



A [Tropical Birding](#) SET DEPARTURE tour

# NW ARGENTINA: High Andes, Yungas and Monte Desert and IGUAZU FALLS Extension

1-15 December 2016

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*A combination of breathtaking landscapes and stunning birds are what define this tour. Clockwise from bottom left: **Cerro de los 7 Colores** in the Humahuaca Valley, a World Heritage Site; **Wedge-tailed Hillstar** at Yavi; **Ochre-collared Piculet** on the Iguazu Falls Extension; and one of the innumerable angles of one of the World's-must-visit destinations, **Iguazu Falls**.*

## Introduction:

This is the only tour that I guide where I feel that the scenery is as impressive (or even surpasses) the birds themselves. This is not to say that the birds are dull on this tour, far from it. Some of the avian highlights included wonderfully jeweled *hummingbirds* like **Wedge-tailed Hillstar** and **Red-tailed Comet**; getting **EXCELLENT views of 4 Tinamou species** of, (a rare thing on all South American tours except this one); **nearly 20 species of ducks, geese and swans**, with highlights being repeated views of **Torrent Ducks**, the rare and oddly, parasitic **Black-headed Duck**, the beautiful **Rosy-billed Pochard**, and the mountain-dwelling **Andean Goose**. And we should not forget other popular bird features like **3 species of Flamingos on one lake**, **11 species of Woodpeckers**, including the hulking **Cream-backed**, colorful **Yellow-fronted** and minuscule **Ochre-collared Piculet** on the extension to *Iguazu Falls*. Dozens of **Andean Condors** were also seen on 5 different days of the tour; as were **ALL of the Argentinian endemics in range on this itinerary**; **Southern Screamers**, and seemingly endless numbers of *furnariids*, *finches*, *sierra-finches*, *warbling-finches*, *yellow-finches*, *diuca-finches*, *pipits*, and last, but by no means least, the highly sought-after **Rufous-throated Dipper**.



In spite of the impressive list of beautiful birds, the beauty of *the areas* we visited was what left us breathless; Argentina has some the most impressive backdrops to birding scenes anywhere. Evidence of the extraordinary beauty of *Iguazu Falls* even left a famous North American person nearly speechless; “Even the late U.S. First

Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was reportedly so impressed when she saw them that she purportedly said ‘*Poor Niagara*’.” (Taken from CNN’s “Bucket List of Travel” program).

And, this is real, not merely hyperbole. When we stood on the viewpoint near the *Devil’s Throat* (the iconic narrowest section of the falls), my mind went blank, and I was probably not alone in having a memorable moment of internal peace, brought upon me by the extraordinary scene in front of my eyes. *Iguazu* was not the only place of extraordinary beauty on this tour that brought about such inner peace, as dramatic scenery is near daily on this unique tour. We also observed spectacular multicolored rock formations, as we drove alongside *La Quebrada de Humahuaca*, a UNESCO World Heritage site; and I should also mention the astonishing *Quebrada de la Conchas* too. Such sites were so regular it made us feel like we should stop around every corner, just to admire the sculpted mountains that not even the most gifted of all the renaissance artists could have imagined.



Lastly, especially for me as a self-confessed “foodie”, gastronomy was also a nice feature of this tour once again. We crossed many areas that are internationally famous for producing high quality wines. Some of the wine-orientated participants, who knew their wines extremely well, were exceedingly happy with the nightly opportunities to drink excellent regional wines at very reasonable prices that could only be dreamed of back home. And for the meat lovers, Argentina exports to the World some of the most tender and tasty beef on the market; many of our meals included juicy, tender, flavorful steaks, cooked as the Argentinians say, “al punto”, meaning “just right”. With fine wines, excellent steaks, near daily magnificent landscapes, to stand

alongside an outstanding list of birds, it's hard to understand why this tour isn't more popular than it is! \*\*\*Photos in the introduction: *Band-tailed Sierra-Finch* near Abra Pampa, and participants Mike and Jane enjoying just one of the many impressive angles of *Iguazu Falls*.

## Daily Summary: *Main Tour*

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tucuman to Tafi del Valle.** The day before, the whole group arrived into *Tucuman* and met first for dinner at the hotel restaurant, and to run through plans for this day. I would like to mention first that the breakfast plans on the main tour were quite varied; some days we enjoyed a late breakfast (for a birding tour), while other days required very early starts, to reach certain birding sites, and dictated that a simple breakfast betaken in the field, with no other options available to us in some remote areas. Even though, understandably, the group were hungry for birds on the first morning of the tour, we were still able to take a late, relaxed breakfast, and start our birding in the forested mountains relatively late compared with many other bird tours, but managed not to miss any birds in this tardy process. I should also mention that Argentina provided challenges, as it always does with dinner schedules. While birders, after long days in the field, may be keen to eat and early, and get to bed early, this is often just not possible in a part of the world where eating late is the norm, and so restaurants are often not even serving until 9pm at night. So, just by looking at the meal schedules-some later breakfast and regularly late dinners, you can see that this tour seems quite different from many others on the market, dictated by the cultural norms of the region, and country. Virtually our first birds of the trip were good ones, as we found the only **Southern Martins** of the trip flying around near the parking lot! A few hours later, we were deep in the mountains, where Yungas forest covered the slopes, as we wound our way up the meandering mountain road that paralleled the Rio Los Sosa. As we drove up this sinuous road, we made several stops, where we found endemics like **Yellow-striped Brush-Finch** (below), **Brown-capped Redstart**, **Mitred Parakeet**, **Crested Becard**, and **Fawn-breasted Tanager**, among many more.



