

A REPORT FOR A BIRDING TRIP

7 DAYS IN CENTRAL CHILE

January 22th - 27th + February 9th 2011



Trip Leader: Fabrice Schmitt

Participant: Jon Franzen

Always surrounded by amazing landscapes, Chile offers the most scenic birding in South America and some of the most beautiful birds.

Travelling to Chile to write a story for the New Yorker, Jon decided to add a few days to his professional trip to bird as much as possible. Before to meet him in Santiago, Jon just did a few days in Patagonia and after our 6 days in Central Chile, Jon flew to the Juan Fernandez Islands. On the way back from the islands, we did a last day together, looking for the sought-after Diademed Sandpiper Plover and a few more species we haven't seen yet.

Here is a report for the species seen during the 7 days we spent together. A fantastic trip actually, with 151 species seen and lots of fun!!

The highlights of the trip were excellent views on all Chilean Tapaculos, 3 Rufous-tailed Hawk seen very well, 7 Black Rails (mostly heard), the stunning Diademed Sandpiper Plover, a close view of a singing Chilean Tinamou, the recently splitted Ticking Doradito, and all the endemic species present in Central Chile!!

If you want to see pictures of Chilean birds visit the Fabrice's gallery:

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

ITINERARY

January 22nd, Yerba Loca, Farellones, Valle Nevado

Early start to the Yerba Loca reserve. A good beginning with already some good endemics like Moustached Turca, Dusky-tailed Canastero, Chilean Mockingbird, and even a White-throated Tapaculo!

Around Farellones, we had good views on a few Condors, Rufous-banded Miners, a Black-billed Shrike-tyrant and even a few Black-faced Ibis. A pair of Rufous-naped Ground-



Moustached Turca, picture Fabrice Schmitt

tyrant was feeding near our pic-nic table. Arriving at Valle Nevado in the afternoon, we took the sky lift to reach the 3200 m elevation where Creamy-rumped Miner and Ochre-fronted Ground-tyrant are common.
Night in Santiago.

January 23rd, Lampa sewage pond, Colbún lake and Altos de Lircay NP.

We spent the first hours of our day at La Cadellada sewage pond, near Lampa. A stinky place, but full of birds!! There, we saw most of the possible wildfowl species present in Central Chile: Rosy-billed Pochard, great numbers of Black-headed Ducks, 5 Coscoroba Swans, etc.... After a couple of hours birding there, we drove 4 hours to reach Talca and Vilches, at the base of the Altos de Lircay NP.

On the way we stopped at the Colbún lake, where we had good views on a close group of Burrowing Parakeet.

The Altos de Lircay protects a spectacular *Nothofagus* forest and related birds.

During our first visit of the park, at the end of the afternoon, we found a cooperative pair of Striped Woodpecker, a few Chilean Pigeon and the common Thorn-tailed Rayadito and White-throated Treerunner.

Night in Vilches.

January 24th, Altos de Lircay, Cerro Nielol

A very successful morning in Altos de Lircay NP. In only a few hours, we had great views on all our targets here: Chestnut-throated Huet-huet, Chucao and Magellanic Tapaculo, Chilean Hawk, White-throated Hawk, the wonderful Magellanic Woodpecker, a pair of Patagonian Tyrant.... Amazing!!! The original plan was to stay a full day here, but at 10 a.m. we were already driving to Temuco!



The *bloxami* subspecies of Burrowing Parakeet is endemic to Chile, picture Fabrice Schmitt

