looks at females?

On to the Lluta river mouth, the no.1 hotspot in northern Chile, and the spectacle of Grey Gulls and Elegant Terns was shocking enough. As several Peruvian Meadowlarks sang from bush tops, the lagoons held Common Gallinule, Grey, American Golden and Semipalmated Plovers, Greater Yellowlegs and unusually large numbers of Willet, plus a Least Sandpiper, Black Skimmers and a surprise Gull-billed Tern while Frank managed a Peruvian Tern in flight amongst a mass of Elegant Terns. Our attempts to see Tschudi's Nightjar, an Atacama speciality, was a definite no show at two localities, but we did manage great looks at eight splendid Peruvian Thick-knees.

Driving up the Lluta Valley, a stop at some hummingbird feeders provided us with more looks at Oasis Hummingbird, Peruvian Sheartail and eventually a fine male Chilean Woodstar, a great result! Here too we enjoyed Croaking Ground Dove and Andean Ibis, a species that has only recently descended from the high Andes into alfalfa fields. Further on, Rufescent Flycatcher and Pacific Pygmy Owl showed well and we also connected with vagrant Fork-tailed Flycatcher and two Eastern Kingbirds. Once above 3000 metres the Andean shrubsteppe was alive with birds and we quickly found Bare-faced Ground Dove, Aplomado Falcon, Streak-backed Tit-Spinetail, both Dark-winged and Canyon Canasteros as well as plentiful numbers of Mourning Sierra Finch. There was little activity at the *Polylepis* grove although we did manage both Hooded and the localized Thick-billed Siskin.

Soon after dawn the Putre Canyon was alive with Spot-winged Pigeons, Andean Hillstars, many Giant Hummingbirds, Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, Band-tailed Seedeater, Black-throated Flowerpiercer and Blue-and-yellow Tanager. The localized White-throated Earthcreeper played hard to get but we eventually tracked one down and also found Buff-breasted Earthcreeper for comparison. The old road to Lauca produced an Ornate Tinamou, two Black-billed Shrike-Tyrants, White-browed Chat-Tyrants, Yellow-rumped Siskin and Plumbeous Sierra Finch. In the afternoon we made a first visit to the scenic Lauca National Park with 6000-metre-tall snow-capped volcanoes that straddle the border with Bolivia. The enigmatic Diademed Sandpiper-Plover has often been considered the star bird of Chile. This contrasts with Peru, Bolivia and Argentina where time is precious for finding so many other species that DSP is usually of less concern. Fortunately, there are various well-known territories at Lauca that have stood the test of time. The tiring hike at well over 4000 m. a.s.l. was well worth the fantastic views of two adults and a juvenile. But that wasn't all, as we added great looks at two Puna Snipe on the deck, plus many White-fronted and Puna Ground Tyrants as well as Andean Swallows. Prioritizing tougher species is certainly the way to go at Lauca, so next we covered a fair distance to reach a Puna Tinamou site, where our driver immediately spotted the "walking bushes". We were treated to prolonged looks at this tricky species and more views of the Puna form of Lesser Rhea before retreated back to Putre with a Black Siskin en route.

In the morning, we made a final visit to Lauca National Park, this time reaching 4660 metres in order to mop up some outstanding species. After getting to grips with Puna Miner, Lake Chungara held White-tufted Grebe and Andean Lapwing and we were able to upgrade our looks at Puna Plover with seven found close by. A nearby bog held many Andean Flickers and a final stop produced many Glacier Finches, the rare White-throated Sierra Finch and the odd looking Bolivian Big-eared Mouse. A stop on the road back to Arica produced the Atacama Desert *griseescens* form of Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail and an unexpected pair of Taruca, a rare deer of the Andes. Back at the Lluta river mouth we found nothing new and dipped again on Tschudi's Nightjar at a third site. Ouch!

Before dawn, we travelled to the airport for the early flight to Santiago. The feeling of optimism was understandably very low for Tschudi's Nightjar, but we still had some limited minutes to look for this elusive species that can only now be seen on this tour. As the clock ticked down, we quickly searched a barren area close to the runway where I suddenly heard a very distant bird and managed to pull it in for PB-WAV *also known as* point blank – walk-away views. What an amazing turn of fate given that we had already checked in for the flight but had not gone through security, and were now watching a snazzy male Tschudi's Nightjar!

