

Chile 2023

Ornis Birding Expeditions



The most-wanted Diademed Sandpiper-Plover stole the show! (all images by Daniel López Velasco)



ORNIS

birding expeditions

20 October - 2 / 8 November

Tour led by Daniel López Velasco



The monotypic and indeed unique Magellanic Plover! What a sight...

Our first Ornis tour to Chile was both highly successful and enjoyable. All the mainland Chilean endemics were logged and for the shorebird enthusiastic, an astonishing wader spectacle of 42 species was seen, including the iconic Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, the enigmatic Magellanic Plover – a must for those trying to see all of the world's families!-, Peruvian Thick-knee, smart Tawny-throated and Rufous-chested Dotterels, Puna and Two-banded Plovers, Andean Avocet and Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe. Our two pelagics and various ferry crossings delivered no less than 20 species of tubenoses with highlights of impressive Northern Royal and beautiful Buller's Albatrosses off Valparaiso, very close Masatierra (De Filippi's) Petrel as well as hundreds of Markham's, several Ringed (Hornby's) and Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels off Iquique. Seeing Ornate, Puna and Chilean Tinamous was a highlight too, as was having fantastic views of the extremely shy Black Rail. And of course, watching a total of five Pumas in Torres del Paine clearly stands out too.

As we travelled almost the entire spine of Chile we sampled three major biomes including several vast wilderness areas, from the Atacama desert to the high Andes and through Patagonian forests to the Magellanic and Fuegian tundra steppe. Other unforgettable highlights, from north to south, included the Critically Endangered Chilean Woodstar, Tschudi's Nightjar, Tamarugo Conebill, White-throated and Straight-billed Earthcreepers, Puna Snipe, Pacific (Peruvian) Pygmy Owl, Andean and James's Flamingos, White-throated Sierra Finch, Golden-spotted Ground Dove, Thick-billed Siskin, Slender-billed Parakeet, Moustached Turca, Austral Pygmy Owl, Chucaco, White-throated, Dusky, Magellanic and Ochre-flanked Tapaculos, Black-throated and Chestnut-throated Huet-Huets, Creamy-rumped Miner, Crag Chilia, Rosy-billed Pochard, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Chilean Seaside Cinclodes, Burrowing Parrot, Bronze-winged Duck, White-throated and the very rare Rufous-tailed Hawk, Rufous-legged and Lesser Horned Owls, Des Murs Wiretail and Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper, amongst others.



Tschudi's Nightjar was seen near Arica



Black-browed Albatros was prominent on our pelagics



American Oystercatcher



Tamarugo Conebill, found instantly when stepping out of the car

The extension was the cherry on the cake, with a visit to South America's only King Penguin colony, Ruddy-headed and Ashy-headed Geese, a stunning male Magellanic Woodpecker, White-bellied Finch, Band-tailed Earthcreeper, Chocolate-vented Tyrant, White-throated Caracara and point-blank views of Austral Rail, not to mention the impressive scenery of Torres del Paine. Accommodation was very comfortable (sometimes even luxurious) throughout the tour, and our logistics ran smoothly thanks to using the services of the best ground agent in the country with excellent local guides, Cristian during the main tour and Sebastian on the extension! We enjoyed tasty local cuisine and fine wines which, all in all, led to a hugely enjoyable tour.

The birding started out of Iquique, making a stop along the coast to see our first Belcher's and Grey Gulls, Red-legged and Guanay Cormorants, Peruvian Boobies, a brief Chilean Seaside Cinclodes and best of all, a large colony of uncommon Peruvian Terns. After a short drive we reached the tamarugo woodlands surrounded by barren Atacama desert. Our prime target was the very localized Tamarugo Conebill which was singing in the nearest tree as soon as we stepped out of the bus. After enjoying good views of a couple of birds, we shot back to the coast where there was plenty of action with Blackish and American Oystercatchers, large numbers of mewling Grey Gulls, as well as Belcher's and a few Kelp Gulls. Peruvian Boobies and Elegant and Inca Terns flew past as we scoped some Surfbirds mixed with Ruddy Turnstones and Willets, as well as a single Wilson's Phalarope and Little Blue Heron, while hundreds of phalaropes were flocking offshore.