However, the main target of the day there made us wait until much later, and therefore struck us with some early nerves. We tried and tried for *Rufous-throated Dipper* in the morning, making numerous stops along the closest sections of the river, looking for this inconspicuous species, but despite seemingly endless stretches of river that we scanned, we simply could not find it on this day. In this process, we did find an ample consolation prize, in the form of a family of **Torrent Ducks** that involved a pair with 3 or 4 chicks swimming away from us. We later found a couple of other individuals of this classic Andean duck in a few other spots too. A strange side story to the day occurred during one of our birding stops, when a passing car holding three young Argentinians stopped to moon us, before swiftly tearing away; an odd (and unexpected) welcome to the country!

By lunchtime, we arrived at our hotel in *Tafi del Valle*, quickly checked in, and went off in search of a local restaurant for lunch. After eating, we had a little time free to rest before the afternoon temperature dropped, and was our marker to head back out into the field. Mid-afternoon, we headed south to a reservoir near the city, and scanned the shores and open waters for a while, finding a couple of interesting birds like **White-winged, Slate-colored, and Red-gartered Coots**, and **Yellow-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed Teal, Cinnamon Teal**, and **Andean Gull**.



Later in the afternoon, we returned to the forested road alongside the *Rio Los Sosa* in the hope of finding the **Rufous-throated Dipper** we had missed earlier. Unlike in the morning, we found it, and it was in the same spot as the previous year, when it also gave similarly excellent views. This was a jumping-for-joy moment for one of the participants in particular, as this species represented her last dipper species to be seen in the world. The afternoon also saw us find another (though much less spectacular) regional Yungas specialty, **Large-tailed Dove**. We also found the first of many **Plus-crested Jays** and **Black-backed Grosbeaks** (*photo before*) before we headed back to our hotel for dinner, the checklist, and bed.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Infiernillo and Rio Los Sosa.** Early in the morning, we departed at dawn towards the drier mountains just north of Tafi, where many specialties and local targets awaited us. The first stops were made in areas that do not look initially particularly productive, but are rather disturbed with only scattered bushes growing within narrow mountain gorges, set within an area largely dominated by cattle farms. However, in spite of first impressions and appearances, this area was very productive indeed, and lifebirds came fast and furious. One of the main avian targets of the area did not make us wait too long and responded very well, a gorgeous **Tucuman Mountain-Finch** (photo below) an Argentine endemic.



In the same area, we also managed to track down another Argentine endemic, which was expected to be a lot more difficult, being a *Scytalopus* tapaculo after all. Unlike many of the others in this group, this one is striking, and also gave excellent looks; the **White-browed Tapaculo** perched out in the open a couple of times, on exposed rocks and atop some of the nearby bushes. We were also very happy with a fairly tame **Andean Tinamou** (photo next page) that walked in front of us back-and-forth, until it felt uncomfortable with our unexpected nearby presence, and suddenly burst into explosive flight! Other highlights in this area included, the first of many **Red-tailed Comets**, **Hellmayr's Pipit**, **Andean Flicker**, **White-winged Cinclodes**, and **Puna Canastero**. We then continued up the hill towards rockier, drier areas just before a mountain pass, where we found the only **Black Siskins** of the trip, together with **Buff-breasted Earthcreeper**, **Streak-fronted Thornbird**, **Cordilleran Canastero**, and the first of a handful of **White-browed Chat-Tyrants**.



*Andean Tinamou* in highland grasslands above *Tafi del Valle* and a *Brown-capped Whitestart*



Once up at the pass, the areas turned very dry and the vegetation more sparse, with more cacti and more scattered shrubs. The ground there is more exposed and barren, and subsequently ground-dwelling birds are easier to find. This is where we found the local **Scale-throated Earthcreeper**, the Argentine endemic **Steinbach's Canastero**, a lone **Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail**, the first of many **Greenish Yellow-Finches**, **Gray-hooded and Mourning Sierra-Finches**, **Patagonian Mockingbird**, and got great views of some **Gray-hooded Parakeets** (photo below). After a successful morning, we headed back to Tafi for lunch and even had



time for a short nap.