Central Chile presented a new box full of goodies with its coastal lakes, estuaries and chaparral woodland. Today we had a full agenda and lost no time in reaching the Maipo Estuary with its brand-new visitor centre; I wondered if I was in the same place that I had been visiting for over twenty years that was usually full of storm line rubbish and biting insects. Now we just checked-in like you would at an airport, had covered lunch tables, elevated boardwalks, modern hides and a look-out tower. Our main quarry here was the Ticking Doradito, a bird with a very small range in Chile and a huge breeding range in Argentina, but there you go. After a short walk, there it was singing away and giving very obliging views. Soon we added Coscoroba Swan, Collared Plover, White-tailed Kite, Cinereous Harrier, Snowy-crowned Tern, a Royal Tern in a dense flock of Elegant Terns, Fire-eyed Diucon, Austral Negrito, Spectacled Tyrant, the strange Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Chilean Mockingbird, Austral Thrush, Yellow-winged Blackbird and Grassland Yellow-Finch. Our next stop delivered Great Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Swan, Red Shoveler, Lake Duck, Brown-hooded Gull, Red-gartered and Red-fronted Coots, Wren-like Rushbird, Chilean Elaenia, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Chilean Swallow, Black-chinned Siskin and Long-tailed Meadowlark.

Next, we stopped at a small reedbed along a river which is a classic site for Stripe-backed Bittern and in no time at all we enjoyed protracted scope studies of this little stunner. The day was producing an important list of birds, but we still had more to pack in, and soon we were descending into a steep forested canyon. It was here that our driver, Rodo, first produced his bizarre wooden whistle which not only went into his mouth but also up his nostrils. His imitations of the endemic White-throated Tapaculo were good enough to fool the bird but the views were brief and not for everyone while some only saw it in flight. Then it went back to its highly skulking nature and would not show well. Here too we added several forest species including Chilean Pigeon, Striped Woodpecker, the ubiquitous Thorn-tailed Rayadito while the endemic Dusky-tailed Canastero was obliging.

Leaving the port of Valparaiso on our second pelagic we almost immediately entered dense fog with very limited visibility and spent hours hoping that it would lift or that we would break through the other side. That didn't happen and eventually we had to backtrack and head along the edge of the fog where the birding became productive, helped by chumming. Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters were common, and we added small numbers of Red Phalarope, Peruvian Diving Petrel, Salvin's and Black-browed Albatross, White-chinned Petrels, a Westland Petrel and some managed a fly-past Masatierra Petrel. Wilson's-type storm petrels were common and photographs prove them to be the newly-described Andean Storm Petrel which was confirmed by the first author of the new species. Back towards port both Guanay and Red-legged Cormorants were present in numbers.

Access in the morning to our birding destination was blocked by an unexpectedly padlocked gate. Just as we were contemplating a plan of action, a Chilean Tinamou appeared in front of the gate and wandered around for some time allowing great views while we used the bus as a hide. This was just as well as we would not see this endemic again, and it also gained us valuable time. Then we managed to greatly upgrade our White-throated Tapaculo experience with some scope studies of this very smart endemic. Adding the nominate form of Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, we spent a long time in search of Dusky Tapaculo to no avail, but eventually connected with our first Moustached Turca, another great endemic and one of the largest of all tapaculos. Moving on to Batuco Lake we added Chiloe Wigeon and the stunning Many-colored Rush Tyrant. An exploratory visit into the Andes above Santiago produced Chilean Flicker, Black-winged Ground Dove and a roosting Magellanic Horned Owl.

We were back on the Farallones road in the morning with an extensive target list. The endemic Crag Chilia was a top priority and this time we scored straight away, with many scope views of this smart rock-loving ovenbird. The rocky meadows were alive with Scale-throated Earthcreeper, Rufous-banded Miner, Buff-winged and Grey-flanked Cinclodes, White-browed and Black-fronted Ground Tyrants while

Greater Yellow Finch was notably common. At a particular slope we waited a long time in the hope of seeing White-sided Hillstar and were eventually rewarded with a fine male. In the meantime, we added Sharp-billed Canastero and John located a Great Shrike-Tyrant which provided many scope studies of this usually tricky species. The roof of the ski resort was adorned with more than twenty Andean Condors which was a sight to see, although the locals and tourists milling around the place were completely unaware. We had unfinished business in finding the localized Creamy-rumped Miner and eventually connected with four of them, while also watching the antics of a Coruro in its burrow. This small black prairie dog-like rodent is endemic to central Chile, belongs in a monotypic genus and was only the second time we have seen it. On the way back to Santiago we connected with a surprise pair of Black-faced Ibis, the now overdue Band-tailed Sierra Finch and, amazingly, yet another Great Shrike-Tyrant.

