

BOLIVIA: ENDEMIC MACAWS & MORE!

**PART 1: EASTERN LOWLANDS, BENI GRASSLANDS
& INTER-ANDEAN VALLEYS**

SEPTEMBER 15–30, 2018



The stunning endemic Blue-throated Macaw was one of many wonderful highlights and one of 6 macaws seen well on part 1 — Photo Andrew Whittaker

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BOLIVIA: PART 1
EASTERN LOWLANDS, BENI GRASSLANDS & INTER-ANDEAN VALLEYS
September 15–30, 2018

By Andrew Whittaker

Bolivia quickly convinced us all that, without doubt, it is a truly magical birding paradise not to be missed! Amazingly and sadly, this terrific country still remains one of South America's best-kept birding secrets. In fact, several of you kindly commented that these Bolivia trips had exceeded your wildest dreams, and you considered your Bolivian trip to have been the best South American birding trip ever (after having done many VENT trips to all the top bird-rich South America countries such as Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador)! Yes, this tiny landlocked country of Bolivia was simply as sensational as ever!



Bird-rich Chaco of southern Bolivia – Photo Andrew Whittaker

We enjoyed wonderful easy birding throughout both tours while visiting so many exciting and pristine biomes, even managing to smash **VENT'S 40-year trip record** of the largest ever birdlist! Bolivia part 1 ended with no less than **458 species** while on Bolivia part 2 we enjoyed a further **341 species** (with little overlap) giving people on **both Bolivia tours an incredible total of 656 bird species and 12**

mammals in 23 days! Running down our list of top 7 birds on part 1 would make anyone drool. Continue reading about our incredible trip highlights that follow and you will become convinced that Bolivia simply rocks! This year's top 7 included spectacular studies of both rare endemic macaws, first the truly mouthwatering Red-fronted Macaw, an artist's palette forming a mix of truly remarkable colors, resulting in what most certainly is the most beautiful of all macaws; several breathtaking and endangered Blue-throated viewed almost at point-blank range in stunning early morning sunlight in its charming bird-rich palm island reserve; the true paradise that is Refugio Los Volcanos where we enjoyed up to 50 huge, colorful Military Macaws parading around our lodge clearing daily; an incredible encounter with the endemic Rufous-faced Antpitta, feeding on worms in full view on the trail we had made into the forest; the much sought after Black-legged Seriema that paraded around our bus; an enormous perched Andean Condor that we were able to compare to a tiny Southern Caracara perched nearby; and an endearing camouflaged day-roosting Great Potoo!



The endemic threatened and spectacular Blue-throated Macaw alone is worth a trip to Bolivia
Andrew Whittaker

Bolivia is a delightful and friendly country with only 10 million inhabitants and with more than 50% centered in only three major cities, therefore, vast unspoiled habitats and rural countryside to explore. Bolivia includes a remarkable array of different, exciting birdy habitats within close proximity that we were lucky enough to enjoy visiting. These facts make Bolivia stand out as a supreme birding destination! During this action-packed two weeks we enjoyed an incredible diversity from wide-open birdy, dry “Chaco” to taller *Chiquitania* forest; semi-desert inter-Andean valleys; lush “Yungas” cloudforests; grasslands; Bolivian Pantanal and rich gallery forest, to the vast marshes with palm-islands, each with their own unique and fascinating birds.



The much sought after Black-legged Seriema performed well for us– Photo Andrew Whittaker

Furthermore, to enhance our birding in this wonderful country even more is the release of the first ever field guide, ***BIRDS OF BOLIVIA*** (produced by the Asociacion Armonia, Bolivia), filled with precise identification notes, excellent bird illustrations, and detailed maps, all in a convenient and portable format, making it real fun sorting through the tremendous diversity of its mega avifauna. Combine this with great governmental strides going forward over the past two decades (socially and economically), a brand new road system, improved accommodations, and good healthy food, and very quickly Bolivia will at last become what it deserves to be, one of the TOP birding meccas of South America!



Cream-backed Woodpecker – Photo Andrew Whittaker

We began our birding explorations from the bustling capital of Santa Cruz. After a tremendous downpour, the sun shone on our first afternoon, birding in the lovely botanical gardens—a great introduction to the varied avifauna. Here we were rewarded with stellar views of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Blue-crowned Trogon, Guided Sapphire, Scaly-headed Parrot, White-eyed Parakeet, Purplish Jay, Golden-crowned Warbler, a gorgeous responsive male Guira Tanager, and finishing off with hundreds of roosting egrets, ibis, and Snail Kites coming in to roost, not to mention a neat sloth. Early the next morning saw us heading southwest, our destination the distinct *Chiquitania* forest and wide, rolling, dry thorny forests of the birdy “Chaco” with its fascinating ancient columnar cactus and ponds filled with spinning Wilson’s Phalaropes and flocks, yes flocks of the sought after superlative Ringed Teal. Here we even managed to find a major Bolivian rarity, as we searched through shorebirds, in the form of a Hudsonian Godwit, and enjoyed scope views of a much-commemorated adult Andean Condor too!



Rich Chaco wetlands with Ringed Teal and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck – Photo Andrew Whittaker



The Chaco Earthcreeper gave great views – Photo Andrew Whittaker

One of our prime targets here in the Chaco, which we finally nailed (thanks to Lee-Ann), was the unusual Black-legged Seriema, and what a show it put on for us, approaching so close. It walked around the bus, giving superlative views! We also enjoyed its odd, extremely loud and raucous donkey-like voice. The Chaco provided highlights thick and fast: crippling studies of a colorful flock of Blue-crowned Parakeets; a trio of cool woodpeckers—Checked, White-fronted, and the poorly-named tiny White-barred Piculet; Chaco Puffbird; Great Rufous Woodcreeper; Black-bellied Antwren; small parties of the odd Lark-like Brushfinch; the endemic Chaco Earthcreeper; Crested Hornero; Crested Gallito (what a voice); Little Thornbird; recently described Straneck’s Tyrannulet; Cinereous Tyrants; (near endemic) Gray-crested Finch; the magical Many-colored Chaco Finch; Blue-and-Yellow Tanager; Golden-billed Saltator; Red-crested Finch; and the charming duetting Greater Wagtail-Tyrants.



Many-colored Chaco Finch – Photo Andrew Whittaker



Greater Wagtail-Tyrant – Photo Andrew Whittaker

Retracing our steps, we explored the rich wetlands on our way back north. However, first we nailed a pair of the massive (Ivory-billed Woodpecker cousin) Creamy-backed Woodpecker, and what a show they put on for us. As the early morning mist rose, in perfect timing the superb morning light uncovered vast numbers of waterfowl on our secluded lake. We had simply stunning scope studies of more fantastic Ringed Teal, Comb Ducks, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, Red Shoveler, Masked Ducks, Rosy-billed Pochard, our first enormous Southern Screamer, and even two late rare austral migrants in the form of Black-headed Ducks and the (Patagonian) form of Silvery Grebe!