During the afternoon, we opted to go back to the Yungas forest to see if we could pick up a couple of extra species we had missed before. It was quite productive, since we found various new birds for the trip like **Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch**, **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner**, **Buff-banded Tyrannulet**, **Crested Becard**, and even a single **Tucuman Parrot** in flight for one lucky participant. A short stop back at the same reservoir as the day before, got us a couple **Andean Flamingos**, and we flushed a **South American Snipe** that sadly not everybody got to see. Back at the hotel, one of the participants spotted a **White-banded Mockingbird**, which was an unexpected find in this month, as this austral migrant species should have already departed south.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>: Infiernillo to Cafayate.** On this day we needed an early start, and departed *before* dawn and arrived at the same mountain pass we had visited the previous morning, in order to try for a couple of birds we did not see on our previous visit. This led us to find **Giant Hummingbird**, which proved to be the only of the entire trip. We continued on down the mountain towards the area of *Amaicha del Valle* where we had a few



specific target species to find; and were quite successful with many of these. Our first avian objective was to find another *Argentine endemic*, the **Sandy Gallito** (photo below), a ground-dweller that climbs into spiny trees when calling.

The same area also produced **Ringed Warbling-Finch**, **Greater Wagtail-Tyrant**, the first of many **Checkered Woodpeckers**, and another key Argentine endemic (after some work), the odd **White-throated Cacholote**.



Further along the road, closer to the area of *Quilmes*, there were some swampy areas that hosted a couple of interesting species like the brightly-colored **Long-tailed Meadowlark**, a couple of elegant **Spectacled Tyrants**, and a typically skulking **Sharp-billed Canastero** that gave us quite good views after some use of the tape. In a more forested patch we found **Stripe-crowned Spinetails**, a couple of **White-bellied Tyrannulets**, a single **Tufted Tit-Spinetail** as well as a couple of other species we had seen earlier on the trip.

We then moved on towards the *desert scrub* of *Quilmes* where we found the charismatic, and gregarious **White-fronted Woodpecker** (photo on next page) that nest in the tall cacti in this area. We also got scope views of **Glittering-bellied Emerald**, which proved to be one of the most popular birds of the day. On our way to lunch at a local hacienda located on an old vineyard, we stopped at a spot for **White-tipped Plantcutter** (photo on next page) and also saw the ghost-like **White Monjita** there too.



**White-fronted Woodpeckers** and **White-throated Cacholote** near *Quilmes Ruins*.



After one of the best meals of the trip in a very pleasant spot, we drove towards the wine capital of *Cafayate*, where our hotel was located. We checked in, and enjoyed a short rest during which time some of the participants spotted a group of **Andean Swifts** and a **Harris's Hawk** from the balcony of the hotel.



*Cafayate* is rightly famed for being the origin of some of the country's best wines, but amongst bird lovers is famous for **Burrowing Parrots** (photo above), as several large colonies live within the valley, where they congregate in large noisy flocks, as we were to discover. This large parrot is almost as big as one of the smaller macaws, and their loud calls can be heard over great distances. We saw lots on this day!

During the afternoon, there were not too many targets to find around *Cafayate*, but one particular bird was unlikely anywhere else on the tour, and so we put in considerable effort to find **Chaco Earthcreeper**, which we did after some time during a particularly hot and quiet period for birds.

#### **December 5<sup>th</sup>: Cafayate to Cachi.**

As there were no targets left in the immediate area we were located on this morning, we took a late breakfast and made a relaxed start to the day, after which we departed northwards. The highlight of the morning was not a bird, but the scenery, as we passed by one of the most incredible scenes in all of South America: *Quebrada de las Conchas*. This area is so astonishing that we were compelled to stop a number of times to take pictures, but also to walk inside some amazing rock formations that act like natural amphitheatres with such outstanding acoustics that symphonic orchestras have played in one of these to record Argentina's national anthem.



*El Anfiteatro one of the magical spots at **Quebrada de las Conchas** near Cafayate*

After passing through this idyllic area, we found ourselves in a completely different ecosystem, more similar to disturbed Chaco than to the previous pristine Andean cordilleras we had previously visited.

Here, we stopped a couple times to look for some lower elevation birds like **Black-crested Finch**, which was a little harder to find than expected, and then Terri found another excellent bird by scanning the surrounding fields, in the form of a **Brushland Tinamou** that was much less expected. We moved on from there, stopping for some delicious *Empanadas Salteñas* before we started climbing westwards back up into the Andes towards *Cachi*, via the famous *Cuesta del Obispo Road*.