We went on a very enjoyable pelagic trip next morning. We departed before sunrise in calm seas which is typical at this latitude. Peruvian Diving Petrels were the first tubenoses to show and we managed to see some very well this morning. As we cruised to deeper waters, good numbers of Peruvian Boobies, Peruvian Pelicans, Chilean Skuas, Parasitic and Long-tailed

Jaegers, Red Phalaropes and Sooty Shearwaters all flew past the boat, and we soon added some Pink-footed Shearwaters, as well as two Manx Shearwaters, very rare here. Numbers of storm petrels started to increase, first with a few Elliot's Storm Petrels, followed, as we reached deeper water, by hundreds (yes, an estimated 700+ during the trip) of Markham's Storm Petrels. Flocks of this usually rare bird were everywhere, and much to our delight, we also found a few cracking Ringed (Hornby's) Storm Petrel mixed with them, which gave great views. Our chum pulled in several Buller's and a couple of Salvin's Albatrosses too, as well as Northern Giant and White-chinned Petrels, amongst others things. We also found some Red-necked Phalaropes and good numbers of Arctic and American Black Terns – a rarity in Chile-, together with 3 adult Sooty Terns, a species with just a handful records in mainland Chile. On the way back, we photographed a small procellaria petrel with fresh primaries and a dark bill tip that looks like a Parkinson's Petrel, although



Buller's Albatross

Ringed Storm Petrel, star of our Iquique pelagic!



ruling out a Westland Petrel is probably impossible given the photos we took. As we entered the harbor, we managed to get close to some stunning Inca Terns. We had a quick lunch and then headed north through the bleak, and astonishing, Atacama, until we finally reached a birdy oasis valley. Here, a smart Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail and some Slender-billed Finches were found, as well as a much wanted critically-endangered Chilean Woodstar, which gave terrific views. We then checked another spot where, once dusk fell, a couple of singing Tschudi's Nightjars showed. We arrived at our hotel in Arica in time for dinner and a well-deserved rest!

Soon after dawn, we visited the Lluta river mouth, which was alive with birds. Lots of Grey, Belcher's and Kelp Gulls sat on the beach, while Cinnamon Teal, Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Gallinule, Semipalmated and Grey Plovers, Killdeer, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Least and Spotted Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope, Hudsonian



Markham's Storm Petrel



Elliot's Storm Petrel



Chilean Skua



Blackish Oystercatcher



Close-up of an Inca Tern... What a moustache!

Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, American Oystercatcher, South American Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, Puna Ibis, Peruvian Meadowlark and Chestnut-throated Seedeater were all present. We then checked some nearby fields, where a flock of Peruvian Thick-knees gave excellent views. The Azapa Valley was our next port of call where we had fantastic views of many Peruvian Sheartails, as well as Oasis Hummingbirds, attending some feeders. Other birds seen included Burrowing Owl, Pectoral Sandpiper, Cliff Swallow and Vermillion and Rufescent Flycatchers. A bit higher up, we found a singing Pacific (Peruvian) Pygmy Owl, which in the end showed well, as well as a vagrant Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Reaching the Andean shrub zone, the birding became much more prolific with Bare-faced Ground Dove, Mourning and Ash-breasted Sierra Finches, Dark-winged Canastero, Streak-backed Tit-Spinetail, Yellow-billed Tit Tyrant, White-browed Chat Tyrant, Straight-billed Earthcreeper and Greenish Yellow Finch.

Early next morning we birded around town, seeing several Andean Hillstars, Spot-winged Pigeons, Black-winged Ground Doves, a pair of uncommon and very cooperative White-throated Earthcreepers, Canyon Canastero, Cream-winged Cinclodes, Chiguanco Thrush, Black-hooded Sierra Finch and Band-tailed Seedeater. Lauca National Park was next, and it certainly didn't disappoint. On the way up, Nick spotted a very cooperative Ornate Tinamou next to the road. Once we reached the park, we hiked to a bog to try to find one of the most iconic shorebirds in the world, the stunning Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, especially given none had been seen at El Yeso this season. We couldn't find any, so we decided to try at another spot. This fantastic species was the most-wanted bird of the trip for some of the participants, so it's a feature of Ornis tours and tour leaders to always put as much time and effort needed to find such special birds. And luckily our Plan B worked, as we enjoyed terrific views of three displaying adults in a bog amidst some very impressive scenery. Mission accomplished! Also in the same area we saw Andean Swallow, Rufous-bellied and Grey-breasted Seedsnipes,



Oasis Hummingbird

Andean Goose, White-winged Cinclodes first found by Diane, Glacier Finches and Puna and White-fronted Ground Tyrants. The first lakes held good numbers of James's (Puna), Andean and Chilean Flamingoes, as well as Andean Avocets. After lunch the weather quickly deteriorated, but we still visited another lake, at 4500 metres, that produced abundant Giant Coots, Silvery and White-tufted Grebes, Andean Ducks, Puna Teal, Andean Lapwing and some Puna Plovers. Even better was a pair of Puna Tinamous that gave great views, as well as a single "Puna" Lesser Rhea, a very uncommon species here nowadays. It then started snowing, although we still managed to find an Andean Flicker, as well as Bright-rumped Yellow Finch and some Northern Mountain Viscachas before reaching our hotel in Putre. After dinner, we found a singing Band-winged Nightjar next to our accommodation. It had been a truly fantastic day!