After a few hours' drive southwards, we were back on the case of the endemic Dusky Tapaculo but suffered another dip out. We were reaching the southern edge of its range and were running out of sites and time. The picturesque Maule Valley beckoned and soon we were watching the magnificent Spectacled Duck and a colony of Burrowing Parrots, literally at the same time. These macaw-like parrots are only restricted to a couple of valleys in Chile and represent an endemic subspecies, *byroni*. Moving on to Alto Vilches we stopped at an old, long shot, huet-huet site. Little was happening except for adding our first Dark-bellied Cinclodes. Then, just as we were about to leave, a dark bird was seen briefly by a cavity and disappeared into vegetation. Before we knew it, we were treated to amazing views of the glorious Chestnut-throated Huet-huet and that was before we had even gotten to the forest. Winners! Our comfortable hotel had feeders that were attracting many Green-backed Firecrowns which was good value.

The forest with its giant Coihues *Nothofagus dombeyi* was magnificent. One of our first new birds was the handsome White-throated Treerunner performing nicely. Austral Parakeets obliged with perched views and soon we added Patagonian Sierra Finch. We had to work a little for Patagonian Tyrant which also performed well. A Magellanic Tapaculo showed well and we also saw another Chestnut-throated Huet-huet, but only briefly, not that this was important anymore. Meanwhile Chucao Tapaculo proved elusive today in that the understory was too dense and the bird outwitted us. There was no sign at all of Rufous-legged Owl at a stake-out.

In the morning, we went straight back to the Chucao territory and nailed it. Gorgeous! There was no sign of Magellanic Woodpecker either day so we just had to swallow that, knowing there would be more chances. We had a long drive ahead of us, and unfinished business with Dusky Tapaculo. There was one last chance and that was a long shot, by a bridge. There was no response for a good twenty minutes and it was looking very grim when suddenly it was bleating out its call like a crazy car alarm. And there it was! We all managed multiple looks at the tapaculo from the bridge. Job done, another result, and we were on our way. In the late afternoon we arrived at our hotel with many endemic Slender-billed Parakeets along the entrance track, providing us with great scope studies. An exploratory visit to the forest had little to no activity, although we did manage a smart pair of Torrent Ducks. Our Rufous-legged Owl nightmare continued tonight with heavy rain and wind.

Soon after dawn, we tracked down our main target, the Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper which, true to form, was singing from the top of a Monkey Puzzle *Araucaria araucano*, native in this area. Nearby, we came across the amazing Des Murs's Wiretail, one of very few birds with only six tail feathers and two of those are rudimentary. Still no sign of Magellanic Woodpecker but it was time to drive to Temuco. After checking into the hotel, we went straight to Cerro Ñielol National Park only to find that there was a nationwide strike by National Park wardens and park guards and that this would continue for the next day as well. There was no way they were letting us in and our visit to Temuco was a waste of time, or was it!? Looking at online maps we set out to find a way in through a rear entrance. The only tracks lead us into scrappy habitat where immediately we heard several Ochre-flanked Tapaculos singing but within extremely dense cover. We gave it a good try, but it was just too dense, and then rambled around the place unable to get to any decent forest. We had to come up with a new plan which was to cut a hole in dense vegetation large enough to hold two or three people at a time, and play in the tapaculo with a speaker suspended on a tripod leg. This worked extremely well, enabling eyeball views of the rusty flanks, yellow feet and that oddball broad-based gallinule-like bill. Winners! That night we had, arguably, the best meal of the tour, and with nothing more to keep us in Temuco we left early for Puyehue where we scoped a couple of soaring White-throated Hawks, had great looks at the skulking Black-throated Huet-huet and upgraded our views of Chucao Tapaculo with PB-WAV. After hours of searching, we were still drawing a blank on that big woodpecker and it would have to wait. At night we had yet another Rufous-legged Owl nightmare where, after finding the bird in dense forest after considerable time and effort, the group misunderstood Rodo, thinking he had seen it, and in the mayhem the bird flew off, only to be seen by me and Rob in flight.