We made few stops in the lower areas, but waited until we reached the dry higher portions of the road, where we had lunch and started birding immediately after. There are a few nice vegetated gorges and quebradas in this area that host an interesting set of birdlife. The principal target of the area made us wait, but finally showed up well, the local and uncommon **Rufous-bellied Saltator**. During the process of trying to find that bird, we also found a skulking **Maquis Canastero**, and the raucous **Rock Earthcreeper**, plus a lonely **Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant**, another **White-tipped Plantcutter** (photo below) and another of the big local targets, (and another country endemic), **Bare-faced Ground-Dove**, which we had previously missed on the tour.



Later, we hit an unexpected bump in the road, logistically-speaking, as the entrance gate to a beautiful area called *Valle Encantado* was closed, due to bad road conditions that cost us some birds that we'd been hoping to see. This prevented us from reaching the only spot we had for *Zimmer's Tapaculo* for example. We did find a couple of trip birds just by walking a couple hundred meters along the closed road though; we were prized with great open views of two different **Ornate Tinamous**, plus **Straight-billed Earthcreeper**, **Rufous-banded Miner**, and our first **Mountain Caracara** of the trip.

We then moved on down the road, where we scanned many kilometers for yet another *tinamou* species, the striking *Elegant Crested Tinamou*, which we failed to find that day, in spite of our considerable efforts. Finally, we arrived at the picturesque town of *Cachi* to rest following a long day of driving day, and a nice meal in a local restaurant in town.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>: Cachi to Salta.** An early start was needed on this day, and subsequently breakfast was taken in the field, in order to reach the best spot for the highly desired **Elegant Crested Tinamou** at an early hour when they are generally easier to see as they are also vocal at this hour. However, on arrival at the site, few birds were heard calling and those that were heard were at some distance away, causing more than a few nerves, for the guide at least! We rode on, and stopped in a series of spots, hoping to hear a closer individual. Happily, we did manage to track one down, and after some combined effort from the entire group, we all saw it very well indeed. This was already our *fourth tinamou species for the trip*, and the fourth seen *very well*.



We birded a for a couple more hours along the same road, post-tinamou, and saw a few nice things like some scattered groups of **Guanacos**, a displaying **Short-billed Pipit**, the first **Band-tailed Sierra-Finch** of the tour, and closer to the mountain pass, and still inside *Los Cardones National Park*, a very obliging **Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch** (photo above) had us stopping for pictures.

We didn't need to stop much along the higher areas of the road, having already got our targets in that habitat, and so focused on the lower portions of the road where Yungas forest is the dominant habitat. Here, we found **Slaty**, **Small-billed** and **Large Elaenias**, **Masked Yellowthroat** and a few *tanager* species too. Further along, we stopped at a stakeout for **Stripe-crowned Sparrow** and also got a bonus in the form of a pair of singing **Grassland Yellow-Finches**.



**Ringed Warbling-Finch** near Amaicha del Valle and **Blue-and-yellow Tanager** near Cafayate



We got into *San Lorenzo* on the outskirts of *Salta*, by lunchtime and ate in a very nice restaurant where we had one of the best steaks of the entire trip. A short rest as required after lunch, in order to digest the large portion of cow we had just eaten!

The weather didn't look promising during the afternoon, and we only managed to walk a little ways from the hotel (where we found our first **Dot-fronted Woodpecker**), when the rains started, and never stopped. We were only able to bird from the balcony due to the heavy rains, and so found little, save for **Tropical Pewee**, **Piratic and Variegated Flycatchers**, **Scaly-headed Parrot** and **White-bellied Hummingbird** (photo below).



**December 7<sup>th</sup>: Salta to Yala.** Another pre-dawn departure was required to reach an area near *Camino de la Cornisa* (between *Salta* and *Jujuy*), where there is a stakeout for the stunning *Scissor-tailed Nightjar*. We did see this great bird, but only after we luckily ran into another highly desired bird, the local **Montane Forest Screech-Owl** that we could not try for the previous night due to the heavy downpour. Excited and happy after these two great finds, we backtracked a little towards a popular birding spot, *Dique Campo Alegre*, a magnet for waterfowl. Here we found lots of good stuff, including a wandering **Jabiru** stork, a flock of **Coscoroba Swans**, **Rosy-billed Pochards**, **Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks**, **Great Grebes**, plus a few *teals* and *coots*. On the grassy fields surrounding the lake, and along the wooded areas, we found **Yellowish Pipit**, **Snail Kites**, **White-rumped and Tawny-headed Swallows**, and the only **Short-billed Canastero** of the tour.

Soon after, we started driving the *Cornisa Road*, a narrow and sinuous forested road that can hold a variety of good birds. We did a number of stops along the road and managed to pick up **White-winged and Green-backed Becards**, **White-browed Brush-Finch**, **Rufous-capped Antshrike**, **Golden-winged Cacique**, **Cinnamon Flycatcher** and **Orange-headed Tanager**. However, the star of the morning was a cooperative **Giant Antshrike** (photo next page) that came in from a long way away, but then stayed with us for ages. The



picture does not show it very well but this is a beast, basically a foot long and tastes a lot better than any Subway chicken sub!