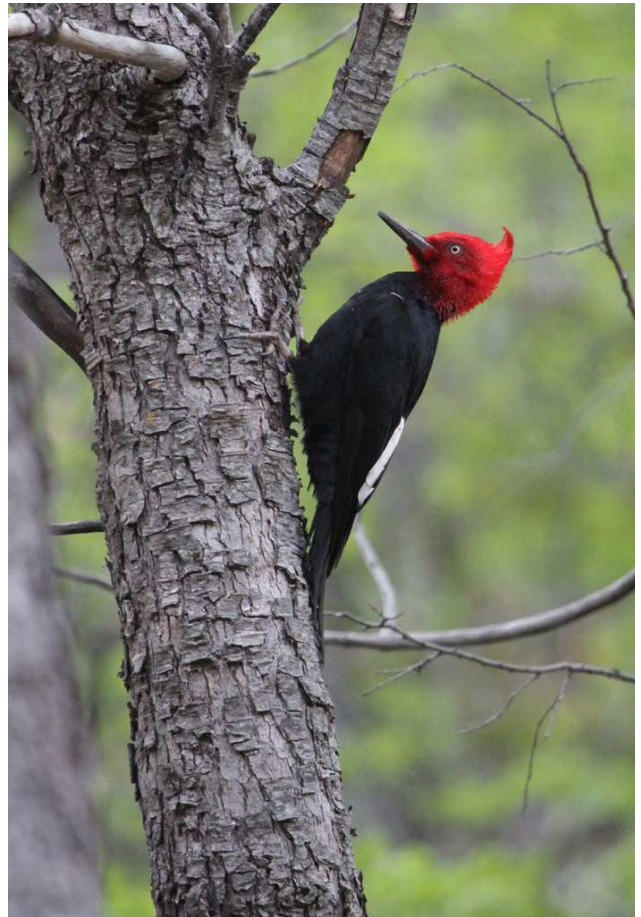
After 6 hours driving, we arrived to our destination and spent the last hours of the day birding the Cierro Nielol reserve. We quickly found a few Black-throated Huet-huet and found a very cooperative Des Mur's Wiretail. Night in Temuco.

January 25th, around Temuco

Helped by our local friends Victor Raimilla and Heraldo Norambuena, our first birds of the day were 3 Rufous-tailed Hawks seen close to their nest!! A rare bird usually difficult to see, and a Chile tik for Fabrice!

After that, we spent the day looking for the last birds we haven't seen yet in the area, and have been very successful: a singing Chilean Tinamou seen at less than 20 meters, a Hellmayr's Pipit, Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, a few Slender-billed Parakeets, and last but not least we even found an Aplomado Falcon!!

This Aplomado Falcon was a real surprise and probably one of the birds of the trip for Jon!
Night in Temuco.



A male Magellanic Woodpecker in Altos de Lircay, picture Fabrice Schmitt



One of the Rufous-tailed Hawk seen near Temuco, picture Fabrice Schmitt.

January 26th, drive back to Santiago

A long drive back to Santiago (9 hours...) with almost no birding.

We just stopped to a known wetland near Chillan where we easily found a few Ticking Doradito (one of the rarest Chilean birds), Spectacled Tyrant, and where we even heard 2 Black Rails!

Night in Santiago

January 27th, Cartagena, El Peral lake, Punta de Tralca, Algarrobo

We began our day birding the extremely dirty and polluted beaches of Cartagena, but that's where we found one of the last Chilean endemics, the Seaside Cinclodes.

At El Peral, we rapidly found our last Rhinocriptidae, a Dusky Tapaculo singing in a bush at only 2 meters from us! But there, we also found the secretive Stripe-backed Bittern and no less than 5 singing Black Rails (we just had glimpses on them, but that counts!!).

On the way north, we stopped an hour at Punta Tralca, one of the best sea watching places in Chile. We got a few tubenoses including Salvin's Albatross, but the best bird here were clearly a few Peruvian Diving-Petrels.

After our lunch, we stopped at Algarrobo where a few Humboldt Penguins are breeding between thousands of Peruvian Pelicans!

Night in Santiago

Jon visited Juan Fernandez Island from January 28th to February 8th.

February 9th, El Yeso area

Leaving Santiago very early, we stopped several times looking for Austral Pygmy-owl, and after a long search we finally got one... amazing how that species can be easy or tricky according to the time of the year!!

On the way to El Yeso we had nice views on a pair of Torrent Duck, and a few Crag Chilia.

At El Yeso, we rapidly found our target of the day, the superb Diademed Sandpiper Plover!

Other nice species of the days included a large group of Condors feeding on a dead horse, and 3 Band-winged Nightjar flushed near the El Yeso dam.