In the morning, a lovely walk in splendid forest produced the now overdue Austral Pygmy Owl, but where was that damn woodpecker?! We spent hours on it, and finally, finally, FINALLY, we came face to face with a lethargic male Magellanic Woodpecker. It never made a

sound, except for foraging taps. We enjoyed the beast for a good long while, and then made haste to Puerto Montt. En route we enjoyed more perched Slender-billed Parakeets, but a South American Grey Fox begging for tourist scraps in a carpark was a sad sight to see. We spent most of the following day in a yacht patrolling the Golf of Ancud and Isla Huar in the hope of seeing Pincoya Storm Petrel which was not to be. We did manage many Arctic Skuas and two Pomarine Skuas plus six Magellanic Penguins. The seafood lunch and welcoming captain and crew made up a little for the lack of birds. Not to be beaten, we gave it our best in the morning by making four crossings of the Chacao Channel (not to be confused with Chucao Tapaculo) between the mainland and Chiloe Island, and again there was still no sign of a Pincoya. The, as yet, undescribed Chiloe Steamer Duck made its presence known, and upon one landing at Pargua we were treated to a parading Ringed Kingfisher of the distinctive, and bizarrely small, Patagonian race *stellata*. Landing in our final hub of Punta Arenas, we checked the seafront on the way to the hotel finding two Flying Steamer Duck, while getting to grips with Upland Goose plumages and our first looks at Magellanic Oystercatcher.

In the morning, we boarded a large car ferry that would take us to Porvenir in Tierra del Fuego. A Fuegian Steamer Duck was scoped before we left port and then we enjoyed Dolphin Gulls and Chilean Skuas on the crossing. Wilson's-type storm petrels here are now split definitively split as Fuegian Storm Petrel of which we saw ten or more. Now on Isla Grande, Tierra del Fuego we headed south to a regular spot for the rare continental form of Ruddy-headed Goose. Breeding had been highly successful this season (not so in Argentine Tierra del Fuego though) and we managed ten adults and thirteen chicks although did see a South American Grey Fox lying in wait. Soon we reached Bahia Inutil and set out in reasonable wind to the King Penguin colony. It was a marvellous spectacle as usual with 115 penguins counted including some downy young. Here too we added a pair of Two-banded Plover before heading to higher ground. Next on the agenda was Rufous-chested Dotterel and, with increasing numbers of Guanaco, we found six superb dotterels, our first Chocolate-vented Tyrant, a couple of Least Seedsnipe, two Austral Canasteros, Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant, displaying Magellanic Snipe and an awesome male White-bridled Finch.

In the morning, we visited various sites for the enigmatic and certainly unusual looking Magellanic Plover and on the third attempt found a lone adult which gave protracted views. Recent surveys have revealed that the global population may only consist of 330 mature adults which is astonishing and worrying at the same time. At the ferry port we added Patagonian Yellow Finch which appeared to be nesting in a wall. Back on the mainland we encountered nine Elegant Crested Tinamou, obliging Band-tailed Earthcreeper and, with increasing numbers of Lesser Rhea, added three Tawny-throated Dotterels before reaching Torres del Paine.

Heading off before dawn with our Puma coordinator and a tracker in place, before we knew it, we were looking at a mother and two large cubs at very close quarters, walking away and occasionally looking back at us. The experience was short-lived because these pumas had been hunting all night and just wanted to rest in thick scrub. Once hunkered down, all we could see was an ear and after a wait, we decided to head off in search of Austral Rail. After an initial attempt we walked to a semi-open area of rushes and obtained repeated looks at this tiny rail, once thought to be extinct but rediscovered in 1998. Here too, we added the *pallida* form of Plain-mantled Tit-Spintail. In the afternoon we headed to Sierra Baguales, a range that straddles the border with Argentina. A Patagonian Mockingbird obliged at a usual site, but it took quite a search to catch up with our main target, the very smart Yellow-bridled Finch.

The extension to the extension was a trek up Monte Tarn for White-bellied Seedsnipe, in a completely different league from other seedsnipe due to the remoteness of its breeding habitat. First we headed south on the Panamericana with our local guide Ricardo to where the road ends abruptly with a sign indicating *Fin del Camino*. En route we finally caught up with Ashy-headed Goose in good numbers and were surprised to see eighteen more Ruddy-headed Goose. The initial part of the trek was steep and soon involved traversing numerous tree roots in a dense forest. Once we broke above the tree line, we crossed an expanse of sphagnum bogs and then hiked up to the summit. A lone White-bellied Seedsnipe obliged at point blank range, almost at the summit and fulfilled all of our expectations. The bird was tame as they usually are and allowed over 30 minutes of viewing before it flew off, calling. On our descent we enjoyed a displaying Dark-faced Ground Tyrant and two fine male Magellanic Woodpeckers, reaching our vehicle seven hours after setting off. Finally, we caught up with a pair of Kelp Goose on the way back to Punta Arenas, a scarce species in these parts.