By lunchtime we arrived at the small town of *Yala*, where we had lunch and after another short rest in the middle of the day, visited a famous Yungas forested road that runs parallel to the *Yala River*. The main target here was found very late in the day, the scarce and local **Red-faced Guan**; other birds we found that afternoon included **Plumbeous Black-Tyrant**, and **Andean Slaty-Thrush**, among others.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>: Yala to Abrapampa.** We had a few hours spare to visit the *Yala River* area again on this morning, in order to search for some of the birds we had missed on the previous, rainy afternoon. It was a good couple of hours, where we managed to get great views of **Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch**, see a pair of **Spot-breasted Thornbirds** at a nest, get the local subspecies of **Mountain Wren**, had a brief view of a female **Slender-tailed Woodstar**, observe the large **Dusky-legged Guan**, got further views of **Torrent Duck**, and picked up the modest **Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet**. Finally, we departed this area, knowing we had a long journey ahead of us...

We soon left behind the humid forest of *Yala*, and found ourselves back in dry Andean valleys once more. Even though the ride was long, the landscape we passed through was absolutely amazing, due to the nature of the **Quebrada de Humahuaca**, with its beautifully sculpted slopes, characterized by multicolored rocks with intricate patterns laden within them. Justifiably then, this area was declared a World Heritage site in 2003. We took a little detour to delight our eyes with one of the most stunning corners of this valley, the famous **Cerro de los 7 colores** (photo below), which looked like a fairy tale brought to life...



We had lunch in the tiny town of *Humahuaca*, when a brave couple in the group dared to try the local *Llama* stew! After this, we continued northwards, reaching *Abra Pampa* by mid-afternoon. We checked in to our modest hotel, and later went out to check a couple of birding spots near town.

We were disappointed to find that a couple of the small lakes and ponds we were due to check, were completely dry this year, with no sign of life at all. We had to do some further scanning to find distant birds, but did manage to find **Crested Duck**, **Andean Negritos**, and three species of **Flamingo**, **Andean**, **Puna** and **Chilean** by doing so. At a different spot, we found **Puna Yellow-Finches**, the first **Golden-spotted Ground-Doves** of the tour, two or three **Slender-billed Miners**, and a pair of the highly sought after **Andean Avocet** (photo below).



**Dec. 9: Laguna de Pozuelos to La Quiaca.** Another very early departure (plus breakfast on the field) was necessary on this day, to ensure we arrived at the famous lake of Pozuelos by dawn. A frigid dawn greeted us at this high Andean spot, and after a coffee in the field, we found the Plain-breasted form of **Buff-breasted Earthcreeper**, a **Cordilleran Canastero**, and a **Puna Miner**.

We then moved towards the lake itself, scanning the grounds around the lake, where we were rewarded with short but good views of **Gray-breasted Seedsnipe**, some **Yellow-billed Cavi**, (an Andean ancestor of the Guinea Pig), and got closer looks at **Ornate Tinamous**. Once at the lake, we struggled to find birds at close range since the drought had dried out much of this immense lake, and we needed to scan with the scopes to find just a couple of **Giant Coots** (which are usually abundant at the site), a few **Puna Plovers**, and the expected **three species of flamingos**, but farther away than we had seen the day before.



*Ornate Tinamou* and *Puna Miner* allowed us a close approach.



Since we could not get any closer to the distant birds in *Pozuelos*, we decided to go try another lake closeby, named *Lagunilla* but needed to walk the final 3km due to very poor road conditions preventing further progress by vehicle. Just three of the participants decided to take part in this tough quest to this other lake for the rare and nomadic *Horned Coot*, the rarest of the world's coot species. Unfortunately, in spite of our efforts we were greeted with another dried out lake, and therefore no coots to speak of.

After this disappointing "quest", we began the long journey towards the border city of *La Quiaca* where we spent the next two nights. After our arrival, we rested for short time while temperatures were high, before taking a late afternoon trip to the quaint town of *Yavi*. This attractive little town is an excellent birding site, where many birds can be found around the abandoned buildings, this is where we found the local **Brown-backed Mockingbird**, the cute **Citron-headed Yellow-Finch** (photo below), **Creamy-bellied Canastero**, and many **Spot-winged Pigeons**. By the time we made a failed attempt at finding *Tawny-throated Dotterel* (which we never did find), where we did see a couple of **Least Seedsnipes**, we decided to head back to the hotel for dinner and a deserved rest after another long driving day.



**December 10<sup>th</sup>: Santa Victoria Mountains and Yavi.** Departing before dawn, we arrived to the base of this mountain range quite early and started seeing various groups of the elegant **Vicuña** shortly after our arrival. One of the first birds we saw this day was the minuscule **Mountain Parakeet**, a flock flew above our heads and even though we got them relatively well at that time, we got them even better later, when seen perched later in the day. We climbed the slopes, and right at the pass (known as *Abra Lizoite* at 14,920ft/4550m) we found the distinctive **Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant**.