Next morning we left Putre very early, seeing Black-throated Flowerpiercer near our hotel. Our first target of the day was the



Persistence pays off! One of 3 fantastic Diademed Sandpiper-Plover that showed very well to the whole group at Lauca NP



Stunning Lauca scenery...



A splendid male Andean Hillstar!



Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant



Peruvian Sheartail



Puna Tinamou

localized White-throated Sierra Finch, which we soon located at one of our usual stake outs. We then drove to another bog, where the uncommon Puna Snipe was seen well. In the same area Paul located some Golden-spotted Ground Doves for everyone to enjoy, as well as more confiding Puna Tinamous, a brief Black Siskin and a single Puna Miner. Driving back Andreas found us a pair of beautiful Torrent Ducks. After lunch we went to a patch of Polylepis forest. We spent some time in that special habitat, and although it was very, very quiet, we eventually found some rare Thick-billed Siskins and a D'Orbignys Chat-Tyrant. On the way back to Arica Nick spotted two Northern Andean Huemuls from the vehicle. We also made some stops to search for Greyish Miner, to no avail, but had very close views of many Andean Swifts feeding over some fields with swallows. Once in Arica we had a sumptuous dinner by the sea.

After a morning flight to Santiago, we went straight into the high Andes above the city, at Farellones, where we spent the remaining of the day. Birding was very good, and we saw Andean Condors, a roosting Lesser (Magellanic) Horned Owl, Mountain Caracara, endemic Crag Chilia and Moustached Turcas, Chilean Swallow, Chilean Mockingbird, Sharp-billed and Cordilleran Canasteros, Grey-flanked Cinclodes, White-browed Ground Tyrant, Buff-winged Cinclodes, Scale-throated Earthcreeper and Band-tailed Sierra Finch, amongst others. A final stop at our endemic White-throated Tapaculo stake-out proved very successful, with a very obliging bird giving great views.

We visited the birdy Maipo river mouth the next morning. As soon as we arrived, we went to the best Black Rail area, and admittedly much to our surprise, we soon had extremely good views of a bird. This is a really shy and tricky to see species, and we were very pleased with our success. Also from the same spot we managed to lure into view a pair of endemic Dusky Tapaculos. A calling Dusky-tailed Canastero proved harder to see though, but eventually we had reasonable views.



The scarce White-throated Sierra Finch



A very close Andean Swift



Black Rail, one of the hardest to see species in South America!



The endemic White-throated Tapaculo



Ornate Tinamou



Another classy Chilean endemic, Crag Chilia



The endemic and charismatic Moustached Turca, a very odd tapaculo...

Spectacled Tyrants, on the other hand, were much more conspicuous, and we also saw a family of White-tailed Kites. The beach and estuary held a throng of shorebirds, gulls and terns including some most-wanted Snowy-crowned Terns, Grey, Collared and Snowy Plovers, Hudsonian Godwit, White-backed Stilt, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Franklin's Gull and hundreds of Black Skimmers. We also spent some time in a small patch of reeds, where three Many-coloured Rush Tyrants performed, and we also added Plumbeous Rail, Wren-like Rushbird, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Fire-eyed Diucon, Yellow-winged Blackbird and Grassland Yellow Finch to our ever-growing lists. We then had lunch at a scenic coastal restaurant, where we enjoyed a very tasty local fish as we watched a pair of confiding Chilean Seaside Cinclodes! Afterwards we drove to a small estuary to look for the uncommon Stripe-backed Bittern, and within a couple of minutes Andreas found us a male and a female, which gave terrific views! Not far from there we also connected with several Chilean Pigeons, as well as Giant Hummingbird and a friendly Dusky-tailed Canastero.