Finally, we had to drag ourselves away from this incredible spectacle, driving on to what must be one of the most beautiful and scenically stunning settings of any lodge I have ever visited. The Refugio Los Volcanes (see photo) is an isolated paradise (within a national park) with one dirt road winding into a valley of breathtaking beauty, surrounded by majestic sandstone cliffs on three sides and a carpet of rich Yungas forest as far as the eye can see. Here we enjoyed ice-cold beers on the veranda as birds appeared around the forested clearing with a panoramic view to-die-for.



Relaxed afternoon birding from the paradise that is Refugio Los Volcanes – Photo Andrew Whittaker

The lush “Yungas” forest offered magical orchid-festooned trails, crystal-clear streams, and superb forest trails for us to enjoy in total tranquility—some truly stellar birding.



Orchid at Refugio Los Volcanes – Photo Andrew Whittaker

Here we managed great looks at the highly localized Slaty Gnateater, Short-tailed Antthrush, Two-banded Warbler, blazing Yungas Manakin, White-winged Tanager, and Golden-rumped Euphonia to

name a few. Vividly colored birds around our lodge clearing included a constant show of up to 50+ huge, confiding Military Macaws (the highlight), noisy flocks of both Mitred and Green-cheeked parakeets; Blue-headed Parrots; Blue-throated Piping-Guan; Channel-billed Toucan; and Dusky-green Oropendola. The feeders attracted stellar Plush-crested and Purplish jays, as well as Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, while King Vultures graced the air as they soared above the clearing.



The localized Slaty Gnateater male performed well again for all to enjoy – Photo Andrew Whittaker



Plush-crested Jay – Photo Andrew Whittaker

We were all sad to leave such a paradise. However, many more exciting birds still awaited us! Climbing in elevation, we followed a lush river valley as the terrain progressively became drier, until we emerged into the stark inter-Andean valleys. Here, located in a rain shadow area, the vegetation is almost desert-like and causes a dramatic change in the birdlife. For lunch we enjoyed some of the best homemade pasta I have ever had in the charming and historic town of Samaipata. En route later we heard our first Hayaco Tinamou, had great studies of Spot-breasted Thornbird, and were teased by a Giant Antshrike. Julian then asked me if we could check out a new road one of his friends had recently discovered. Of course I agreed, and WOW, we found a true goldmine! A windy dirt road gradually led us up through stunning cloud forest where we enjoyed a non-stop action-packed few hours of birding. Colorful tanagers feeding on fruits right along the road were a true highlight and included stellar views of the orange crowned race of Saffron-crowned, Golden-naped (rare in Bolivia), White-winged Tanagers, and our first lovely Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers, which were in full voice, and much more. With such great promise, this superb untouched forest enchanted us all, and we decided to plan a special return on our way back. We headed slightly further into the inter-Andean valleys and quickly arrived at our destination, San Isidro, home to one of the tour's prizes and "most wanted," the endemic Red-fronted Macaw. Here we enjoyed some wonderful home-cooking at our hotel before a good rest.



Male White-winged Tanager enjoying berries on our new road – Photo Andrew Whittaker

Early today after a good breakfast, we explored these arid valleys with the endemic Bolivian Warbling-Finch falling quickly, followed by our first highland form of Olive-crowned Crescentchest. Taller scrub rewarded us with the striking Rusty-browed and Ringed warbling-finches, very confiding Brown-capped Whitestart, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Purple-throated Euphonia, and handsome Black-backed Grosbeaks. After a good lunch we pushed further into the interior on yet another new road (parts under construction) to our conservation project and the wonderful Red-fronted Macaw Ecolodge run by the Armonia conservation organization, who also produced our great Bolivian field guide.

The views from the lodge's veranda were breathtaking over dry desert-like scrub to the colorful and spectacular cliffs beyond, with birds abounding in the lodge's garden. Here we enjoyed observing the noisy endemic Cliff Parakeets at their huge nests, the rather odd-looking and sounding White-tipped Plantcutter (a cotinga), and tiny Striped Woodpeckers.



Endemic Cliff (Monk) Parakeet – Photo Andrew Whittaker

An early rise the following day found us on top of the cliffs, in position, full of excitement and anticipation of seeing our prize, the exquisite endemic Red-fronted Macaw, and WOW, did they ever put on an incredible show for us! Their vivid kaleidoscope of so many colors, including the striking orange on both the upper and underwings, mixed with turquoise, vibrant green and flaming scarlet foreheads, made them even more spectacular than any of us had ever imagined. WOW! After their close fly-bys, we were able to drool over a perched group on cactus—simply breathtaking! Descending back to our lodge for a superb breakfast on the veranda, we had non-stop action from the feeders: gaudy Blue-and Yellow Tanagers, Golden-billed Saltator, Gray-crested Finch, endemic Bolivian Blackbirds, and a group of comical White-fronted Woodpeckers. We then birded the nearby rich cultivated valley on foot with Glittering-bellied Emeralds, Andean Swift, Tawny-headed Swallow, Black-and Chestnut Warbling-Finch, Ultramarine Grosbeak, flocks of Grayish Baywings, tiny White-bellied Tyrannulets, and excited Crowned Slaty Flycatcher (freshly arrived from the Amazon), busy setting up territories.

The addition of this lodge to our itinerary this year was considered a huge success by all, plus it's pleasing to know our group's visit helps the continued conservation of this enigmatic macaw and benefits the local community too. VENT, of course, is always proud to help and encourage such a wonderful conservation organization. We birded our way back to San Isidro before enjoying a magnificent homemade lasagna.