We also found a pair of **Mountain Viscachas**, a weird looking mammal that looks like a mix between a large rabbit and a flying squirrel, with a long bushy tail and a fat looking body. Along these slopes we saw a group of five **Andean Condors** (photo below) that at times flew by close to us.



Lower down, we found a few of the targets for this site, including the local **Red-backed Sierra-Finch**, **Puna and Cinereous Ground-Tyrants**, a couple more **Rock Earthcreepers** and **Cordilleran Canasteros** as well as **White-winged and Creamy-winged Cinclodes**. One of the favorite birds of the morning came in the shape of a hummingbird when flying typically just a foot above the ground, we spotted the gorgeous **Andean Hillstar**; in the end we saw a handful of individuals, two or three males and a single female.

After a field lunch, we moved back to our hotel for a rest and the regain energy as the high altitude, and extreme temperature fluctuations (super cold in the mornings and baking hot in the middle of the day) were getting to us by then!



The group at **Abra Lizoite** early in the morning and a curious **Cream-winged Cinclodes**



The afternoon was spent again mainly around the town of Yavi since we had unfinished business there. The previous day one of the absolute jewels of this trip eluded us despite our efforts to find it. Lots of patience was also needed on this afternoon but perseverance eventually paid off, when we finally located the incredible **Wedge-tailed Hillstar** (photo below).



Some other birds we also saw at Yavi, included **Andean Swifts** flying at eye-height in front of us, a lone **Andean Goose** on a wet field near the entrance to town, a beautiful **Aplomado Falcon** soaring above our heads, a nice **D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant**, the streaky **Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant**, and a few other colorful Andean finches.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>: La Quiaca to Salta.** This was mainly a travel day as we drove back towards Salta. Nevertheless, we did pick up a few new birds for the trip, and we also drove again through the *Humahuaca Valley* so it was still a pleasant drive all the same. We started by trying again for the *dotterel* but the bird did not want to cooperate once more. Further south, close to *Pumamarca*, we stopped on a quite inconspicuous pond where **Plumbeous Rails** were common and in a different spot we found **Whistling Herons** as well as a couple **Bare-faced Ibis**, and a first-year **Large-billed Tern** flying over *Dique La Cienega*, where we had lunch.

After a relaxed meal overlooking this artificial lake, we visited a forested side road where we found the cartoonish **Spot-backed (Chaco) Puffbird**, a skulking **Sooty-fronted Spinetail**, a pair of bright **Golden-rumped Euphonias**, plus **Rufous-fronted Thornbird** and **Narrow-billed Woodcreeper**. Later, we stopped suddenly when a **Toco Toucan** was spotted by Terri, and when we also found a **White-winged Black-Tyrant**. By then it was getting late, and we were close to our hotel already when the conspicuous call of **Screaming Cowbird** made me stop the car, and we quickly found this local bird.





*Screaming Cowbird* and *White-winged Black-Tyrants* were seen during roadside stops.



**December 12<sup>th</sup>: Palomitas to Iguazu.** The final day of the main tour had arrived; time had flown so quickly. A new ecosystem was visited on this day though, which offered a whole suite of late new birds all the same. This was the lowest elevation area of the main trip, which meant even hotter and more humid weather for us, and so it was crucial we got there early. Happily, birds came thick and fast after dawn; in a matter of 40 minutes we got **Saffron-billed Sparrow**, **Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant**, **Cinereous Tyrant**, **Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant**, **Black-capped Warbling-Finch**, **Striped Cuckoo**, **Chaco Chachalaca**, **Many-colored Chaco-Finch**, **Variable Antshrike**, **Turquoise-fronted Parrot**, and a soaring **Swallow-tailed Kite**.

For the remainder of the morning, we focused on a bird that even before we had seen it, it had already been declared as the bird of the trip by Bruce, a participant with a particular obsession with woodpeckers. What this meant was that there was big pressure on me to find it, and this was our very last site and chance for the bird!



Temperature started to rise quickly, and activity decreased accordingly, so my nerves started to increase exponentially (regarding this marquee species). We picked up a couple of other birds that, even though they were new, they felt only like less than ample consolation prizes for Bruce; but included **Suiriri Flycatcher**, **Little Thornbird** and **Ultramarine Grosbeak**. We tried in many different spots that looked like they had potential for the woodpecker, but many times we basically baked our heads under the intense sun, while calling wantonly for the bird without response. It did not show up until the very, very last stop we made; I had already said *“guys, this is the very last chance; we have to move on after this attempt”* (for our flight to Iguazu for the extension). For this final try, the entire group joined us for the last part of the quest, even though they had missed several earlier attempts when sheltering from the intense heat in the vehicle. This paid off well, when Mike declared, quite calmly, *“oh I see a woodpecker!”*. I turned swiftly, and followed his directions and was dumbstruck to see a hulking **Cream-backed Woodpecker** (photo on left) that had obviously approached us without making a sound. Through the palpable emotions of this extremely late find, some curse words escaped my mouth, and tears rolled from Bruce’s eyes. The extreme emotions of a quest fulfilled, after days of trying, had clearly got to us all. Happily though, these were tears of joy and words of exhilaration!