Soon after dawn we set out on our second pelagic out of Valparaiso. We were soon watching many Peruvian Diving Petrels, Sooty Shearwaters and growing numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters. White-chinned and Westland Petrels soon made their appearance, but it was the albatrosses that ruled the waves and stole the show, with good numbers of Salvin's and Black-broweds and repeated superb views of several Buller's and 2 massive Northern Royal Albatrosses. A Masatierra Petrel gave good views too, and we also photographed a Manx Shearwater close to shore. Several Inca Terns used our boat as their roosting sites and were admired within touching distance. It was then time to head back to harbour. In the afternoon we visited Batuco Lake, where we saw good numbers of waterfowl, including several most wanted Black-headed Ducks, Coscoroba and Black-necked Swans, Silver Teal and



Chilean Pigeon



The localised Stripe-backed Bittern



Masatierra Petrel



Buller's Albatross



Pink-footed Shearwater



Chiloe Wigeon

Cinereous Harrier. Rosy-billed Pochards made us work hard, but eventually we found some on the other side of the lake.

We spent the next day in the high Andes around El Yeso reservoir. Weather was abysmal, and birding wasn't easy. However, we tried hard and despite the difficult conditions we managed to find our target Creamy-rumped Miner, Black-fronted Ground Tyrant and Magellanic Tapaculo, as well as many Greater Yellow Finches. No hillstars were seen though. On the way back we stopped to look at a confiding Moustached Turca, which posed for photos.

Heading south to Vilches, we made a couple of stops under the rain to look for the scarce Chilean Tinamou. One was seen at the first spot, but it soon ran away. In the same area we saw our only Red-fronted Coots and Spot-flanked Gallinules of the tour. After some time, the second site eventually produced very good views of a pair of tinamous, much to everyone's delight.



The localised Creamy-rumped Miner

Black-fronted Ground Tyrant



Afterwards we were soon veering back into the Andes, stopping en route at the Maule Valley. A pair of splendid Bronze-winged (Spectacled) Ducks was seen, as well as some unexpected Rosy-billed Pochards, and, most important, a few stunning Burrowing Parrots of the very local Chilean race at their breeding cliffs. We then made it to our hotel at Altos de Lircay under the rain.

Before dawn rain stopped and we had unbeatable views of a singing Rufous-legged Owl fixed on the torch beam. After breakfast, the magnificent notophagus forest of Vilches delivered a singing Patagonian Tyrant, Austral Parakeet, Green-backed Firecrown, Striped Woodpecker, Chilean Flicker, abundant Thorn-tailed Rayaditos and smart White-throated Treerunners, a perched White-throated Hawk well spotted by Kinta and a singing Austral Pygmy Owl. A couple of us also glimpsed a calling Chestnut-throated Huet-Huet next to the trail, but although we spent a lot of time trying to lure it into view, it never truly cooperated. We tried very hard



"Chilean" Burrowing Parrot... What a bird !

at another two known territories, where we also heard huet-huets, but again, they were not responsive at all and were only seen poorly by some. By noon it was time to leave, and we continued our journey until we finally reached Temuco.

Next morning we headed east towards the mountains, in search of the uncommon Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper. On our way we found some Slender-billed Parakeets, which showed very well next to the road. Once at the earthcreeper spot, there was a lot of fresh snow all over the place, making for a very beautiful sight, and within minutes we had found our target, which gave excellent views. A pair of White-throated Hawks and a Dark-bellied Cinclodes were also seen before heading back to Temuco. The rare Rufous-tailed Hawk was our next target, and luckily for us, a short wait at a favored site turned out to be very successful, as a single bird was seen and photographed soaring above us. It was then time to drive towards Puyehue, where we arrived to our luxurious termas hotel in the late afternoon.

It was extremely windy next morning, and the forest was completely silent. For that reason it took a long time to finally get good views of Chucaco Tapaculo, but in the end we succeeded. A pair of Des Mur's Wiretails also performed at length, and an Ochre-flanked Tapaculo was seen briefly inside the bamboo. On the other hand, Black-throated Huet Huets were very quiet, and only one was briefly glimpsed. We were informed that, due to the strong winds and the organized search for a missing person, the national park would be closed during the afternoon. So after a great lunch in our beautiful hotel, we decided to try for the huet huet at another spot outside the park, which seemed to have suitable habitat. It proved to be the right move, as we enjoyed fantastic views of 3 different Black-throated Huet Huets, first a single one and then a pair, spotted by Bob, both singing and feeding on the ground, at very close quarters. An early morning visit to a patch of bamboo resulted in great views of an Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, our last possible tapaculo

of the tour. We then hit the road again, until we reached the ferry that would take us to Chiloe. Depending on wind conditions, the ferry crossing can be good for Pincoya Storm Petrel, but in spite of doing it 3 times, we couldn't find any. Once in Chiloe, we drove to Puñihuil, on the NW side of the island, where we took a very enjoyable one-hour boat ride. Highlights included Magellanic and Humboldt Penguins on the rocks side by side, Kelp Goose, a colony of Red-legged Cormorants, Rock Shags and some confiding "Chiloe" Fuegian Steamer Ducks. Later we did the ferry crossing, not just one, but 3 more times – for a total of 6 crossings during the day!-, hoping for some storm petrels, to no avail. For some reason they weren't around that part of the strait that day. A couple of Magellanic Diving Petrels, some Imperial Shags, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, Black-browed Albatrosses and many South American Terns were seen, as well as some Dusky Dolphins. Once we finally made it to the mainland, we drove to Puerto Montt in time for dinner.