The stupendous endemic Red-fronted Macaws to me must be the classiest of all macaws! – Photo Andrew Whittaker

Next up, a favorite of mine, Siberia. Going so quickly into the lush cloud forests of Sierra de Siberia, I must admit, presents an incredibly quick contrast from days birding stark, dry, desert habitats. Here, one of the most southerly cloud forests in the Andes, is a truly remarkable birding paradise, dripping

with flowering orchids, bromeliads, mosses, and amazing views. We all enjoyed our first of many field breakfasts here, while overlooking this pristine ridge as the forest birds awoke. Birding along the almost traffic-free road here is always sheer bliss! Our first stop found us spinning around with excitement, with one lifer after another. We quickly tracked down a singing endemic Rufous-faced Antpitta (a prime target), working hard to see it not once but three times, but sadly with no luck. However, at the eleventh hour (as we were about to leave) Julian amazingly spotted (from a pit stop) the blighter right out in the open! Incredibly, it was feeding on worms that we had all disturbed (exactly where we had scrambled down a slope roughing up the dirt), a simply incredible last-minute piece of justice (and wow, what views). Having put in so much effort into seeing this real skulker, this was very pleasing! Some lucky ones in the group enjoyed briefly a very obliging Rufous Antpitta (distinct cochobambae subspecies) too! Other highlights included a confiding pair of lovely Bar-bellied Woodpeckers; Red-crested Cotinga (in the scope); dazzling Long-tailed Sylphs and Tyrian Metaltails; neat-looking Light-crowned Spinetail; superb songster, the Spotted Nightingale-Thrush; endemic Gray-bellied Flowerpiercer; Chestnut-bellied Mountain-Tanager; and endemic Bolivian Brush-Finch. In the afternoon we birded a little higher and following our picnic were rewarded with Gray-hooded Parakeet, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, the endemic Black-throated Thistletail (thanks to Ursula!), Trilling Tapaculo (hopped right past us), and a stunning White-browed Conebill.



Stunning studies of the normally skulky endemic Rufous-faced Antpitta – Photo Andrew Whittaker

Today we made that promised very early return to our newly found gold mine road for a pre-dawn chance for some good owls. Sadly, I feel the combined effects of an almost full moon and the presence of a Great Horned Owl (flying into our tape of smaller owls) nailed us for these mega small owls. We did at least hear singing the extremely poorly-known Cloud-forest Screech-Owl and Buff-fronted Owl. However, after another superb early field breakfast, the forest came alive with bird song including some unexpected species such as both Scaled and White-throated antpittas; great looks at Blue-banded Toucanet; perched Red-billed Parrot; Variable Antshrike; White-browed Brush-Finch; Pale-legged and Three-striped (Yungas) warblers; Yungas Manakin; and various colorful tanagers.



Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager on our golden new road – Photo Andrew Whittaker

After the best few hours of the morning we returned to Santa Cruz. Birding en route, we nailed the endemic Bolivian Earthcreeper after some work, rounding off a fantastic day. To our delight, the gardens of our hotel produced a real show with one of South America's most fragrant and spectacular orchids, the Noble Cattleya (*Cattleya nobilior*) among some yellow *Oncidium* still in full bloom and without any terrible wind this time!



Noble Cattleya Orchid – Photo Andrew Whittaker

We excitedly moved onto our next bird-rich biome, the world-famous Bolivian Pantanal. After boarding our short domestic flight, we arrived in Beni state and the bustling capital of Trinidad. Our quaint lodge was neatly set in the countryside by the side of an extremely rich lake fringed with flowering water hyacinths and teeming with birds. It also often has one of the best displays (I have ever seen) of flowering giant Royal Water Lilies. Here we enjoyed a couple of non-stop action-packed days absorbing a mind-blowing variety of birds (often 120+ species a day) that is always simply staggering! Our first afternoon of birding right along the road outside the lodge rewarded us with Black-collared Hawk; the prehistoric-looking Hoatzin; Limpkins; a very well-behaved Mato Grosso Antbird pair; Bolivian and lovely Red-crested cardinals; a wonderful close look at the amazing looking Red-billed Scythebill and a lovely metallic Rufous-tailed Jacamar (taped almost into Julian's pocket); and almost fluorescent Orange-backed Troupials.

The following morning is always a trip highlight for all: our visit to a private ranch allowing us the great privilege to enjoy quality time again with several fantastic endemic Blue-throated Macaws. Here we were able to compare their plumage and vocal differences with the similar more common Blue-and-yellows that also breed side by side in good numbers. To think there are only an estimated 250–350 of these magnificent Blue-throated Macaws left, we were extremely blessed to see 15–20 birds so very well! The significant entrance fee VENT paid for our group's visit helps the ranch owner to conserve this vital breeding and feeding area for this truly iconic macaw. Thanks must go to Armonia (the Bolivian conservation organization) for its essential conservation work with the local land owner and for their great success with their nest box scheme. Birds were abundant along the

dirt road back to the hotel, with flocks of water birds concentrated along the fish-rich pools: the lovely Whistling Heron, Green Ibis, enormous Jabiru, Maguari Stork, flocks of Wood Storks, and lots of Snail Kites and Savannah Hawks. There was also a sprinkling of neat passerines, like the cool-looking Campo Flicker and Chotoy Spinetail, and let's not forget the superb Sunbittern. During our night drive, our driver found a superb Fer-de-lance, which was seen well from a distance on the road, and we most certainly saved its life getting it safely across!

Nearby birdy gallery forest yielded Slender-billed Kite; Chestnut-fronted Macaw; Blue-crowned Trogon; Lettered Aracari; the humongous-billed Toco Toucan; White-wedged Piculet; Plain Softtail (endemic nominate form); Yellow-browed Tody-Tyrant; and flocks of endemic Bolivian (Velvet-fronted) Grackles; and the odd-sounding localized Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin. We were even lucky enough to hear and track down the endangered and endemic group of Rio Beni Titi Monkeys, which provided great views after playback of their unusual voice.



Blue-crowned Trogon male – Photo Andrew Whittaker

Julian spotted a charming adult Great Potoo on its day-roost (in fact, probably on its nest, if you can call no more than a tree knot a nest)! This super-diverse Pantanal region dominated by rich marshes around our hotel and to the north really did us proud, producing a non-stop procession of birds and yielding in excess of 130 species on one day. These included too many highlights to list them all, but here are some: Rufescent Tiger-Heron; Roseate Spoonbills in all their glory; the prehistoric-looking Plumbeous Ibis; flocks of enormous Greater Rheas; Gray-crested Cacholote; Greater Thornbird; White-headed Marsh-Tyrant; Unicolored Blackbird; White-rumped Monjita; the stupendous Scarlet-headed Blackbird; Variable Oriole; and many more.



Great Potoo was voted in the top 7, here on its day roost – Photo Andrew Whittaker

At last we had to say goodbye to this super-mega-rich biome and fly on to Cochabamba where all of us continued on our exciting exploration of Bolivia on Part 2 of this great tour.

Favorite 7 birds of Bolivia Part 1 (as voted by the group):

- 1- Blue-throated Macaw (ENDEMIC)
- 2- Red-fronted Macaw (ENDEMIC)
- 3- Military Macaw
- 4- Black-legged Seriema
- 5- Rufous-faced Antpitta (ENDEMIC)
- 6- Andean Condor
- 7- Great Potoo



Military Macaw feeding in Refugio Volcanoes – Photo Andrew Whittaker

ITINERARY:

9/15: Fly from the US, Canada or Europe to Brazil. Several folks arrived early today or even yesterday to rest up and bird in the hotel grounds. Sadly Terry was nailed by the hurricane that hit his home on the east coast and had to miss part 1.

