



Albatross

Birding and Nature Tours



DAY TRIP AROUND SANTIAGO:

January 10th, 2013

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Participant: Scott Hall.

Albatross Birding and Nature Tours

www.albatross-birding.com

Trying to find as many species as possible in just a single day, we decided to visit the highlands above Santiago (Farellones and Valle Nevado) in the morning, and spend the last hours of the day at the Lampa wetlands.

Leaving the hotel at 7:30 a.m. we drove to our first birding where we rapidly found a few good species including Moustached Turca and Dusky-tailed Canastero, both endemic to Chile. We then visited the Yerba Loca reserve where a nice find were a Dusky Tapaculo and a Crag Chilia. Around Farellones we saw a few highlands species like Rufous-banded Miner, Greater Yellow-finches, White-browed Ground-tyrant, and even found a Magellanic Horned-owl at his day roost. At higher elevation, near Valle Nevado, we had great views on several Andean Condors and found a Black-fronted Ground-tyrant.

After lunch we went back to the lowlands, heading to the Lampa wetlands where we found a huge variety of ducks, coots, and egrets. Our best find there was clearly a Hudsonian Godwit, very rare in the Santiago area. Other good birds seen here were Black-headed Duck, Coscoroba Swan, a Silver Teal and others! We then drove to the Santiago airport after having contacted 85 species of birds, including 6 of the 7 possible Chilean endemics found around Santiago.



Andean Condor is fairly common in the Farellones area!

All the sightings done during the Albatross trips are sent to eBird, www.ebird.org, and can be shared with our clients if they are eBird users.

To see some pictures of Chilean birds and wildlife, please have a look to my gallery:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fabrice-schmitt/>

BIRD LIST

RR = Restricted-range species (total range < 50.000 km²)

Conservation Status follows Birdlife International (April 2012)

Taxonomic order and notes follows South American Classification Committee (April 2012)

<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline.html>

(H) heard only

TINAMOUS

RR Chilean Tinamou - *Nothoprocta perdicaria* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

One flushed at our first stop, on the way to Farellones

DUCKS

Coscoroba Swan - *Coscoroba coscoroba* Monotypic

A pair with five full grown chicks at the Lampa wetlands where the species reach his northern breeding range in Chile.

Black-necked Swan – *Cygnus melanocoryphus*

One at the Lampa wetlands

Chiloe Wigeon - *Anas sibilatrix* Monotypic

25+ at the Lampa wetlands

Yellow-billed Teal - *Anas flavirostris*

30+ at the Lampa wetlands; belonging here to the *flavirostris* subspecies.

Hellmayr & Conover (1948a) and many earlier classifications treated *andium* as a separate species from *A. flavirostris*. Many authors, from Meyer de Schauensee (1970) to Dickinson (2003), have treated *andium* as a subspecies of *A. flavirostris*. *Anas andium* was considered a separate species from *Anas flavirostris* by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), and this was followed by Hilty (2003). [SACC proposal passed to recognize *andium* as separate species](#). Jaramillo (2003) further suggested that the subspecies *oxyptera* may also deserve recognition as a separate species from *A. flavirostris*.

Yellow-billed Pintail - *Anas georgica spinicauda*

200+ at the Lampa wetlands

Silver Teal - *Anas versicolor fretensis*

A nice surprise at the end of the day!! One at the Lampa wetlands.

Cinnamon Teal - *Anas cyanoptera*

20+ at the Lampa wetlands

Red Shoveler - *Anas platalea* Monotypic

A few at the Lampa wetlands

Black-headed Duck - *Heteronetta atricapilla* Monotypic

An immature at the Lampa wetlands.

The Black-headed Duck is the only parasitic duck in the world, mostly parasiting Red-gartered and Red-fronted Coot. The chicks are independent when they hatch and don't need the help of the fathers. The fathers look for incubators only, and Black-headed Duck eggs have been found in very different species nest, including egrets and Chimango Caracara!!

Lake Duck - *Oxyura vittata* Monotypic

Five at the Lampa wetlands

NEW WORLD QUAILS

California Quail - *Callipepla californica*

A very successful introduced species. We saw a few on the way to Farellones.