The scarce Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper



Rufous-tailed Hawk, one of the rarest Chilean specialties



Black-throated Huet-Huet



Austral Pygmy Owl



Two Spectacled Ducks with a Crested Duck



Puyehue

The main tour ended next morning, but everyone flew together to Punta Arenas, where the extension started. We were met by our local guide Sebastian, and from the hotel itself in the city I managed to find a cracking pale-morph immature cassini Peregrine perched on a building, which gave great views. This is a very rarely encountered form, and we were very happy with this sighting. After having a quick lunch, we headed south along the main road, until we came across a couple of endangered Ruddy-headed Geese, next to some Ashy-headed Geese, that posed for photos. Scanning the sea revealed a Southern Fulmar and some Black-browed Albatrosses and Southern Giant Petrels, as well as Fuegian Steamer Ducks. Afterwards we went for a walk in the woods, searching for Magellanic Woodpecker. Although we saw a lot of signs of them in the trees, we couldn't find any. The local, uncommon form of Ringed Kingfisher was seen in the same area, together with some more Ruddy-headed Geese. It was time to leave, but while driving back Jan noticed a woodpecker in flight inside the forest! We stopped, and after a few seconds we found the bird, a stunning male Magellanic Woodpecker, which performed at length. What a bird!

We did a bit of birding in a wetland area near town the following day. Plenty of waterfowl and Upland Geese were around. Once aboard the ferry to Tierra del Fuego, we saw a couple of Dolphin Gulls, many Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a lot of Southern Fulmars, a few Magellanic Diving Petrels, good numbers of Black-browed Albatrosses, and some Chilean Skuas and White-chinned Petrels. A small pod of Peale's Dolphins and a couple of Sei Whales were also spotted. A single King Penguin swimming in the middle of the strait was unexpected, as was a Southern Elephant Seal. Once at Porvenir, we set out to a nearby lake, where the most unique shorebird on the planet (afforded its own order, not just family) was our next target. And it didn't take long before we found a pair of these stunning birds. Eventually they were joined by a third bird, and what were presumably the males started



Ashy-headed (left) and the Endangered Ruddy-headed Geese



Endangered Ruddy-headed Geese



The most-wanted Magellanic Woodpecker !

doing some display courtship to the female, which was great to watch! Also in the area we saw our only Patagonian Yellow Finches and Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrants of the trip. Our next destination was the only King Penguin breeding colony in South America and we were not to be disappointed when viewing more than 90 birds, including adults and chicks. It was a unique experience, and there were smiles all around. Short-billed Miners and Two-banded Plovers were also seen. Then we drove back to our hotel, where we had a very tasty dinner.

The ferry crossing next morning gave us good views of Commerson's Dolphins. Back on the northern straits, we headed towards Torres del Paine through the back roads, searching for the rare Patagonian Tinamou -only recently discovered here in Chile - on the way. We heard a tinamou singing at one of the sites we checked, but unfortunately we couldn't locate it. We then took the turn towards the Pali Aike track, and it wasn't long before we connected with our first superb Chocolate-vented Tyrants and numerous Lesser Rheas and Least Seedsnipes before we chanced upon a couple of pairs of stunning Tawny-throated Dotterels. Our Band-tailed Earthcreeper sites didn't produce any birds, probably due to very strong winds. On the other hand, the gorgeous White-bridled Finch performed at very close quarters, next to some Rufous-chested Plovers. After a very long day, full of bird highlights, we eventually made it to our wonderful hotel near Torres del Paine NP.