9/16: Arrive in Bolivia's capital Santa Cruz in the morning. Transfer to hotel with mid afternoon birding in the Botanical gardens which offered a wonderful introduction to the rich avifauna. Night Santa Cruz.

9/17: After a hearty breakfast we headed out on a stormy morning heading south our destination the famous extensive Bolivian bird rich Chaco. Birding on route at Tataranda Lagoon and wonderful tall Chaco forest in Guanaco reserve. Night in our charming hotel on the outskirts of Camiri.

9/18: After a good early breakfast we drove into the grand Chaco to a small settlement of Boyuibe to enjoy the rich avian pickings and later out into the wilderness close to the Paraguayan border nailing well the elusive Black-legged Seriema and all the other Chaco specialties.

9/19: Today we began to retrace our steps birding along rout nailing the wonderful Cream-backed Woodpecker and enjoying the impressive numbers of wildfowl in Laguna Los Pozos a remote lake in stunning early morning light. We then began to climb into the Andean foothills through lush Yungas forest onto the magnificent Refugio Los Volcanes arriving late afternoon in this paradise. Late afternoon the Military Macaws put on an incredible show to welcome us!

9/20: Birding all day the magnificent Yungas forest trail system here dripping in orchids and colorful bromeliads. This place is truly magical and of course we all drooled over what must be one of the most fantastic vistas ever (off our verandas) birding with cool drinks in our hands, WOW!

9/21: Sadly after another exciting morning birding here we had to say a fond farewell to our paradise as more exciting lifers awaiting us in the dry inter-Andean Valleys! Working up a lush river valley and through Samaipata an important commercial center we encountered an abrupt change to desert-like scrub with its exotic cactus and thorny vegetation. Enjoying some fantastic home made ppasta we continued our journey with birding stops. Discovering the gold road we enjoyed spectacular colorful tanager show before driving onto San Isidro for the night.

9/22: Today birding the arid valleys and richer hillsides plus adjacent to the river floodplains of Comarapa and traveled onto the wonderful Red-fronted Macaw lodge! Late afternoon birding with the back drop of the spectacular cliffs was superb.

9/23: This morning we were all blown away by the iconic endemic Red-fronted Macaw show around our lodge plus the relaxed birding off the panoramic verander with its active bird feeders. Later before a great lunch we explored the rich agricultural fields nearby before driving back to San Isidro along the new road.

9/24: Another highlight today in stark contrast to yesterday's arid inter Andean vallies was our destination, oddly called Sierra de Siberia in the nearby Andean mountains with its lush Yungas Cloud Forest rich in colorful tanager flocks and several neat endemics and of course stunning orchids too.
Night San Isidro

9/25: We all made a great effort to return to our great find the gold road for a pre-dawn owling followed by a great picnic breakfast then the best few hours birding this rich forest. Then we traveled back to Santa Cruz

9/26: This morning we took our short scheduled flight onto Trinidad and checked into our lovely lodge in the rich Bolivian Pantanal with birds everywhere and pools covered with royal water lilies and more. Afternoon some exciting birding around the lodge.

9/27: After a super breakfast we drove through the rich Pantanal wetlands to a private lodge for our main target the delightful endemic Blue-throated Macaw which we nailed and were pleased to hear their nest box scheme is a great success with this enigmatic endemic. Birding our way back through the bird rich marshes to our hotel. Afternoon as temperatures dropped in the rich gallery forest at Puerto Bolivia.

9/28: Wonderful birding am and pm the vast Pantanal marshes nearby and rich gallery forests again from our resort.

9/29: After our first heavy rains we birded the best hours of the morning birding around Tapacare before we caught our morning flights onto Cochabamba. On arrival we all continued onto the exciting Bolivia part 11 and were transferred onto our nice hotel. This afternoon birding Laguna Alalay in Cochabamba.



Tapacare Resort Trindad – Photo Andrew Whittaker

BIRDS

RHEIDAE (Rheas)

Greater Rhea (*Rhea americana*) Good studies in Beni grasslands

TINAMIDAE (Tinamous)

Gray Tinamou (*Tinamus tao*) * - Heard by all multiple times.

Brown Tinamou (*Crypturellus obsoletus*) *

Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulates*) * -Fairly common by voice

Tataupa Tinamou (*Crypturellus tataupa*) – Seen well crossing the road by all.

Andean Tinamou (*Nothoprocta pentlandii*) *

Huayco Tinamou (*Rhynchotus maculicollis*) * - So-so close this recent split (from Red-winged) approached our playback but would not appear!

ANHIMIDAE (Screamers)

Southern Screamer (*Chauna torquata*) - Great looks at Trindad of these vegetarian giants

ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl)

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) – Stunning color in the early morning light

Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos sylvicola*) – Lovely scope studies of 150 + a fantastic reliable spot for this enigmatic bird. This South American form is already split by many from the nominate African form!

Orinoco Goose (*Neochen jubata*) - leader only

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)

Ringed Teal (*Callonetta leucophrys*) - Great looks of several good sized flocks (max 75) of this uncommon local species on lakes in Chaco, males are stunning

Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*)

Yellow-billed Teal (*Anas flavirostris*)

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)

Red Shoveler (*Anas platalea*)

Rosy-billed Pochard (*Netta peposaca*)

Black-headed Duck (*Heteronetta atricapilla*)

Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) - Nice studies of this very localized species

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis andina*) – Often this South American form is treated as a separate species Andean Ruddy Duck



Male Rosy-billed Pochard in Cochabamba – Photo Andrew Whittaker



Yellow-billed Teal Bolivia Altiplano – Photo Andrew Whittaker

CRACIDAE (Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows)

Chaco Chachalaca (*Ortalis canicollis*)

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)

Andean Guan (*Penelope montagnii sclateri*)

Bridges (Dusky-legged) Guan (*Penelope obscura bridgesi*) – Some already split this form calling it Bridges Guan.