GREBES

White-tufted Grebe - *Rollandia rolland chilensis*

One seen at the Lampa wetlands

Pied-billed Grebe – *Podilymbus podiceps*

One at the Lampa wetlands

HERONS

Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis ibis*

10+ at the Lampa wetlands

Cocoi Heron - *Ardea cocoi* Monotypic

Two at the Lampa wetlands

Great Egret - *Ardea alba egretta*

Five at the Lampa wetlands

Ardea alba was formerly (e.g., Pinto 1938, Hellmayr & Conover 1948a, Phelps & Phelps 1958a, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, AOU 1983) placed in monotypic genus *Casmerodius*, but morphometric (Payne and Risley 1976), vocal (McCracken & Sheldon 1987), and genetic data (Sheldon 1987, Sheldon et al. 1995, McCracken & Sheldon 1998) do not support recognition of this as a separate genus from *Ardea*. Some classifications (e.g., Bock 1956, Blake 1977) have placed *Ardea alba* in *Egretta*, but see Sheldon (1987), Sheldon et al. (1995), McCracken & Sheldon (1998),

and Sheldon et al. (2000). Some recent genetic data (Chang et al. 2003) support resurrection of *Casmerodius*

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula brewsteri*

One at the Lampa wetlands

IBIS

Black-faced Ibis – *Theristicus melanopis*

A pair seen very well above Farellones!! Not a common species here and a species Scott really wanted to see!

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Andean Condor - *Vultur gryphus* Monotypic NEAR-THREATENED

Probably more than 20 individuals during the day, including some excellent and close views. Two birds were even roosting on the building roofs at Valle Nevado.

HAWKS

Variable Hawk - *Geranoaetus polyosoma* Monotypic

A male seen between Farellones and Valle Nevado, and two other birds at Farellones.

Formerly a *Buteo*, this species has recently been merged into *Geranoaetus*.

Farquhar (1988) concluded that *Buteo poecilochrous* and *B. polyosoma* are conspecific, as they were formerly treated (REF); he was unable to find any way to reliably diagnose the two forms using plumage characters or measurements. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Schulenberg et al. (2007) followed this treatment and suggested "Variable Hawk" be retained for the composite species. Genetic data (Riesing et al. 2003) are consistent with hypothesis that *B. polyosoma* and *B. poecilochrous* are conspecific.

RAILS

Red-gartered Coot - *Fulica armillata* Monotypic

Common at the Lampa wetlands

Red-fronted Coot - *Fulica rufifrons* Monotypic

Common at the Lampa wetlands

White-winged Coot – *Fulica leucoptera*

A few at the Lampa wetlands

(H) Plumbeous Rail – *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

Only heard at the Lampa wetlands

PLOVERS

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*

Abundant in Central Chile

Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990) and Wiersma (1996) suggested that *Vanellus chilensis* might consist of more than one species but also noted that data so far suggest intergradation between the two subspecies groups <REF - Neotropical reference in Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990>; Jaramillo (2003) also consider that more than one species is probably involved: two groups exist, southern "Chilean Lapwing" (*chilensis* and *fretensis*) and more northern and eastern "Cayenne Lapwing" (*cayennensis* and *lampronotus*). The two differ in structure, plumage, crest length and colour, soft-part coloration and voice.

Collared Plover – *Charadrius collaris*

Three at the Lampa wetlands

AVOCET and STILTS

Black-necked Stilt - *Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*

100+ at the Lampa wetlands

Himantopus mexicanus was formerly (e.g., Peters 1934, Pinto 1938, Hellmayr & Conover 1948b, Phelps & Phelps 1958a, Vaurie 1965c, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Blake 1977, Haverschmidt & Mees 1994) considered a subspecies of Old World *H. himantopus* ("Common Stilt") and was so treated by Dickinson (2003). Some authors have treated southern South American *melanurus* as a separate species (e.g., Sibley & Monroe 1990, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The six taxa in the genus *Himantopus* form a near-globally distributed superspecies (Mayr & Short 1970, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Pierce 1996), and with from one to six species-level taxa recognized by various authors. Virtually no data are available relevant to taxon-ranking of allopatric populations. The contact between *mexicanus* and *melanurus* in South America, where at least some hybridization occurs, affords one of the best opportunities for such study.

SANDPIPERs

South American Snipe - *Gallinago paraguaiae magellanica*

Six at the Lampa wetlands.

Species limits in New World *Gallinago* have been fluid and controversial, and not based on explicit analyses. Many authors (e.g., Peters 1934, Pinto 1938, Hellmayr & Conover 1948b) have considered *paraguaiae*, *magellanica*, and *andina* to be conspecific. Additionally, *Gallinago paraguaiae* was considered conspecific with *G. [gallinago] delicata* by Phelps & Phelps (1958a), Meyer de Schauensee (1970), and Blake (1970). Fjeldså and Krabbe (1990) placed *magellanica* with *paraguaiae*, making this species *G. magellanica*. Any arrangement of species limits in these taxa is based largely on anecdotal data, and this group is badly in need of formal study, especially given

that differences in displays and vocalizations among *paraguaiae*, *magellanica*, and *andina* have been reported (Jaramillo 2003)

Greater Yellowlegs - *Tringa melanoleuca* Monotypic

One at the Lampa wetlands

Lesser Yellowlegs – *Tringa flaviceps*

250+ at the Lampa wetlands. This big group of yellowlegs, obviously mark the beginning of the pre-breeding migration.