We set off very early, and soon after dawn met our puma tracker for the day. Having a professional tracker greatly improves our chances of seeing this wonderful cat at arguably the best location in the world for them. She took us straight to a fresh guanaco kill, and after a while we saw the massive male puma, "Dark", hiding in some vegetation next to it, waiting to come back to finish its meal. We spent a few hours there, but the puma was having a long siesta with its stomach full. So we decided to visit the



Another photo of the same Magellanic Woodpecker



King Penguins !! Juvenile and adults



The smart Rufous-chested Dotterel



White-bridled Finch, beauty of the Patagonian steppe



Our fifth Puma of the tour, stretching a little before walking away, on our second day morning in Torres del Paine

scenic Sierra de Baguales, bordering Argentina, making a stop first to admire the incredible scenery with the impressive Torres peaks over the lake. The uncommon Patagonian Mockingbird was quickly found at our destination, and we also caught up with Band-tailed Earthcreeper. We moved higher up, to the usual areas for Yellow-bridled Finch, but for some reason they seemed to be absent this year, in spite of a lot of searching. By mid afternoon we were back at the guanaco kill, hoping the male puma would get hungry and leave the bushes. Unfortunately, we witnessed some totally unacceptable behaviors by some selfish people and photographers, including their puma tracker, who were waiting in the same area walking around, talking loudly and not respecting the distance or the puma, at all. In the end, when almost everyone left and things got quieter as it was getting dark, "Dark" came out of its roosting place and gave stunning views to our group. A great way to finish the day!

Our last full day of the tour couldn't have started any better, as a family of three pumas, the mother with its 2 full grown cubs, first spotted by our trusted driver, decided to cross the road in front of our vehicle as we were reaching the national park! The three cats stopped for several minutes just a few meters from us, much to everyone's delight! Smiles all around, we carried on and entered the park, heading towards one of the reedy lagoons, until we spotted yet another puma sitting on a rock close to the road. Epic! We watched it for a while until it walked away. We eventually made it to the lagoon, where our main target was the uncommon and very localized Austral Rail. The weather was on our side, with no wind at all, and we heard a couple of rails as soon as we got to the edge. However, seeing them was another matter, and it took a while before some of us saw a rail standing tall on the edge of the vegetation. Things got even better when the rail decided to come even closer and sat in the open for a while, allowing for the best views possible. Also in the lagoon we enjoyed good looks at a pair of Bronze-winged Ducks, while two White-throated Caracaras were



We had incredible views of a family of Pumas crossing the road even before entering the National Park!



Chile is all about beautiful sceneries... Here the stunning Torres del Paine NP

scoped sitting on a rock. It was then time to head back to Punta Arenas. Our last dinner, celebrating an unforgettable tour all across the length of Chile made all the better by a fantastic group, was a feast, with some incredibly tasty Patagonian lamb, amongst other wonderful local dishes. Thanks everyone for making this trip such an enjoyable and successful one!



The striking endemic Chucao Tapaculo



Many-coloured Rush Tyrant seen in Central Chile



Austral Rail performed better than ever!



The "torres" from the famous Torres del Paine NP

Species list

Lesser Rhea *Rhea pennata tarapacensis*

Lesser Rhea *Rhea pennata pennata*

Ornate Tinamou *Nothoprocta ornata ornata*

Chilean Tinamou *Nothoprocta perdicaria*

Puna Tinamou *Tinamotis pentlandii*

Patagonian Tinamou *Tinamotis ingoufi* (HO)

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melancoryphus*

Flying Steamer Duck *Tachyeres patachonicus*

Fuegian Steamer Duck *Tachyeres pteneres*

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*

Andean Goose *Chloephaga melanoptera*

Upland Goose *Chloephaga picta picta*

Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida hybrida*

Ashy-headed Goose *Chloephaga poliocephala*

Ruddy-headed Goose *Chloephaga rubidiceps*

Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides*

Bronze-winged Duck *Speculanas specularis*

Puna Teal *Spatula puna*

Silver Teal *Spatula versicolor*

Red Shoveler *Spatula platalea*

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*

Chiloe Wigeon *Mareca sibilatrix*

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis rubrirostris*

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica spinicauda*

Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris*

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca*

Black-headed Duck *Heteronetta atricapilla*

Andean Duck *Oxyura ferruginea ferruginea*

Lake Duck *Oxyura vittata*

California Quail *Callipepla californica*

Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris*

Tschudi's Nightjar *Systellura decussata*

Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus parvulus*

Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephaniodes*

Andean Hillstar *Oreotrochilus estella estella*

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*

Oasis Hummingbird *Rhodopis vesper*

Peruvian Sheartail *Thaumastura cora*

Chilean Woodstar *Eulidia yarrellii*

Rock Dove *Columba livia domestica*

Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa albipennis*

Chilean Pigeon *Patagioenas araucana*

Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui picui*

Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana*

Bare-faced Ground Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae zimmeri*