Blue-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cumanensis grayi*) – nice studies, some split calling it Gray's Piping-Guan

Razor-billed Curassow (*Mitu tuberosum*) - leader only a group of 3 birds

ODONTOPHORIDAE (New World Quail)

Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus speciosus*) *

PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

White-tufted Grebe (*Rollandia rolland*) – A cool looker

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)

(Patagonian) Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps occipitalis*) – a great find an austral migrant to the Chaco

CICONIIDAE (Storks)

Maguari Stork (*Ciconia maguari*) – Super studies

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) The 747 of the bird World, common in Trinidad marshlands

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants & Shags)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

ANHINGIDAE (Anhingas)

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets & Bitterns)

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)
Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)
Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*) - always a good looker
Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*)
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)

THRESKIORNITHIDAE (Ibises & Spoonbills)

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)
Puna Ibis (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) A migrant to the Chaco lowlands
Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)
Bare-faced Ibis (*Phimosus infuscatus*)
Plumbeous Ibis (*Theristicus caerulescens*) – The largest ibis and almost prehistoric looking
Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus caudatus*)
Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) – Always stunning



Rich wetland with Puna Ibis, White-cheeked Pintail, Stilts, etc. – Photo Andrew Whittaker

CATHARTIDAE (New World Vultures)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura ruficollis*) - as I explained this non migratory and distinct local subspecies is already being split by some and is called Neotropical Turkey Vulture
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*)
[Andean Condor \(*Vultur gryphus*\)](#) – Great looks of this flying monster perched side by side dwarfing a [Southern Caracara!](#)

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) Good spotting Paul we had lovely scope studies of a neat adult plus in flight at Los Volcanes

ACCIPITRIDAE (Hawks, Eagles & Kites)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) – Nice perched bird

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) – Always super to see a class bird

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) - Lovely studies of this fish specialist

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) – Enjoyed watching coming into roost in Santa Cruz Botanical gardens

Slender-billed Kite (*Helicolestes hamatus*) Seen by some in Trinidad region at river edge before flushing

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)

Crane Hawk (*Geranoospiza caerulescens*)

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*)

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) leader only

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

Variable Hawk (*Geranoaetus polyosoma*)

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*)

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)

EURYPYGIDAE (Sunbittern)

Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*) – Great looks in the Bolivian Pantanal

RALLIDAE (Rails, Gallinules & Coots)

Rufous-sided Crake (*Laterallus melanophaius*) *

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajaeneus*) – Wonderful repeated looks even at the feeder

Spot-flanked Gallinule (*Porphyriops melanops*)

Ash-throated Crake (*Musteirallus albicollis*) *

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*)

White-winged Coot (*Fulica leucoptera*)

ARAMIDAE (Limpkin)

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)

RECURVIROSTRIDAE (Stilts & Avocets)

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

CHARADRIIDAE (Plovers & Lapwings)

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*)

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)

JACANIDAE (Jacanas)

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)

SCOLOPACIDAE (Sandpipers & Allies)

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) – A rare find inland and one of only a handful of records for the country

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) - a nice find of seven birds

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) - Common

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) Common migrant on Chaco pools with several flocks

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

LARIDAE (Gulls, Terns & Skimmers)

Large-billed Tern (*Phaetusa simplex*)

COLUMBIDAE (Pigeons & Doves)

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

Picazuro Pigeon (*Patagioenas picazuro*)

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)

Picui Ground-Dove (*Columbina picui*)

Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) Leader only.

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*) *

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) *

Large-tailed (Yungas) Dove (*Leptotila megalura*)

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)

OPISTHOCOMIDAE (Hoatzin)

Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) - Great studies of this unusual species

CUCULIDAE (Cuckoos)

Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*)

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) leader only

Little Cuckoo (*Coccyua minuta*) *

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)

STRIGIDAE (Owls)

Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*)

Rufescent Screech-Owl (*Megascops ingens*) * Alas would not show itself in thick vegetation

Cloud-forest Screech-Owl (*Megascops marshalli*) * A rare poorly-known species sadly would not approach and be seen

Band-bellied Owl (*Pulsatrix melanota*) *

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

Buff-fronted Owl (*Aegolius harrisi*) * Again a good find but would not come into tape
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)
Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl – Photo Andrew Whittaker

CAPRIMULGIDAE (Nightjars & Allies)

Nacunda Nighthawk (*Chordeiles nacunda*)
Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis emitorquatus*) *
Rufous-bellied Nighthawk (*Lurocalis rufiventris*) *
Band-winged Nightjar (*Systellura longirostris*) - leader only
Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) *
Scissor-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis torquata*) leader only
Ocellated Poorwill (*Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*) *
Rufous Nightjar (*Antrostomus rufus*) *- Just would not come to tape

NYCTIBIIDAE (Potoos)

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*) - One of many trip highlights voted in the top 7 for the trip really was superb observing it on a day roost so close through the scope

Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) *

APODIDAE (Swifts)

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) *

Andean Swift (*Aeronautes andecolus*) - Great studies low over agricultural fields by the macaws

TROCHILIDAE (Hummingbirds)

Buff-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis subochraceus*)

Planalto Hermit (*Phaethornis pretrei*) *

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelonyia melanogenys*)

Long-tailed Sylph (*Aglaiocercus kingii*) – Always stunning

Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*)

Blue-capped Puffleg (*Eriocnemis glaucopoides*)

Violet-throated Starfrontlet (*Coeligena violifer*) - Leader only

Blue-tufted Starthroat (*Heliomaster furcifer*) - Sadly no stunning males this year

Lesser Violetear (*Colibri cyanotus*)

Glittering-bellied Emerald (*Chlorostilbon aureoventris*)

Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)

White-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia chionogaster*)

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Amazilia fimbriata*)

Gilded Hummingbird (*Hylocharis chrysura*)

TROGONIDAE (Trogons & Quetzals)

Crested Quetzal (*Pharomachrus antisianus*) *

Blue-crowned Trogon (*Trogon curucui*)

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*) *

ALCEDINIDAE (Kingfishers)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)

BUCCONIDAE (Puffbirds)

Spot-backed (Chaco) Puffbird (*Nystalus (maculatus) striatipectus*) Split by most from Spot-backed into Caatinga Puffbird endemic to Brazil and Chaco which we saw so well many times

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)

GALBULIDAE (Jacamars)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*)

CAPITONIDAE (New World Barbets)

Versicolored (Blue Moustached) Barbet (*Eubucco versicolor versicolor*) - Always a crowd pleaser, certainly a real gem of the Andean foothills. Split three ways by HBW this is the nominate form

RAMPHASTIDAE (Toucans)

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus derbianus*) – Great looker too

Blue-banded Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus coeruleicinctis*) – Stunning encounter of this beauty

Chestnut-eared Aracari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)

Lettered Aracari (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*)

Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*) - Wow

White-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

PICIDAE (Woodpeckers)

White-barred Piculet (*Picumnus cirratus thamnophiliodes*) – Taxonomy of this group is a true nightmare! This distinct odd looking unbarred form in the Chaco is often thought to form a separate species

White-wedged Piculet (*Picumnus albosquamatus*)