We needed to leave soon after we took a couple of pictures of this stunning bird, which was a very dramatic finish to our time at this site. We moved towards a small town just north of this area and had lunch. Afterwards we continued on to see if for a second consecutive year we could get access to a private wetland that hosts lots and lots of waterbirds; happily we managed to talk our way in there once again. And just like last year, thousands of birds awaited us. Large groups of **Lake Ducks**, a few **Ruddy Ducks**, tons of **White-faced Ibis**, many **Red-fronted Coots** as well as 3 other species of coot, **White-tufted Grebes** by the dozen, lots of egrets and herons, a pair of the rare **Black-headed Duck**, several **Rosy-billed Pochards**, **Red Shovelers**, a few **Silver Teals**, bunch of **White-cheeked Pintails**, **Jacanas**, close views of **Coscoroba Swans** (photo below), and a few other besides.

Particularly appreciated was a pair of **Southern Screamers** that were found at the far end of the lake; and the reed-loving **Wren-like Rushbird** was found in the tall rushes at the edges of this impressive wetland.



We were a little short on time and so needed to leave after a shorter period than we would have liked. Once we reached the airport, we had to say goodbye to our excellent driver, Fernando, and a late afternoon flight to Iguazu Falls, arriving after dark. On arrival, our transportation was ready to take us directly to our hotel, the only one inside the *Iguazu National Park*. During the ride, we saw a couple of **Common Pauraques** and an elegant **Red Brocket Deer**.

## Daily Summary: *IGUAZU FALLS EXTENSION*

**December 13<sup>th</sup>: Iguazu National Park.** Rules to visit the national park are very strict and not really designed for keen birders, even when you are lodging *inside* the park. For example, we were not able to leave the hotel grounds before 8am or remain after 6pm to explore the surrounding trails. This is a little frustrating for birdwatchers of course but, even with these regulations, we saw lots of new birds, as we were not located within a completely new bioregion, the Atlantic Forests. While adding new birds was, of course, one aim of this extension; viewing the majestic Iguazu Falls, the largest waterfall system on Earth was the primary focus, and considerable time was spent, with few birds, just enjoying the falls from various angles, which a popular pastime for all. Surrounded by lush Atlantic Rainforest, these are amongst the largest system of falls in the World expanding to 1.7miles wide, and adorned by rock and vegetation outcrops. They are taller and much more spectacular than Niagara, and the amount of water falling at any time can reach, in the rainy season, up to 450,000 cubic feet/12742.581liters of water PER SECOND in the form of up to 300 falls that can be as tall as 350ft/107m. Statistics barely reveal the spectacular nature of Iguazu that can only really be appreciated by *being there*. Best of all, we had a prime view of the falls *from our hotel!*



Breakfast was served from 6:30am, and so we gathered at this time each morning, spending the time after breakfast (and before we were permitted to enter the park at 8am), watching from the hotel balcony with a scope for birds. Here, we found our first **Green-headed Tanagers**, a couple of **Toco Toucans**, **Red-rumped Caciques**, **Plumbeous Kites**, multiple groups of **Great Dusky Swifts**, a small flock of calling **Sooty Swifts** at close range, as well as **Anhingas**, **Chestnut-eared Aracarís**, **White-eyed Parakeets**, **Blue Dacnis**, **Swallow and Magpie Tanagers** plus more.

As soon as we were able to enter, we began by walking towards the best birding trail inside the park, the *Macuco trail*, where we spent the rest of the morning; on the way we spotted a **Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail** crossing the road. Once on the trail, and for a good while without any other people around, we started getting lots of good birds. One of the first we saw was a cooperative **Rufous-capped Motmot**, followed by **Surucua** and **Black-throated Trogons**, all completely new for the trip.



Soon after, a nice flock of birds moved through the mid and upper levels of the forest; and we managed to pick out **Guira Tanager**, **Rufous-winged and Streak-capped Antwrens**, **White-crested Tyrannulet**, **Plain Antvireo**, **Golden-crowned Warbler**, **Red-crowned Ant-Tanager**, **Hepatic Tanager**, **Green-winged Saltator**, the beautiful but minuscule **Ochre-collared Piculet** (photo left), and many more.