## TOP BIRDS OF THE MAIN TOUR

**1<sup>st</sup> Magellanic Woodpecker**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Diademed Sandpiper-Plover**

3<sup>rd</sup> Chestnut-throated Huet-huet

4<sup>th</sup> Chilean Woodstar

5<sup>th</sup> Markham's Storm Petrel

6<sup>th</sup> Moustached Turca

7<sup>th</sup> Puna Tinamou

8<sup>th</sup> Glacier Finch & Tamarugo Conebill

10<sup>th</sup> Tschudi's Nightjar

#### TOP BIRDS OF THE POST-TOUR EXTENSION

1<sup>st</sup> Yellow-bridled Finch

2<sup>nd</sup> Magellanic Plover & Austral Rail

4<sup>th</sup> King Penguin

5<sup>th</sup> Fuegian Steamer Duck

#### SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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 are taken from BirdLife. EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened.

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P.(Eds). **2024. IOC World Bird List (v14.2).**

Where the subspecies seen is/are known, these are often given in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

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

Species that were only seen on the pre-tour extension are marked with (PrX).

Species that were only seen on the post-tour extension are marked with (PoX).

#### BIRDS

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

Lesser Rhea (Puna R) *Rhea [pennata] tarapacensis*

Ornate Tinamou *Nothoprocta ornata*

Chilean Tinamou ◊ *Nothoprocta perdicaria* Endemic

Elegant Crested Tinamou ◊ *Eudromia elegans*  
 Puna Tinamou ◊ *Tinamotis pentlandii*  
 Coscoroba Swan ◊ *Coscoroba coscoroba*  
 Black-necked Swan ◊ *Cygnus melanocoryphus*  
 Flying Steamer Duck ◊ *Tachyeres patachonicus* (X)  
 Fuegian Steamer Duck ◊ (Flightless SD) *Tachyeres pteneres* (X)  
 "Chiloe Steamer Duck" ◊ *Tachyeres sp. nov.* Endemic  
 Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*  
 Andean Goose *Chloephaga melanoptera*  
 Upland Goose ◊ *Chloephaga picta* (X)  
 Kelp Goose ◊ *Chloephaga hybrida* (PoX)  
 Ashy-headed Goose ◊ *Chloephaga poliocephala* (PoX)  
 Ruddy-headed Goose ◊ *Chloephaga rubidiceps* (X)  
 Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides*  
 Bronze-winged Duck (Spectacled D) ◊ *Speculanus specularis* NT  
 Puna Teal *Anas puna*  
 Red Shoveler ◊ *Anas platalea*  
 Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*  
 Chiloe Wigeon ◊ *Anas sibilatrix*  
 White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*  
 Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*  
 Yellow-billed Teal (Speckled T) *Anas [flavirostris] flavirostris*  
 Yellow-billed Teal (Inca T) *Anas [flavirostris] oxyptera*  
 Andean Duck ◊ *Oxyura ferruginea*  
 Lake Duck ◊ *Oxyura vittata*  
 California Quail (Intr) *Calipepla californica*  
 Band-winged Nightjar (Siku N) *Systellura [longirostris] atripuntatus* Heard-only.  
 Tschudi's Nightjar ◊ *Systellura decussata*  
 Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus*  
 Green-backed Firecrown ◊ *Sephanoides sephanioides*  
 Andean Hillstar *Oreotrochilus estella*  
 White-sided Hillstar ◊ *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus*  
 Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*  
 Oasis Hummingbird ◊ *Rhodopis vesper*  
 Peruvian Sheartail ◊ *Thaumastura cora*  
 Chilean Woodstar ◊ *Eulidia yarrellii* CR Six seen, including a male at feeders, and a female on a nest.  
 Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*  
 Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa albipennis*  
 Chilean Pigeon ◊ *Patagioenas araucana*  
 Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui*  
 Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana*  
 Bare-faced Ground Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae*  
 Black-winged Ground Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera*  
 Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*  
 West Peruvian Dove ◊ *Zenaida meloda*  
 Austral Rail ◊ *Rallus antarcticus* VU Fantastic views.  
 Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*  
 Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons*  
 Horned Coot ◊ *Fulica cornuta* NT At least 15 with some active nests.  
 Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea*