Night in Santiago



El Yeso is one of the best places in the World to see the fantastic Diademed Sandpiper Plover, picture Fabrice Schmitt

BIRDLIST

Conservation Status (in red) follows Birdlife International (2009)

<http://www.birdlife.org/index.html>

Taxonomy mostly follows South American Classification Committee (December 2010)

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

(H) heard only

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

TINAMOUS

RR Chilean Tinamou **Nothoprocta perdicaria**

Excellent view on a close bird near Temuco where we heard 2 more birds.

DUCKS

Black-necked Swan **Cygnus melancoryphus**

A few on the coast

Coscoroba Swan **Coscoroba coscoroba**

5 at the sewage pond near Santiago

Upland Goose **Chloephaga picta**

5 at Colbún lake and 16 more around and above El Yeso dam.

Torrent Duck **Merganetta armata**

A pair seen on the way to El Yeso.

Crested Duck **Lophonetta specularioides**

3 birds seen far away above the El Yeso dam.

Chiloe Wigeon **Anas sibilatrix**

Common in the wetlands around Santiago

Yellow-billed Teal **Anas flavirostris**

Fairly common around Santiago. The birds in the north of the country refer to the *oxyptera* subspecies, with all the others belonging to the *flavirostris* subspecies. These two subspecies are quite distinctive and are sometimes supposed to be full species.

Yellow-billed Pintail **Anas georgica**

Common around Santiago.

White-cheeked Pintail **Anas bahamensis**
25+ seen on the sewage pond near Santiago.

Silver Teal **Anas versicolor**
1 at the sewage pond near Santiago. A rare bird in Central Chile, but few birds are usually wintering at the Batuco/Lampa wetlands.

Cinnamon Teal **Anas cyanoptera**
100+ at the sewage pond and 20+ at El Peral lake.

Red Shoveler **Anas platalea**
2000+ seen at the sewage pond near Santiago; this area probably holds the highest concentration for that species for all Chile.

Rosy-billed Pochard **Netta peposaca**
5 seen at the sewage pond near Santiago.

Black-headed Duck **Heteronetta atricapilla**
At least 250 birds seen on the sewage plant near Santiago. The Black-headed Duck is the only parasitic duck species in the world. As its usual hosts are the Red-gartered and Red-fronted Coots, this duck usually stays inside the reed beds and riparian vegetation, and so is usually difficult to see. But around Santiago, sometimes large numbers (to 800 !!) are found at the Batuco Lake or at the Cadellada sewage plant.
5 more seen at El Peral lake.

Lake Duck **Oxyura vittata**
Common around Santiago.

NEW WORLD QUAIL

California Quail **Callipepla californica**
Common in all Central Chile. This introduced species is now more common in Chile than in California!

GREBES

White-tufted Grebe **Rollandia Rolland**
20 at the sewage plant near Santiago and 30+ at the El Peral lake.

Pied-billed Grebe **Podilymbus podiceps**
5 at the sewage plant near Santiago and 5 more at the El Peral lake.

Great Grebe **Podiceps major**
20 at the Colbún Lake, and 2 more at the El Peral lake.

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*

10 seen around Santiago. These birds belong to the *occipitalis* subspecies (very different to the *juninensis* subspecies found in the north of the country or in Peru; a forthcoming split is possible here).

PENGUINS

Humboldt Penguin *Spheniscus humboldti* **Vulnerable**

45 seen at the breeding colony near Algarrobo.

ALBATROSSES

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* **Vulnerable**

10 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca.

This is a recent and accepted split from Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*).

SHEARWATERS

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* **Near-threatened**

25 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca.

The largest colony for this widespread species is on the Chilean Guafo Island (south of Chiloé Island) with more than 4 millions birds!

Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus* **Vulnerable**

5 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca.

This shearwater, which makes a long migration through the Pacific, is a Chilean endemic breeder with 95% of the population breeding on Mocha Island. Should be renamed Mocha Shearwater!!

DIVING-PETRELS

Peruvian Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides garnotii* **Endangered**

15 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca.