Black-winged Ground Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera*

Golden-spotted Ground Dove *Metriopelia aymara*

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda*

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

Austral Rail *Rallus antarcticus*

Spot-flanked Gallinule *Porphyriops melanops crassirostris*

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons*

Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea*

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

Andean Coot *Fulica ardesiaca ardesiaca*

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis salinasi*

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps antarcticus*

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland chilensis*

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis juninensis*

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis*

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

Andean Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus andinus*

James's Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus jamesi*

Peruvian Thick-knee *Burhinus superciliaris*
Magellanic Plover *Pluvianellus socialis*
Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus*
Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater*
American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus palliatus*
White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*
Andean Avocet *Recurvirostra andina*
Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*
Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola cynosurae*
Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus peruvianus*
Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus occidentalis*
Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*
Puna Plover *Charadrius alticola*
Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus*
Rufous-chested Plover *Charadrius modestus*
Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis ruficollis*
Diademed Sandpiper-Plover *Phegornis mitchellii*
Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi*
Grey-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus*
Least Seedsnipe *Thinocorus rumicivorus*
Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*
Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres morinella*
Surfbird *Calidris virgata*
Sanderling *Calidris alba rubida*
Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Magellanic Snipe *Gallinago magellanica*
Puna Snipe *Gallinago andina*
Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Willet *Tringa semipalmata inornata*
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*
Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger cinerascens*
Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*
Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*
Dolphin Gull *Leucophaeus scoresbii*
Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*
Grey Gull *Leucophaeus modestus*
Belcher's Gull *Larus belcheri*
Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus dominicanus*
Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*
Peruvian Tern *Sternula lorata*
Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*
South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*
Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui*
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*
Inca Tern *Larosterna inca*
Chilean Skua *Stercorarius chilensis*
Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*
King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*
Humboldt Penguin *Spheniscus humboldti*
Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus*
Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus chilensis*
Elliot's Storm Petrel *Oceanites gracilis gracilis*
Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi*
Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*
Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*
Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*
Ringed Storm Petrel *Hydrobates hornbyi*

Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel *Hydrobates tethys kelsalli*
Markham's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates markhami*
Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*
Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli*
Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*
Masatierra Petrel *Pterodroma defilippiana*
White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica*
Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*
Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*
Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus puffinus*
Peruvian Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides garruti*
Magellanic Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides magellani*
Peruvian Booby *Sula variegata*
Red-legged Cormorant *Poikilocarbo gaimardi*
Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum brasilianum*
Rock Shag *Leucocarbo magellanicus*
Guanay Cormorant *Leucocarbo bougainvillii*
Imperial Shag *Leucocarbo atriceps atriceps*
Imperial Shag *Leucocarbo atriceps albiventer*
Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis*
White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*
Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi*
Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris*
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*
Great Egret *Ardea alba egretta*
Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula thula*
Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus*
Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus leucurus*

Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus*
Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus unicinctus*
Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*
White-throated Hawk *Buteo albigula*
Rufous-tailed Hawk *Buteo ventralis*
Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*
Pacific Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium peruanum*
Austral Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium nana*
Lesser Horned Owl *Bubo magellanicus*
Rufous-legged Owl *Strix rufipes*
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata stellata*
Striped Woodpecker *Veniliornis lignarius*
Chilean Flicker *Colaptes pitius*
Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola rupicola*
Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus*
Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*
White-throated Caracara *Phalcoboenus albogularis*
Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus plancus*
Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
Austral Parakeet *Enicognathus ferrugineus*
Slender-billed Parakeet *Enicognathus leptorhynchus*
Burrowing Parrot *Cyanoliseus patagonus bloxami*
Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia cunicularia*
Puna Miner *Geositta punensis*
Rufous-banded Miner *Geositta rufipennis fasciata*
Short-billed Miner *Geositta antarctica*
Creamy-rumped Miner *Geositta isabellina*
White-throated Treerunner *Pygarrhichas albogularis*
Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus*
Band-tailed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus phoenicurus*
Crag Chilia *Ochetorhynchus melanurus*