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

White-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cactorum*) - Lovely looks at this beauty

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Picoides fumigatus*)

Checkered Woodpecker (*Veniliornis mixtus*) - Nice studies of these easily overlooked species

Striped Woodpecker (*Veniliornis lignarius*) – Excellent looks

Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerines*)

Dot-fronted Woodpecker (*Veniliornis frontalis*) – A wonderful study of the pair at such close range

Bar-bellied Woodpecker (*Veniliornis nigriceps*) - Nice

Green-barred Woodpecker (*Colaptes melanochloros*)

Campo Flicker (*Colaptes campestris*) - Always a crowd pleaser this one

Pale-crested Woodpecker (*Celeus lugubris*) – Simply a stunner

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

Red-necked Woodpecker (*Campephilus rubricollis*) *

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

Cream-backed Woodpecker (*Campephilus leucopogon*) - WOW one of my trip highlights tapeing in a stunning pair of this massive striking bird. Same genus as Ivory-billed sadly probably extinct



Stunning White-fronted Woodpeckers graced the cactus in the Chaco – Photo Andrew Whittaker

CARIAMIDAE (Seriemas)

Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*) *

Black-legged Seriema (*Chunga burmeisteri*) - Has to be the best country to see this secretive bird in. We had magical looks as one circled the bus and serenade us all hidden in the brush with its wild voice. Great spotting Lee finding this iconic Chaco beauty

FALCONIDAE (Falcons & Caracaras)

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*) *

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) *

Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*)

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

PSITTACIDAE (New World and African Parrots)

Gray-hooded Parakeet (*Psilopsiagon aymara*) - Wow so cool looking like a budgerigar but nicer

Cliff Parakeet (*Myiopsitta luschii*) ENDEMIC - We had super studies at breeding cliffs of this recent split off Monk Parakeet

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*)

Black-winged Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca melanotis*) * Alas heard only

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*)

Scaly-headed Parrot (*Pionus maximiliani*)

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)

Turquoise-fronted Parrot (*Amazona aestiva*)

Blue-winged Parrotlet (*Forpus xanthopterygius*)

Green-cheeked Parakeet (*Pyrrhura molinae*)

Peach-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga aurea*)

Dusky-headed Parakeet (*Aratinga weddellii*)

Yellow-(Golden) collared Macaw (*Primolius auricollis*) - Hate the new name for such a stunner

Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*)

Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) - ENDEMIC It cannot get much better with 5 -7 birds seen so well flying, perched looking at us in the wonderful palm islands including one so close feeding on palm cuts by the road! Our entrance fee helps protect this endangered species with 250-300 only remaining. Breeding here in nest boxes. Certainly in top 3 of the trip. Also so nice to spend time with this ornithological great and see next to Blue-and-Yellow being able to compare its plumage differences

Military Macaw (*Ara militaris*) – WOW more Macaw highlights with a flock of up to 75 birds around the lodge almost all day we had incredible studies and were able to enjoy their antics too.

Sucking/chewing on bromeliads for water and maybe some chemicals for stomach pains too

Red-fronted Macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*) ENDEMIC - Another BIG WOW bird and for me the tops of all Macaw species simply mind blowing color combination! The orange on both the leading edge of the wing as well as on its underwings seen in flight are incredible and yet another breathtaking endemic macaw! Our visit to the lodge also benefits the species conservation too

Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severus*)

Blue-crowned Parakeet (*Aratinga acuticaudata*)

Mitred Parakeet (*Aratinga mitrata*)

White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalma*)



A colorful flock of Blue-crowned Parakeet by the Chaco roadside – Photo Andrew Whittaker

THAMNOPHILIDAE (Typical Antbirds)

Giant Antshrike (*Batara cinerea*) * Alas would not show on multiple birds we tried. Can be a real skulker

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)

Rufous-capped Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ruficapillus*)

Chestnut-backed Antshrike (*Thamnophilus palliatus cochabambae*) - Always a stunner and what views

Bolivian Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus sticturus*) - Nice looks of this near endemic

Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caerulescens aspersiventer*) - Multiple splits coming up in this complex keep tuned. This subspecies is super cool looking see below

Plain Antwren (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) *

Stripe-backed Antbird (*Myrmorchilus strigilatus*) – What a neat looking Antbird

Black-capped Antwren (*Herpsilochmus atricapillus*)

Black-bellied Antwren (*Formicivora melanogaster*) - Great views of this small beauty

Mato Grosso Antbird (*Cercomacra melanaria*) - Nice studies in Trinidad

White-backed Fire-eye (*Pyriglena leuconota*) *

Band-tailed Antbird (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*)

Black-throated Antbird (*Myrmeciza atrothorax*)



A lovely distinctly different Variable Antshrike (*aspersiventer*) subspecies – Photo Andrew Whittaker

MELANOPAREIIDAE (Crescentchests)

Olive-crowned Crescentchest (*Melanopareia maximiliani argentina*) - We certainly worked hard to see this little crippler which was a real skulker this year on this part of the tour. This is the highland vocal type with the birds found further to the south in the Chaco (*pallida*) of northern Argentina, western Paraguay and possibly far SE Bolivia going to be split. Therefore the subspecies we saw *argentina* + nominate form the true Olive-crowned group which is in the highlands

CONOPOPHAGIDAE (Gnateaters)

Slaty Gnateater (*Conopophaga ardesiaca*) – Superb studies of a responsive male of this localized species

GRALLARIIDAE (Antpittas)

Scaled Antpitta (*Grallaria guatimalensis*) *

White-throated Antpitta (*Grallaria albigula*) * Frustrating none singing close enough to bring in
Rufous Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula cochabambae*) - Sadly only seen by some. Major splits in this
complex coming up this for certain as well

Rufous-faced Antpitta (*Grallaria erythrotis*) ENDEMIC - WOW Seen so –so well by all as it was found
by Julian at the 11th hour looking for worms on our dirt slide in the OPEN!!! This was after trying for
multiple singing birds with little success

RHINOCRYPTIDAE (Tapaculos)

Crested Gallito (*Rhinocrypta lanceolata*) - Good looks at this odd unique looker and such a great
songster too

Trilling Tapaculo (*Scytalopus parvirostris*) – Seen by most hopping on the forest floor near the
bluetooth speaker

Bolivian Tapaculo (*Scytalopus bolivianus*) *

FORMICARIIDAE (Antthrushes)

Short-tailed Antthrush (*Chamaeza campanisona boliviana*) - Could not get much better looks thanks
to Darrell spotting it singing we had amazing. Some splits certainly in this complex at some time

FURNARIIDAE (Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus viridis*) - Many splits to come from this
widespread species keep tuned