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*  
 Andean Coot *Fulica ardesiaca*  
 White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*  
 Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*  
 White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland*  
 Great Grebe *Podiceps major*  
 Silvery Grebe *Podiceps [occipitalis] occipitalis*  
     Silvery Grebe *Podiceps [occipitalis] juninensis* NT  
 Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* NT  
 Andean Flamingo ◊ *Phoenicopterus andinus* VU  
 James's Flamingo ◊ *Phoenicopterus jamesi* NT  
 Peruvian Thick-knee *Burhinus superciliaris* VU  
 Magellanic Plover ◊ *Pluvialis socialis* (X) VU Walk-away views.  
 Magellanic Oystercatcher ◊ *Haematopus leucopodus* (X)  
 Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater*  
 American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*  
 White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*  
 Andean Avocet *Recurvirostra andina*  
 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* VU  
 American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*  
 Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis* (X)  
 Rufous-chested Dotterel (R-c Plover) ◊ *Charadrius modestus* (X)  
 Diademed Sandpiper-Plover ◊ *Phegornis mitchellii* NT Stunning as ever with three seen.  
 Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*  
 Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*  
 Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*  
 Collared Plover ◊ *Anarhynchus collaris*  
 Puna Plover ◊ *Anarhynchus alticola*  
 Two-banded Plover ◊ *Anarhynchus falklandicus* (X)  
 Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi* (PrX)  
 White-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi* (PoX) A new bird for this tour, well-earned after an adventurous trek.  
 Grey-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus*  
 Least Seedsnipe *Thinocorus rumicivorus* (X)  
 Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*  
 Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* VU  
 Puna Snipe *Gallinago andina*  
 Magellanic Snipe ◊ *Gallinago magellanica*  
 Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus wilsoni* (X)  
 Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*  
 Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*  
 Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*  
 Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* VU  
 Willet *Tringa semipalmata inornatus*  
 Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* NT  
 Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  
 Surfbird *Aphriza virgata*  
 Sanderling *Calidris alba*  
 Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*  
 Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* NT  
 White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* VU (X)



Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* NT

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

Peruvian Tern *Sternula lorata* Non-leader. EN

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* A long-staying individual near Arica was new for Chile.

Inca Tern ◊ *Larosterna inca* NT

Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui*

South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* NT

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Seen within a dense flock of Elegant Terns. Second or third for Chile.

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*

Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

Grey Gull ◊ *Leucocephalus modestus*

Dolphin Gull ◊ *Leucophaeus scoresbii* (X)

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Belcher's Gull ◊ *Larus belcheri*

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Long-tailed Jaeger (L-t Skua) *Stercorarius longicaudatus*

Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua) *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Pomarine Jaeger (P Skua) *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Chilean Skua ◊ *Stercorarius chilensis*

King Penguin ◊ *Aptenodytes patagonicus* (X)

Humboldt Penguin ◊ *Spheniscus humboldti* VU

Magellanic Penguin ◊ *Spheniscus magellanicus*

Fuegian Storm Petrel *Oceanites chilensis* (X) Seen in the Magellan Straits. Recently split from Wilson's Storm Petrel *O oceanicus*.

"Andean Storm Petrel" ◊ *Oceanites barrosi* Birds photographed on our Valparaiso pelagic were confirmed to represent this form by the authors of this newly described (2023) species, the validity of which remains unconfirmed at the time of writing.

Elliot's Storm Petrel ◊ *Oceanite gracilis*

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* VU

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophrys*

Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel *Hydrobates tethys*

Markham's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates markhami* NT

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

Masatierra Petrel *Pterodroma defilippiana* Non-leader. VU

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* VU

Westland Petrel *Procellaria wetlandica* EN

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* NT

Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus* VU

Peruvian Diving Petrel ◊ *Pelecanoides garnotii* NT

Magellanic Diving Petrel ◊ *Pelecanoides magellani*

Peruvian Booby *Sula variegata*

Red-legged Cormorant *Phalacrocorax gaimardi* NT

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Rock Shag ◊ *Phalacrocorax magellanicus*

Guanay Cormorant *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii* NT

Imperial Shag (Blue-eyed Cormorant) ◊ *Phalacrocorax [atriceps] atriceps*

Imperial Shag (King C) ◊ *Phalacrocorax [atriceps] albiventer* (X)