Hudsonian Godwit – *Limosa haemastica*

One seen at the Lampa wetlands. A very rare species in the Santiago area!!

GULLS

Kelp Gull – *Larus dominicanus*

Five at the Lampa wetlands

Brown-hooded Gull – *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

Five at the Lampa wetlands

Franklin's Gull – *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

A flock of about 200 individuals at the Lampa wetlands

PIGEONS

Rock Pigeon - *Columba livia*

So pretty... especially the brown ones!!

Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata*

Very common in all the country

Black-winged Ground-dove – *Metriopelia melanoptera*

A few seen at Yerba Loca and around Farellones

OWLS

Great Horned Owl - *Bubo virginianus magellanicus*

One seen on his day roost at Farellones

König et al. (1996, 1999), followed by Marks et al. (1999), Mazar Barnett & Pearman (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Wink et al. (2008), recognized *B. magellanicus* as separate from *B. virginianus* based primarily on vocal differences; critical intermediate populations, however, have yet to be sampled. [SACC proposal to recognize as separate species did not pass](#). [NACC rejected a

proposal to recognize *magellanicus* as a species pending more thorough study, including sampling of critical intermediate populations.]

Austral Pygmy-owl – *Glaucidium nanum*

A nice view at Yerba Loca

HUMMINGBIRDS

Giant Hummingbird – *Patagonas gigas*

Excellent views at Yerba Loca

White-sided Hillstar – *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus*

A splendid male seen near Farellones

WOODPECKERS

Striped Woodpecker - *Veniliornis lignarius* Monotypic

First heard in the *Matorral* scrub on the way to Farellones, and finally one seen briefly at Yerba Loca.

Veniliornis lignarius and Chequered Woodpecker *V. mixtus* form a superspecies (Short 1982, Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Winkler & Christie 2002); justification is weak for their treatment as separate species (Short 1970, 1971, 1982); genetic data (Weibel & Moore 2002a, b) confirm their relationship as sister species.

Chilean Flicker - *Colaptes pitius* Monotypic

One seen at Yerba Loca

FALCONS

Ericson et al. (2006) and Hackett et al. (2008) found that the Falconiformes are actually more closely related to the Psittaciformes and Passeriformes than to any other orders

Chimango Caracara - *Milvago chimango*

Common

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*

A nice male seen at Yerba Loca (*cinnamominus* subspecies)

TAPACULOS

RR Moustached Turca - *Pteroptochos megapodus* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Excellent views on the way to Farellones belonging here to the nominate subspecies. A large and charismatic tapaculo running in the open!!

Dusky Tapaculo - *Scytalopus fuscus* Monotypic CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Excellent view on the way to Farellones

Magellanic Tapaculo - *Scytalopus magellanicus* Monotypic CHILEAN ENDEMIC

One seen near Farellones

OVENBIRDS

Rufous-banded Miner - *Geositta rufipennis*

Common in the Farellones and Valle Nevado area, belonging to the *fasciata* subspecies.

Geositta rufipennis may consist of more than one species (Jaramillo 2003, Remsen 2003).

RR Crag Chilia - *Ochetorhynchus melanurus* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

A nice surprise was to find one at Yerba Loca!!! (nominate subspecies)

Wren-like Rushbird - *Phleocryptes melanops*

Seen at the Lampa wetlands (nominate subspecies)

Buff-winged Cinclodes - *Cinclodes fuscus* Monotypic

A common Cinclodes from Central Chile to Patagonia. A few were present at high elevation near Farellones.

Jaramillo (2003) suggested that the *albiventris* group might warrant recognition as a separate species from *Cinclodes fuscus*. Unfortunately, Chesser's (2004a) sampling did not include populations of *C. fuscus* from the Andes north of Argentina. Sanín et al. (2009) sampled *C. fuscus* from throughout its range and found that it was polyphyletic, with various populations more closely related to *C. olrogi*, *C. oustaleti*, *C. comechingonus*, and *C. antarcticus*. [SACC proposal passed to elevate the *albiventris* and *albidiventris* groups to species rank](#). Derryberry et al. (2011) also corroborated this treatment. As for English names, Jaramillo (2003) proposed Cream-winged Cinclodes for *C. albiventris* and Buff-winged Cinclodes for *C. fuscus*, and Jaramillo (see proposal 415) proposed Chestnut-winged Cinclodes for *C. albidiventris*; these are used here tentatively until formal SACC action

Grey-flanked Cinclodes – *Cinclodes oustaleti*

One seen foraging on the shore of a stream at farellones.