Black-banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus pallescens*) – Great looks in the Chaco of this
distinct subspecies

Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes major*) *

Great Rufous Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes major*) - A true monster of a woodcreeper and what a bill
we had superb studies

Buff-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus dobignyanus*) -This distinct sounding and
looking pale billed form probably to be split at some stage

Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Dendroplex picus*)

Red-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus trochilirostris lafresnayanus*) - I just love scythebills and what
studies this year. Multiple splits in the pipeline and this is certainly one of them

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*)

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)

Bolivian Earthcreeper (*Tarphonomus harterti*) - ENDEMIC Nice studies of a responsive bird

Chaco Earthcreeper (*Tarphonomus certhioides*) - Superbly responsive with mega views

Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*)

Crested Hornero (*Furnarius cristatus*) - a true small hornero of the Chaco

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata oleaginea*) – Splits to be expected, very
vocally different from nominate birds

Bolivian Recurvebill (*Simoxenops striatus*) - ENDEMIC * Alas bamboo die off did not help at Las
Volcanoes

Pearled Treerunner (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*) - Always spectacular in the mixed species flocks

Little Thornbird (*Phacellodomus sibilatrix*)

Spot-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus maculipectus*)

Greater Thornbird (*Phacellodomus ruber*)

Lark-like Brushrunner (*Coryphistera alaudina*) - Very odd bird we had a nest with a family group attending

Short-billed Canastero (*Asthenes baeri*)

Black-throated Thistletail (*Asthenes harterti*) ENDEMIC - Stunning studies thanks to Ursula spotting it by the roadside

Plain Softtail (*Thripophaga fusciceps fusciceps*) ENDEMIC - The true Plain Softtail other two forms distinctly different in voice and habitat needs this will become an endemic! We had several superb studies

Light-crowned Spinetail (*Cranioleuca albiceps discolor*) - We had wonderful looks of this discolor sub species

Rusty-backed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca vulpina*)

Stripe-crowned Spinetail (*Cranioleuca pyrrhophia*)

Gray-crested (Rufous) Cacholote (*Pseudoseisura unirufa*) - Split by Kevin Zimmer and I years ago with disjunct Caatinga Cacholote an endemic in NE Brazil

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*)

Chotoy Spinetail (*Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*) - Always cool to see this striking bird

Ochre-cheeked Spinetail (*Synallaxis scutata*) *

Plain-crowned Spinetail (*Synallaxis gujanensis*) *

Sooty-fronted Spinetail (*Synallaxis frontalis*)

Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*)



Chotoy Spinetail – Photo Andrew Whittaker



Red-billed Scythebill – Photo Andrew Whittaker

TYRANNIDAE (Tyrant Flycatchers)

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

Suiriri Flycatcher (*Suiriri suiriri*)

Buff-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus hellmayri*) - Very good studies

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murina*)

Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)

Sierran Elaenia (*Elaenia pallatangae*)

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) *

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)

Large Elaenia (*Elaenia spectabilis*) *

White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*)

Slaty Elaenia (*Elaenia strepera*) *

White-bellied Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga munda*)

[Straneck's Tyrannulet \(*Serpophaga griseicapilla*\)](#) - Recently described as a new species in 2007 we had [super looks in the Chaco](#)

Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) *

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon superciliaris*)
 Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes ventralis*)
 Sclater's Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias sclateri*)
 Southern Scrub-Flycatcher (*Sublegatus modestus*)
 Plain Tyrannulet (*Inezia inornata*)
 Greater Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura b budytoides*) - Nominate form splits to follow from Brazilian birds in NE Brazil
 Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*)
 Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilotriccus latirostris*) *
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)
 Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*)
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens pallescens*) - Many splits about to be published true birds are found in the coastal Atlantic rainforests
 Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*) *
 Cliff Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea*)
 Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*)
 Euler's Flycatcher (*Lathrotriccus euleri*)
 Fuscous Flycatcher (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*)
 Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)
 Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)
[Cinereous Tyrant \(*Knipolegus striaticeps*\) - Nice studies of both sexes and even observed doing display flights](#)
 White-winged Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus aterrimus*)
[Hudson's Black-Tyrant \(*Knipolegus hudsoni*\) - Only one female seen well this year](#)
 Spectacled Tyrant (*Hymenops perspicillatus*) leader only
 Yellow-browed Tyrant (*Satrapa icterophrys*) - Always a beautiful looker
 White-rumped Monjita (*Xolmis velatus*)
 White Monjita (*Xolmis irupero*)
 Black-backed Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola albiventer*)
 White-headed Marsh Tyrant (*Arundinicola leucocephala*)
[Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant \(*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*\) – Simply stunning studies](#)
 Cattle Tyrant (*Machetornis rixosa*)
 Dull-capped Attila (*Attila bolivianus*) *
 Rufous Casiornis (*Casiornis rufus*) - Always a cool looking distinctive colored flycatcher
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)
 Swainson's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus swainsoni*) leader only
 Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)
 Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)
 Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) *
 Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)
 Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*)
 Crowned Slaty Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*)
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

COTINGIDAE (Cotingas)

White-tipped Plantcutter (*Phytotoma rutila*) - Such an odd sounding and different looking Cotinga but males are really smart

Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) - Nice scope studies

PIPRIDAE (Manakins)

Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin (*Neopelma sulphureiventer*) - A poorly-known localized species exceptional studies

Yungas Manakin (*Chiroxiphia boliviana*) - Very smart looking

Band-tailed Manakin (*Pipra fasciicauda*) *

TITYRIDAE (Tityras & Allies)

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)

Barred Becard (*Pachyramphus versicolor*)

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

VIREONIDAE (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers & Erpornis)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

CORVIDAE (Crows, Jays & Magpies)

Purplish Jay (*Cyanocorax cyanomelas*) - Stunning in good light

Plush-crested Jay (*Cyanocorax chrysops*) - A real neat looker even common on the lodge feeders

HIRUNDINIDAE (Swallows)

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*)

Tawny-headed Swallow (*Alopochelidon fucata*) – Great studies of this very localized swallow

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)

Southern Martin (*Progne elegans*)

Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*)

White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

White-rumped Swallow (*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*)

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) – Several early boreal migrants

TROGLODYTIDAE (Wrens)

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*)

Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)

Moustached Wren (*Pheugopedius genibarbis*) *

Buff-breasted Wren (*Cantorchilus leucotis*)

Fawn-breasted Wren (*Cantorchilus guarayanus*) - Very nice studies of this rather range restricted species

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)

POLIOPTILIDAE (Gnatcatchers)

Masked Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila dumicola*)

DONACOBIIDAE (Donacobius)

Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapilla*)