PELICANS

Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* **Near-threatened**

200 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca, and 1500+ at the breeding colony near Algarrobo.

This is a recent and accepted split from the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

BOOBIES

Peruvian Booby ***Sula variegata***

50 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca, and 200+ at the breeding colony near Algarrobo.

CORMORANTS

Neotropic Cormorant ***Phalacrocorax brasilianus***

A common species in Chile, found in most of the wetlands visited and along the coast.

Guanay Cormorant ***Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*** **Near-threatened**

50 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca.

HERONS

Stripe-backed Bittern ***Ixobrychus involucris***

1 seen very well after a long search at the El Peral lake.

Black-crowned Night-heron ***Nycticorax nycticorax***

1 seen at the sewage pond near Santiago, and 10 more at the El Peral lake where the species is breeding.

Cattle Egret ***Bubulcus ibis***

Fairly common in central Chile.

Cocoi Heron ***Ardea cocoi***

2 at the sewage pond and 2 more at the Colbún lake.

Great Egret ***Ardea alba***

Seen in small numbers in central Chile.

Snowy Egret ***Egretta thula***

Fairly common, with 50+ at the breeding colony at El Peral lake.

IBISES

Black-faced Ibis ***Theristicus melanopis***

9 seen at Farellones near Santiago, where the species is uncommon, and 5 at Colbún Lake. A very common species in the south of the country.

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture **Cathartes aura**

A few seen here and there. All these birds belong to the *jota* subspecies. More than one species may be involved in the Turkey Vulture group.

Andean Condor **Vultur gryphus** **Near-threatened**

We had great views of the largest flying birds of the World during our first day birding around Santiago, with 10 birds seen.

But the best show was definitely that group of 26 birds feeding or circling above a dead horse in the El Yeso valley!!

HAWKS

White-tailed Kite **Elanus leucurus**

Two seen near Santiago.

Bicolored (Chilean) Hawk **Accipiter bicolor chilensis**

1 seen at the Altos de Lircay NP, while searching for the Chestnut-throated Huet-huet!

The *chilensis* subspecies, the only one found in Chile, is treated as a valid species by many authors.

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

2 seen our first day near Yerba Loca.

Harris's Hawk **Parabuteo unicinctus**

A few sightings.

White-throated Hawk **Buteo albigula**

1 soaring above the Altos de Lircay NP was the only sighting of the trip.

Variable Hawk **Buteo polyosoma**

Regular sightings during the trip.

Rufous-tailed Hawk **Buteo ventralis**

A rare and difficult bird to see. But our friends Victor Raimilla and Heraldo Norambuena who found a nest near Temuco helped us to find it. And we did well with one adult and 2 flying juveniles seen very close. Thanks to Victor and Heraldo!! A Chile tik for Fabrice!

FALCONS

Southern Caracara **Caracara plancus**

Fairly common in the south of the country.

This is a recent and accepted split from Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*).

Mountain Caracara Phalcoboenus megalopterus

3 birds seen in the highlands at Farellones.

Chimango Caracara Milvago chimango

A very common species in the center and south of the country.

American Kestrel Falco sparverius

Regular sightings during the trip.

Aplomado Falcon Falco femoralis

The bird of the trip for Jon!!!!

A seldom seen species in Central Chile and we have been lucky with this one!

For the story: Fabrice stopped near a field and told something like "if there is place around Temuco where we have a chance to find an Aplomado Falcon, it should be here!" and less than 5 minutes latter a bird arrived, flew overhead, and perched on a post in front of us.... Amazing!!!!

A lifer for Jon who looked for that one for years!

Another Aplomado Falcon was seen the following day on the way back to Santiago.

RAILS

Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis

2 heard on a wetland on the way back to Santiago, and 5 heard at the El peral lake where we had short glimpses on that elusive species.

Plumbeous Rail Pardirallus sanguinolentus

A few birds seen and much more heard.

Spot-flanked Gallinule Gallinula melanops

15 at the El Peral lake.

Red-gartered Coot Fulica armillata

A common coot in Chile

Red-fronted Coot Fulica rufifrons

Common in central Chile.