Black-faced Ibis ◊ *Theristicus melanopis*

Andean Ibis ◊ *Theristicus branickii* Six in the upper Lluta Valley.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*  
 Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi*  
 Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris*  
 Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
 Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*  
 Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*  
 Great Egret *Ardea alba*  
 Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
 Cooi Heron *Ardea cooi*  
 Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* NT  
 Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* VU  
 Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*  
 Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*  
 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
 Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*  
 White-throated Hawk ◊ *Buteo albigula*  
 Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*  
 Pacific Pygmy Owl (Peruvian PO) ◊ *Glaucidium peruanum*  
 Austral Pygmy Owl ◊ *Glaucidium nana*  
 Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*  
 Lesser Horned Owl (Magellanic HO) ◊ *Bubo magellanicus* (X)  
 Rufous-legged Owl ◊ *Strix rufipes* Seen only in flight by some.  
 Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle [torquata] stellata*  
 Striped Woodpecker ◊ *Veniliornis lignarius*  
 Chilean Flicker ◊ *Colaptes pitius*  
 Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola*  
 Magellanic Woodpecker ◊ *Campephilus magellanicus*  
 Mountain Caracara *Phalco boenus megalopterus*  
 Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*  
 Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*  
 American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*  
 Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*  
 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus cassini*  
 Monk Parakeet (Intr) *Myiopsitta monachus*  
 Austral Parakeet ◊ *Enicognathus ferrugineus*  
 Slender-billed Parakeet ◊ *Enicognathus leptorhynchus*  
 Burrowing Parrot ◊ *Cyanoliseus patagonus byroni*  
 Common Miner *Geositta [cunicularia] hellmayri*  
 Puna Miner *Geositta punensis*  
 Short-billed Miner ◊ *Geositta antarctica* Non-leader.  
 Rufous-banded Miner (Trilling M) *Geositta [rufipennis] fasciata*  
 Creamy-rumped Miner ◊ *Geositta isabellina*  
 White-throated Treerunner ◊ *Pygarrhichas albogularis*  
 Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus* Non-leader.  
 Band-tailed Earthcreeper ◊ *Ochetorhynchus phoenicurus* (X)  
 Crag Chilia ◊ *Ochetorhynchus melanura* Endemic  
 Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops*  
 Scale-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia dumetaria*  
 Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper ◊ *Upucerthia saturatior*  
 White-throated Earthcreeper ◊ *Upucerthia albigula*

**Buff-breasted Earthcreeper** *Upucerthia validirostris*  
**Buff-winged Cinclodes** ◊ *Cinclodes fuscus*  
**Cream-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes albiventris*  
**Grey-flanked Cinclodes** ◊ *Cinclodes oustaleti oustaleti*  
**White-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes atacamensis*  
**Dark-bellied Cinclodes** ◊ *Cinclodes patagonicus*  
**Chilean Seaside Cinclodes** ◊ *Cinclodes nigrofumosus* Endemic  
**Thorn-tailed Rayadito** ◊ *Aphrastura spinicauda*  
**Des Murs's Wiretail** ◊ *Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*  
**Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura [aegithaloides] aegithaloides*  
**Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura [aegithaloides] grisescens*  
**Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura [aegithaloides] pallida*  
**Streak-backed Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura striata*  
**Dark-winged Canastero** *Asthenes arequipae*  
**Austral Canastero** ◊ *Asthenes anthoides* (X)  
**Cordilleran Canastero** *Asthenes modesta*  
**Sharp-billed Canastero** *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*  
**Canyon Canastero** ◊ *Asthenes pudibunda*  
**Dusky-tailed Canastero** ◊ *Pseudasthenes humicola* Endemic  
**Chestnut-throated Huet-huet** ◊ *Pterotochos castaneus*  
**Black-throated Huet-huet** ◊ *Pterotochos tarnii*  
**Moustached Turca** ◊ *Pterotochos megapodius* Endemic  
**White-throated Tapaculo** ◊ *Scelorchilus albicollis* Endemic  
**Chucao Tapaculo** ◊ *Scelorchilus rubecula*  
**Ochre-flanked Tapaculo** ◊ *Eugralla paradoxa*  
**Dusky Tapaculo** ◊ *Scytalopus fuscus* Endemic  
**Magellanic Tapaculo** ◊ *Scytalopus magellanicus*  
**White-crested Elaenia (Peruvian E)** *Elaenia [albiceps] modesta*  
**Chilean Elaenia** *Elaenia chilensis*  
**Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant** ◊ *Anairetes reguloides*  
**Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes flavirostris*  
**Tufted Tit-Tyrant** ◊ *Anairetes parulus*  
**Ticking Doradito** ◊ *Pseudocolopteryx citreola*  
**Rufescent Flycatcher** ◊ *Myiophobus rufescens*  
**Many-coloured Rush Tyrant** *Tachuris rubrigastra*  
**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus obscurus*  
**Spot-billed Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maculirostris*  
**Puna Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola juninensis*  
**Cinereous Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola cinereus*  
**White-fronted Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola albifrons*  
**Rufous-naped Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*  
**White-browed Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola albilora*  
**Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola capistrata* (X)  
**Black-fronted Ground Tyrant** ◊ *Muscisaxicola frontalis* One above San Pedro might extend the Chilean breeding range northwards.  
**Andean Negrito** *Lessonia oreas*  
**Austral Negrito** ◊ *Lessonia rufa*  
**Spectacled Tyrant** *Hymenops perspicillata*  
**Fire-eyed Diucon** ◊ *Pyrope pyrope*  
**Chocolate-vented Tyrant** ◊ *Neoxolmis rufiventris* (X)  
**Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis montanus*