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops*
Scale-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia dumetaria*
Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper *Upucerthia saturator*
White-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia albigula*
Buff-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*
Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris albiventris*
Grey-flanked Cinclodes *Cinclodes oustaleti*
White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis atacamensis*
Dark-bellied Cinclodes *Cinclodes patagonicus*
Chilean Seaside Cinclodes *Cinclodes nigrofumosus*
Thorn-tailed Rayadito *Aphrastura spinicauda*
Des Murs's Wiretail *Sylviorthorhynchus desmuri*
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura a. grisescens*
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura a.berlepschi*
Streak-backed Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura striata striata*
Dark-winged Canastero *Asthenes arequipae*
Cordilleran Canastero *Asthenes modesta*
Sharp-billed Canastero *Asthenes pyrrholeuca sordida*
Canyon Canastero *Asthenes pudibunda*
Dusky-tailed Canastero *Pseudasthenes humicola*
Chestnut-throated Huet-huet *Pteroptochos castaneus*
Black-throated Huet-huet *Pteroptochos tarnii*
Moustached Turca *Pteroptochos megapodius*
White-throated Tapaculo *Scelorchilus albicollis*
Chucuo Tapaculo *Scelorchilus rubecula*
Ochre-flanked Tapaculo *Eugralla paradoxa*
Dusky Tapaculo *Scytalopus fuscus* Endemic
Magellanic Tapaculo *Scytalopus magellanicus*
White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps modesta*
Chilean Elaenia *Elaenia chilensis*
Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes reguloides reguloides*
Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes flavirostris arequipae*
Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus parulus*
Rufescent Flycatcher *Myiophobus rufescens*
Many-colored Rush Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra*

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus obscurus cocachacrae*
Spot-billed Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maculirostris*
White-fronted Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albifrons*
Ochre-naped Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola flavinucha*
Rufous-naped Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*
Dark-faced Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maclovianus mentalis*
White-browed Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albilora*
Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola capistratus*
Puna Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola juninensis*
Black-fronted Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola frontalis*
Andean Negrito *Lessonia oreas*
Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa*
Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus andinus*
Fire-eyed Diucon *Pyrope pyrope*
Chocolate-vented Tyrant *Neoxolmis rufiventris*
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*
D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca oenanthoides oenanthoides*
White-browed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca leucophrys leucometopa*
Patagonian Tyrant *Colorhamphus parvirostris*
Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter *Phytotoma rara*
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia riparia*
Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta leucopyga*
Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca patagonica*
Andean Swallow *Orochelidon andecola andecola*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*
Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus thenca*
Patagonian Mockingbird *Mimus patagonicus*
Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco*
Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii magellanicus*
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus domesticus*
Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*
Black-chinned Siskin *Spinus barbatus*
Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus urubambensis*

Black Siskin *Spinus atratus*
Thick-billed Siskin *Spinus crassirostris crassirostris*
Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*
Peruvian Meadowlark *Leistes bellicosus albipes*
Long-tailed Meadowlark *Leistes loyca loyca*
Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis bonariensis*
Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaeus*
Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius thilius*
Mourning Sierra Finch *Rhopospina fruticeti*
Band-tailed Sierra Finch *Rhopospina alaudina*
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina peruviansis*
Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco*
Slender-billed Finch *Xenospingus concolor*
Tamarugo Conebill *Conirostrum tamarugense*
Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum littorale*
Bright-rumped Yellow Finch *Sicalis uropigyalis uropigyalis*
Grassland Yellow Finch *Sicalis luteola luteiventris*
Patagonian Yellow Finch *Sicalis lebruni*
Greenish Yellow Finch *Sicalis olivascens chloris*
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 princetoniana*
Ash-breasted Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis plebejus plebejus*
Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis unicolor unicolor*
White-throated Sierra Finch *Idiopsar erythronotus*
Glacier Finch *Idiopsar speculifer speculifer*
Band-tailed Seedeater *Catamenia analis analis*
Black-throated Flowerpiercer *Diglossa brunneiventris*
Diuca Finch *Diuca diuca*

MAMMALS

Large Hairy Armadillo *Chaetophractus villosus*
Puma *Puma concolor*
Culpeo *Lycalopex culpaeus*
South American Gray Fox *Lycalopex griseus*
South American Sea Lion *Otaria flavescens*
Southern Elephant Seal *Mirounga leonina*
Guanaco *Lama guanicoe*
Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna*
Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis*
Commerson's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus commersonii*
Peale's Dolphin *Sagmatias australis*
Dusky Dolphin *Sagmatias obscurus*
Burmeister's Porpoise *Phocoena spinipinnis*
European Hare *Lepus europaeus*
European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Northern Mountain Viscacha *Lagidium peruanum*
Coypu *Myocastor coypus*
Bolivian Big-eared Mouse *Auliscomys boliviensis*
Yellow-rumped Leaf-eared Mouse *Phyllotis xanthopygus*



Lauca is one of the most impressive sites in Chile...



Straight-billed Earthcreeper



White-throated Earthcreeper



Stunning Red-legged Cormorants



Rock Shag



Andean Flamingoes



James's Flamingo



Northern Mountain Viscacha



Andean Avocet



Long-tailed Meadowlark



Rufous-legged Owl



**Thanks to the whole group for your participation and enthusiasm !
See you next time !**

www.ornis-birding.com/tours/chile