White-winged Coot Fulica leucoptera

A few seen in central Chile.

PLOVERS

Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis

Very common and noisy!!

Jaramillo comments "two groups exist, southern 'Chilean Lapwing' (*chilensis* and *fretensis*) and more northern and eastern 'Cayenne Lapwing' (*cayannensis* and *lampronotus*). The two differ in structure, plumage, crest length and colour, soft-part coloration and voice". Jaramillo is currently researching this issue. More than one species is probably involved.

Diademed Sandpiper Plover Phegornis mitchellii

1 seen at the usual breeding place at El Yeso. What a stunning shorebird!!

OYSTERCATCHERS

American Oystercatcher Haematopus palliatus

5 seen near Cartagena.

AVOCETS and STILTS

Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus melanurus

40 seen at the sewage plant near Santiago, and about 40 more on the coast. All these birds belong to the *melanurus* subspecies, sometimes considered as a distinct species.

SANDPIPERS

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus

Usually fairly common along the Chilean coast but we only saw 5 birds near Cartagena.

SACC comment: Zink et al. (1995) proposed a return to earlier classifications (e.g., Ridgway 1919) that considered New World *hudsonicus* to be a separate species from Old World populations based on genetic distance. Although plumage pattern also differs substantially, vocalizations are evidently very similar, in contrast to the many allotaxa in the Scolopacidae treated as a separate species.

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes

1 at the sewage pond near Santiago and 5 at the El Peral lake.

Wilson's Phalarope Phalaropus tricolor

1 at the sewage pond near Santiago.

SEEDSNIPES

Gray-breasted Seedsnipe Thinocorus orbignyianus

2 seen at Vallee Nevado, and nice views on several birds above El Yeso dam.

SKUAS

Chilean Skua *Stercorarius chilensis*

1 seen from the shore while seawatching at Punta Tralca.

GULLS

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*

15 seen on Colbún Lake, near Talca.

Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

A common gull at Cartagena and El Peral lake.

Gray Gull *Leucophaeus modestus*

5 seen at Cartagena.

All the world's population breeds in the Atacama Desert in the north of Chile, very far from the ocean or any wetlands. The adults cross the desert every day to reach the Pacific coast where most of them will look for their food on the sandy beaches. After the breeding season, they spread along the Peruvian and Chilean coasts.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

50+ at the sewage pond near Santiago and small groups on the coast.

A nearctic migrant seen in huge numbers in Chile during the boreal winter. The Franklin's Gull makes one of the longest migrations of any gull, and is the only gull species undergoing two complete molts in a year.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Common everywhere along the Pacific coast.

SKIMMERS

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

3 seen on the coast belonging to the *cinerascens* subspecies.

The SACC comments that Sibley & Monroe (1990) and Zusi (1996) considered *Rynchops niger* to form a superspecies with African *R. flavirostris* and Asian *R. albicollis*; justification for treating them as separate species is weak; in fact, Jaramillo (2003) pointed out that the differences between the Amazonian subspecies *cinerascens* and nominate *niger* are as great as those between *R. flavirostris* and nominate *niger*. The subspecies *cinerascens*, common for most of South America, was formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1919) considered a separate species

from *R. nigra*, but Peters (1934) treated them as conspecific; this treatment has been followed in most subsequent classifications.

PIGEONS

Picui Ground-Dove ***Columbina picui***

Fairly common in central Chile.

Black-winged Ground-Dove ***Metriopelia melanoptera***

15+ seen our first day around Farellones.

Rock Pigeon ***Columba livia***

An introduced species present in most cities.

RR Chilean Pigeon ***Patagioenas araucana***

Nice views near Vilches.

Eared Dove ***Zenaida auriculata***

A common species in Chile.

PARROTS

Burrowing Parakeet ***Cyanoliseus patagonus***

At least 30 individuals at the Colbún lake. These birds belong to the endangered *bloxami* subspecies, endemic to Chile.

Austral Parakeet ***Enicognathus ferrugineus***

A few seen at the Colbún lake and near Vilches.

RR Slender-billed Parakeet ***Enicognathus leptorhynchus***

5 seen very well near Temuco.