TURDIDAE (Thrushes & Allies)

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus dryas*) – Stunning looks for almost all

Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*)

Creamy-bellied Thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*)

Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*)

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*) *

Chiguanco Thrush (*Turdus chiguanco*)

Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*) - Common this year and in full song

MIMIDAE (Mockingbirds & Thrashers)

Chalk-browed Mockingbird (*Mimus saturninus*)

White-banded Mockingbird (*Mimus triurus*) - A nice find this late austral migrant

MOTACILLIDAE (Wagtails & Pipits)

Yellowish Pipit (*Anthus lutescens*) – Wow how close we got with incredible views

PARULIDAE (New World Warblers)

Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*)

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitaiayumi*)

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)

Flavescent Warbler (*Myiothlypis flaveola*) *

Pale-legged Warbler (*Basileuterus signatus*)

Two-banded Warbler (*Basileuterus bivittatus*) - A wonderful songster

Three-striped (Yungas) Warbler (*Myiothlypis chrysogaster*) – Superb views and song

Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) (*Myioborus miniatus*)

Brown-capped Redstart (*Myioborus bruniceps*) - What a super cool looking flock leader

THRAUPIDAE (Tanagers & Allies)

Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*) - Such a smart looker

Red-capped Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis cervicalis*) - Some are splitting this form and calling it Bolivian Cardinal

Rust-and-yellow Tanager (*Thlypopsis ruficeps*) – Lovely views

Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch (*Microspingus erythrophrys*) – A real beauty this

Ringed Warbling-Finch (*Microspingus torquatus*)

Black-capped Warbling-Finch (*Microspingus melanoleucus*)

Black-goggled Tanager (*Trichothraupis melanops*)

Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata albicollis*) – Yep you guessed it more splits in this species in the pipeline

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus flavinucha*) – Simply a breathtaking bird with such a superb song too. Many studies indeed can not get enough of this wildly colorful Andean tanager. HBW now splits the Blue-winged Mountain Tanager to Bolivian Mountain Tanager A. *flavinucha*

Chestnut-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Dubusia castaneiventris*) - Yet another crippler seen well!

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*)

Blue-and-yellow Tanager (*Thraupis bonariensis*)

Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*)

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)

Saffron-crowned Tanager (*Tangara xanthocephala lamprotis*) - Wow this orange capped and localized subspecies simply rocks!

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara ruficervix*) – A great find and superb views while it ate berries in front of us

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*) Really stunning confident male

White-browed Conebill (*Conirostrum ferrugineiventre*) – Lovely looker

Gray-bellied Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa carbonaria*) ENDEMIC - Wonderful studies of this neat endemic

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa cyanea*) One sung its heart out for us

Gray-crested Finch (*Lophospingus griseocristatus*) NEAR ENDEMIC - Cool looker

Bolivian Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza boliviana*) ENDEMIC - Marvelous scope looks after some searching

Black-and-chestnut Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza whitii*)

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)

Great Pampa-Finch (*Embernagra platensis*)

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)

White-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila leucoptera*)

Double-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila caerulescens*)

Rusty-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila collaris*) leader only

Band-tailed Seedeater (*Catamenia analis*)

Red-crested Finch (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)

Many-colored Chaco Finch (*Saltatricula multicolor*) – Yet another Chaco stunner

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)

Golden-billed Saltator (*Saltator aurantiirostris*)



Male Guira Tanager in Santa Cruz Botanical Garden – Photo Andrew Whittaker



Gray-crested Finch – Photo Andrew Whittaker

PASSERELLIDAE (New World Sparrows)

Common Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavopectus fulvularis*) –We observed this buffy-throated form. Many probable splits in this complex group containing no less than 26 supspecies to date

White-browed Brush-Finch (*Arremon torquatus borellii*) - A split from Stripe-headed Brush-Finch and very well seen

Saffron-billed Sparrow (*Arremon flavirostris*) *

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

Bolivian Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes rufinucha*) ENDEMIC - A split from Rufous-naped Brush-Finch a cool looking bird

Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes fulviceps*) * Sadly leader only

CARDINALIDAE (Cardinals & Allies)

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*)

White-winged Tanager (*Piranga leucoptera*) –Magnificent studies of this striking bird several times

Black-backed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus aureoventris*) - Always a startling pretty species

Ultramarine Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*) - Never seen so many in parts of the Chaco

ICTERIDAE (Troupials & Allies)

White-browed Meadowlark (*Sturnella superciliaris*)

Dusky-green Oropendola (*Psarocolius atrovirens*) - We almost fell over laughing watching its crazy falling forward almost off the perch song

Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

Solitary Black Caciue (*Cacicus solitarius*)

Yellow-rumped Caciue (*Cacicus cela*)

Variable Oriole (*Icterus pyrrhopterus*)

Orange-backed Troupial (*Icterus croconotus*) - Wow

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

Velvet-fronted (Bolivian) Grackle (*Lamprosar tanagrinus boliviensis*) - Surprisingly common in the Pantanal woodlands and scrub of Beni and very unlike Amazonian populations. This is treated as the Bolivian Grackle by HBW any others and is ENDEMIC

Scarlet-headed Blackbird (*Amblyramphus holosericeus*) - Florescent headed wow good spotting Lee-Ann

Chopi Blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)

Bolivian Blackbird (*Oreopsar bolivianus*) ENDEMIC - Common

Grayish Baywing (Bay-winged Cowbird) (*Agelaioides badius*) Not a true cowbird as it makes its own nest (hence the name change) in fact ironically it's parasitized by Screaming Cowbirds

Unicolored Blackbird (*Agelasticus cyanopus*)

FRINGILLIDAE (Finches, Euphonias & Allies)

Purple-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chlorotica*)

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*) *

Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*) - A really spectacular little bird and what great looks at that pair

Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanica*)

PASSERIDAE (Old World Sparrows)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Total bird species 458!

MAMMALS

DASYPODIDAE (Armadillos)

Nine-banded Armadillo - So cool to watch those two feeding

BRADYPODIDAE (Sloths)

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth - Great studies in Santa Cruz

CEBIDAE (New World Monkeys)

[Rio Beni Titi Monkey – A really cool ENDEMIC we had great looks at](#)

Hooded (Brown) Capuchin (*Sapajus cay*)

ATELIDAE (Large New World Monkeys)

Black Howler Monkey

SCIURIDAE (Squirrels)

Brazilian Squirrel

Bolivian Squirrel

CAVIIDAE (Guinea Pigs)

Capybara

CANIDAE (Dogs)

Crab-eating Fox

SELECTED REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Yacare Cayman

Ferdelance (*Bothrops diporus*)

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

Red-spotted Tortoise