Scale-throated Earthcreeper – *Upucerthia dumetaria*

One found on the way to Valle Nevado

RR Dusky-tailed Canastero - *Pseudasthenes humicola* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Good views on the way to Farellones (nominate subspecies)

Sharp-billed Canastero – *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*

Two seen near Farellones

Plain-mantled Tit-spinetail – *Leptasthenura aegithaloides aegithaloides*
A pair seen at Yerba Loca

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Tufted Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes parulus parulus*
Common from Central Chile to Patagonia

White-crested Elaenia – *Elaenia albiceps chilensis*
A common summer visitor in Chile.

Many-colored Rush Tyrant - *Tachuris rubrigastra*
Adults and juveniles seen well at the Lampa wetlands, belonging here to the very colorful nominate subspecies

Austral Negrito - *Lessonia rufa* Monotypic
A female found at the Lampa marsh.

White-browed Ground-tyrant – *Muscisaxicola albilora*
Usually common around Farellones and Valle Nevado

Black-fronted Ground-tyrant – *Muscisaxicola frontalis*
One found at Valle Nevado. A species restricted to high elevation.

Fire-eyed Diucon - *Xolmis pyrope*
Two seen at our first stop on the way to Farellones. Probably a monotypic species even if the *fortis* subspecies has been described for the birds from Chiloe Island.

COTINGAS

Rufous-tailed Plantcutter – *Phytotoma rara*
First seen in Santiago, and other ones found around Farellones

SWALLOWS

Chilean Swallow - *Tachycineta meyeni* Monotypic
A few at the Lampa wetlands

Blue-and-white Swallow – *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*
Only seen in the mountains

WRENS

House Wren - *Troglodyte (aedon) musculus*

Everywhere and common, belonging here to the *chilensis* subspecies

Many authors (e.g., Hellmayr 1934, Pinto 1944, Phelps & Phelps 1950a) formerly treated Neotropical mainland populations as a separate species *T. musculus*; see also Brumfield and Capparella (1996); this treatment was followed by Brewer (2001) and Kroodsma & Brewer (2005). <incorp. Paynter 1957?> The Falklands population, *T. a. cobbi*, might also be best treated as a species (Wood 1993), as was done by Brewer (2001), Mazar Barnett & Pearman (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Kroodsma & Brewer (2005). [SACC proposal to treat *cobbi* as separate species did not pass](#)

THRUSHES

Austral Thrush - *Turdus falcklandii magellanicus*

Common

MOCKINGBIRDS

RR Chilean Mockingbird - *Mimus thenca* Monotypic CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Very common in Central Chile.

The species is spreading to the south and is now even breeding on Chiloe Island. There are also a few sightings in Argentina, so the species should not be considered any more a Chilean endemic...

PIPITS

Correndera Pipit - *Anthus correndera*

A few flushed in the Lampa wetlands, belonging to the *chilensis* subspecies

TANAGERS

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus gayi*

Common on the way to Farellones

Mourning Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus fruticeti*

Several seen near a spring on the way to Farellones

Band-tailed Sierra-finch – *Phrygilus alaudinus*

Several seen on the way to Farellones

Common Diuca-Finch - *Diuca diuca*

Common in Central Chile

Greater Yellow-finches – *Sicalis auriventris*

Common at high elevation, around Farellones and valle Nevado.

Grassland Yellow-Finch - *Sicalis luteola luteiventris*

About 10 at the Lampa wetlands.

Meyer de Schauensee (1966) and Ridgely & Tudor (1989) suggested that the southern subspecies *luteiventris* might represent a separate species from *Sicalis luteola*, and it was treated as such by Sibley & Monroe (1990) and AOU (<?> 1983, 1998). Meyer de Schauensee (1966), Ridgely & Tudor (1989), and Hilty (2003) also suggested that the subspecies *bogotensis* might deserve species rank.

SPARROWS

Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis*

Common

BLACKBIRDS

Yellow-winged Blackbird - *Agelaius thilius*

Several seen flying above the reeds at the Lampa wetlands.

Long-tailed Meadowlark - *Sturnella loyca*

Three seen at Yerba Loca

Austral Blackbird – *Curaeus curaeus*

Fairly common on the way to Farellones

FINCHES

Black-chinned Siskin - *Sporagra barbata* Monotypic

Common at Farellones

Yellow-rumped Siskin – *Carduelis uropygialis*

One seen briefly on the way to Valle Nevado

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*

10 at the Lampa wetlands.

MAMMAL LIST

CTENOMYIDAE

Coruro - *Spalacopus cygnus*

One seen briefly at Farellones where huge colonies are found.



The Coruro is easily seen at the large colonies found near Valle Nevado

CANIDAE

Culpeo Fox – *Lycalopex culpaeus*

One seen at Valle Nevado