Monk Parakeet ***Myiopsitta monachus***

A feral species common in Santiago.

OWLS

Great Horned Owl ***Bubo virginianus magellanicus***

Excellent view of 3 birds on their diurnal roost near Santiago.

The SACC comments: 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 two 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.]

Rufous-legged Owl *Strix rufipes*

3 birds calling very close at dusk at the Cerro Nielol reserve. Just a glimpse on flying birds...

Austral Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium nanum*

Several heard, and finally one seen after a long search on the way to El Yeso!

NIGHTJARS

Band-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus longirostris*

3 flushed near El Yeso, seen very well!!

HUMMINGBIRDS

Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephaniodes*

Excellent views at Altos de Lircay NP and common farther South.

White-sided Hillstar *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus*

A male seen very well near Farellones.

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*

The largest hummingbird in the world!

We had great views of this species around Santiago. The last ones of the season!

This species is migrating and the last ones are seen the first week of March.

WOODPECKERS

Striped Woodpecker *Veniliornis lignarius*

Several sightings.

Chilean Flicker *Colaptes pitius*

A few sightings including excellent views on the way to Farellones.

Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus*

We had long and spectacular views of a pair at the Altos de Lircay NP, near Talca.

OVENBIRDS

Creamy-rumped Miner *Geositta isabellina*

3 birds seen above Valle Nevado, including one seen very close and coming to the tape, and 3 more in the El Yeso valley.

Rufous-banded Miner *Geositta rufipennis*

20+ seen around Farellones, and more on the way to El Yeso. These birds belong to the *fasciata* subspecies.

RR Crag Chilia *Ochetorhynchus melanurus*

Good view near Farellones and 2 very cooperative birds on the way to El Yeso. A beautiful Chilean endemic.

Scale-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia dumetaria*

Two seen around Farellones, and at least five different birds around El Yeso.

Buff-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*

Common in the highlands above Santiago.

A recent split accepted by the SACC, dividing the Bar-winged Cinclodes in 3 species.

Gray-flanked Cinclodes *Cinclodes oustaleti*

A single bird seen around Farellones, and a few more on the way to El Yeso.

Dark-bellied Cinclodes *Cinclodes patagonicus*

One seen on the way to Farellones.

Seaside Cinclodes *Cinclodes nigrofumosus*

A Chilean endemic, related to the Surf Cinclodes endemic to Peru.

1 seen on the rocky shore at Cartagena.

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops*

Common vocally in the reedbeds near Santiago, where we had some good views of a few birds.

Thorn-tailed Rayadito *Aphrastura spinicauda*

Very common in Altos de Lircay and at Cierro Nielol reserve.

Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*

2 birds seen on the way to Farellones. These belong to the *aegithaloides* subspecies.

Des Murs's Wiretail *Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*

A tiny bird with an extremely long tail!!!

Excellent views near Temuco.

Cordilleran Canastero *Asthenes modesta*

3 seen at Farellones, and few more near El Yeso.

Sharp-billed Canastero *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*

2 seen very well near Farellones, where it is breeding nearby the preceding species, but in different habitat.

RR Dusky-tailed Canastero *Asthenes humicola*

3 seen on the way to Farellones.

White-throated Treerunner *Pygarrichas albogularis*

Common in Altos de Lircay NP.

TAPACULOS

RR Chestnut-throated Huet-huet *Pteroptochos castaneus*

Excellent views in Altos de Lircay NP. A spectacular tapaculo, almost endemic to Chile!

RR Black-throated Huet-huet *Pteroptochos tarnii*

Excellent views on several birds near Temuco.

RR Moustached Turca *Pteroptochos megapodius*

A very big tapaculo, easy to see in the open!!! Wonderful!!
We had great views of this species around Santiago.

RR White-throated Tapaculo *Scelorchilus albicollis*

Excellent close views on a very cooperative birds near Santiago. My favorite one!

RR Chucao Tapaculo *Scelorchilus rubecula*

Excellent views at Altos de Lircay NP, and Cerro Nielol.