Great Shrike-Tyrant ◊ *Agriornis lividus*  
 D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca oenanthoides*  
 White-browed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca leucophrys*  
 Patagonian Tyrant ◊ *Colorhamphus parvirostris*  
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* A vagrant at Molinos.  
 Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* Two at Molinos were vagrants.  
 Rufous-tailed Plantcutter ◊ *Phytotoma rara*  
 Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*  
 Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*  
 Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*  
 Andean Swallow *Orochelidon andecola*  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* Non-leader.  
 Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus*  
 Chilean Mockingbird ◊ *Mimus thenca*  
 Patagonian Mockingbird ◊ *Mimus patagonicus* (X)  
 Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus [chiguanco] chiguanco*  
 Chiguanco Thrush (Coal Black T) *Turdus [chiguanco] anthracinus*  
 Austral Thrush ◊ *Turdus falcklandii*  
 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
 Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*  
 Black-chinned Siskin ◊ *Carduelis barbata*  
 Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanica*  
 Black Siskin *Spinus atrata*  
 Yellow-rumped Siskin ◊ *Spinus uropygialis*  
 Thick-billed Siskin ◊ *Spinus crassirostris*  
 Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*  
 Peruvian Meadowlark ◊ *Sturnella bellicosa*  
 Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca*  
 Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*  
 Austral Blackbird ◊ *Cureus cureus*  
 Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelaius thilius*  
 Mourning Sierra Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus*  
 Band-tailed Sierra Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus*  
 Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco*  
 Slender-billed Finch ◊ *Xenospingus concolor* NT  
 Tamarugo Conebill ◊ *Conirostrum tamarugense*  
 Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum*  
 Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola*  
 Patagonian Yellow Finch ◊ *Sicalis lebruni* (X)  
 Greenish Yellow Finch *Sicalis olivascens*  
 Greater Yellow Finch ◊ *Sicalis auriventris*  
 Grey-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi*  
 Patagonian Sierra Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus*  
 Black-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus atriceps*  
 White-bridled Finch ◊ *Melanodera melanodera* (X)  
 Yellow-bridled Finch ◊ *Melanodera xanthogramma* (X)  
 Ash-breasted Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis plebejus*  
 Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Gewospizopsis unicolor*  
 Red-backed Sierra Finch ◊ *Idiopsar dorsalis*

White-throated Sierra Finch ◊ *Idiopsar erythronotus*

Glacier Finch ◊ *Idiopsar speculifer*

Band-tailed Seedeater *Catamenia analis*

Black-throated Flowpiercer *Diglossa brunneiventris*

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis*

Diuca Finch *Diuca diuca*

#### MAMMALS

Puma *Puma concolor* (X) A female with two well grown cubs at Torres del Paine.

Culpeo Fox *Lycalopex culpaeus*

South American Grey Fox *Pseudalopex griseus*

South American Sea Lion *Otaria byronia*

Guanaco *Lama guanicoe*

Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna*

North Andean Huemul (Taruca) *Hippocamelus bisulcus*

Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis* (X)

Peale's Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis*

European Hare *Lepus europeus* Introduced.

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* Introduced.

Northern Mountain Viscacha *Lagidium viscacia*

Coruro *Spalacopus cuanus* Endemic. Los Farallones.

Coypu (Nutria) *Myocastor coypus*

Bolivian Big-eared Mouse *Auliscomys boliviensis* Las Cuevas, Lauca NP.

#### REPTILES

Small Pacific Iguana *Microlophus theresioides* Mouth of Rio Loa etc.

Brilliant Iguana *Liolaemus alticola* One at Lauca NP.

Black-green Tree Iguana *Liolaemis nigroviridis* One at Farallones.

Leopard Iguana *Liolaemus Leopardinus* One at Farallones.