RR Ochre-flanked Tapaculo *Eugralla paradoxa*

Perfect views after some efforts near Temuco.

Magellanic Tapaculo *Scytalopus magellanicus*

Almost walking on our feet!!! A super close and excellent view!!

RR Dusky Tapaculo *Scytalopus fuscus*

Another excellent view, with a bird singing for a while at only 2 meters from us!!!

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

Common in most of Chile. All the ones seen belong to the *chilensis* subspecies. Keep track of these subspecies for a forthcoming armchair tick!

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*

Some excellent views of this very cute bird around Santiago

Ticking Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx citreola*

1 seen too briefly at the sewage plant near Santiago, but latter we had excellent views on at least 10 birds near Chillan.

Many-colored Rush Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra*

One of the most colorful tyrant-flycatchers !

We had great views of this bird in the wetlands around Santiago.

Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa*

1 seen on the coast, at Cartagena.

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus*

At least 10 birds near Chillan.

Ochre-naped Ground-tyrant *Muscisaxicola flavinucha*

Excellent views on at least 10 birds above Valle Nevado

Rufous-naped Ground-tyrant *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*

2 birds seen at their usual spot near farellones.

White-browed Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albilora*

Common in the highlands above Santiago near Farellones and El Yeso.

Black-fronted Ground-tyrant *Muscisaxicola frontalis*

10 birds seen on the alpine habitat near Vallee Nevado and a few more above El Yeso.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*

One seen near Farellones.

Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope*

Common in Altos de Lircay NP and farther south.

Patagonian Tyrant *Colorhamphus parvirostris*

A pair breeding in Altos de Lircay NP. The breeding of this species in Altos de Lircay have been found by Fernando Diaz in 2009, and constitute a major range extension in Chile.

COTINGAS

Rufous-tailed Plantcutter *Phytotoma rara*

Excellent sighting on the coast. The only Cotinga in Chile!

SWALLOWS

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*
Common.

Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*
Common.

WRENS

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*
A common species. These birds belong to the *musculus* group and may be split from the ones present in North America.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*
Seen in the meadows around Temuco

THRUSHES

Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii*
Common from Santiago to Patagonia

MOCKINGBIRDS

RR Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus thenca*
Common in central Chile

PIPITS

Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*
Several seen around Temuco, when searching for the following species.

Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri*
Thanks to the Victor and Heraldo's help, we manage to have a great view on a singing bird near Temuco.
This species is now known from more and more localities in Chile.

SPARROWS

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Very common. Seen everywhere.

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch **Phrygilus gayi**

Common in the highlands above Santiago.

Patagonian Sierra-Finch **Phrygilus patagonicus**

Common in the forested areas such as Altos de Lircay.

Mourning Sierra-Finch **Phrygilus fruticeti**

20+ birds seen on the way to Farellones.

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch **Phrygilus unicolor**

Two birds seen on the way to El Yeso.

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch **Phrygilus alaudinus**

2 seen very well near Farellones.

Common Diuca-Finch **Diuca diuca**

Common in central Chile

Greater Yellow-Finch **Sicalis auriventris**

Common in the highlands above Santiago, around Farellones and El Yeso.

Grassland Yellow-Finch **Sicalis luteola luteiventris**

A few groups seen around Temuco and near Chillan.

SACC comments that 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). This split, unaccepted by the SACC, was called Misto Yellow-Finch.

BLACKBIRDS

Austral Blackbird **Curaeus curaeus**

Commonly seen in central and south Chile.

Yellow-winged Blackbird **Agelasticus thilius**

A common bird in the wetlands around Santiago.

Shiny Cowbird **Molothrus bonariensis**

A few seen in Santiago, where this parasitic species usually lays his eggs in Rufous-collared Sparrow or Common Diuca-finch nests.

Long-tailed Meadowlark **Sturnella loyca**

A common species in Chile seen several times from Santiago to Temuco.

FINCHES

Yellow-rumped Siskin **Carduelis uropygialis**

A small group on the way to El Yeso.

Black-chinned Siskin **Carduelis barbata**

A common species, seen almost daily.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow **Passer domesticus**

Too common.