We needed a little tape to find a few other birds that we heard scattered along various points along the trail. Amongst these, we managed to call in the small **Gray-hooded Flycatcher**, **White-eyed, Buff-fronted and Ochre-bellied Foliage-gleaners**, and with lots of patience, a superb **Spot-backed Antshrike**.

Another special bird that made us work for it, was the colorful **Blond-crested Woodpecker**, which was seen well eventually once it had settled down on an exposed branch. We slowly started heading back to the hotel for lunch once it was close to noon. The activity had slowed down considerably and the temperature had risen quite a lot by then, so we did not pick up too many new birds on the walk back towards the restaurant.

The first morning of the extension was dedicated to *birds* alone since this trail does not have any views of

the falls but it has the best habitat and by far the best birding in the whole park, so we decided to revisit this trail again later on the tour. In complete contrast, the entire afternoon was dedicated to exploring the falls through one of the other main park trails that stretches along the lower portions of the falls and offered many different and incredible angles on the falls...



A view of the **Brazilian side** from our hotel,  
and a view of the southern most area on the **Argentinian side**





A view of the waterfall bath spot and some **Great Dusky Swifts** flying beside **Iguazu Falls**



**December 14<sup>th</sup>: Iguazu National Park.** One of the most iconic places of the waterfalls is the *famous Garganta del Diablo (the Devil's Throat)*. Given the huge amount of visitors that enter the park and want to go visit that particular spot every day, the best time to go to this must-visit site is early in the day, taking the first tram to the start of the trail. This trail is actually a mile-long metal boardwalk that crosses above the calmed waters of the south side and finishes right at the edge of the impressive U-shaped narrow portion of the falls from where you can feel the power of nature, you can feel how small we are in this World.

Along the boardwalk we found only a handful of new birds for the tour, even though this was not the main objective of the morning. We saw a couple groups of **Greater Anis**, one male **Amazon Kingfisher**, two **Ringed Kingfishers**; flushed a hulking **Muscovy Duck** and were delighted by having large flocks of **Great Dusky Swifts** flying repeatedly over our heads.



There was time for some “selfies” overlooking the *Devil's Throat* since we stayed on the platform for almost an hour; you really do not want to leave but the sun was starting to get inclement. We walked again towards the tram and waited a long time for the train back to the hotel. We only had a little time to bird afterwards before lunch, and although only got one new bird, it was a good one, in the form of the local **Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher**.

After lunch we visited the *Macuco trail* again to see if we pick up a few new species. It was quiet during the first hour, but after then activity picked up, and we soon got a few new trip birds. We started with brief views of a full adult male **Swallow-tailed Manakin** but good views of a young greenish male. Further in, we worked for views of the shy **White-necked Thrush**, found **Black-goggled Tanager**, **Sibilant Sirystes**, **Southern Antpiper**,



Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Plain-winged and Lesser Woodcreepers, and had flight views of Maroon-bellied Parakeets, Near the end of the day we managed to call in a White-shouldered Fire-eye too.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>: Iguazu National Park and Departure.** We had only a couple of hours in the morning to bird due to our flights out, and the early check out time from the hotel. We managed to stretch them to a late 11m check out that gave us some extra birding time, when we found **Rusty-margined Guan**, **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker**, and **Violaceous Euphonia** in addition to many other repeat birds from the day before. After check out, many remained at the hotel to use the social areas, as there was still plentiful time remaining before flights out, while Sonia and I went to check out a local hummingbird garden in Puerto Iguazu, a 25-minute drive from the hotel. In spite of the fact that the owner of the garden had played down the nature of the place in this season, making out there were few birds, we were pleasantly surprised to find plentiful activity and birds there. During a wonderful, though short, time on site, we found **Gilded Hummingbird** (photo below left), **Black-throated Mango** (photo below right), **Violet-capped Woodnymph**, **Black Jacobin**, **Planalto Hermit**, **Versicolored Emerald**, and **Glittering-bellied Emerald**, in terms of hummingbirds, and also saw **Ruddy Ground-Dove**, **Green-headed Tanager**, and **Bananaquit** at the other feeders. We then drove to the airport to catch our flight to Buenos Aires, with the tour finally coming to an end at the airport.





*Green-headed Tanager* at the feeders of Jardin de Picaflores in Puerto Iguazu

## FINAL CHECKLIST

After 15 days of traveling the northwest and the northeast areas Argentina we ended up with **379 species of birds recorded, plus 13 species of mammals. Only 10 bird species were heard only and none were seen only by the guide** (which is quite unusual for South American bird tours), and is evidence of the relatively easy birding in Argentina.

### BIRDS

#### TINAMOUS

- H Tataupa Tinamou
- H Huayco Tinamou
- Ornate Tinamou
- Brushland Tinamou
- Andean Tinamou
- Elegant Crested-Tinamou

#### SCREAMERS

- Southern Screamer

#### DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL

- White-faced Whistling-Duck

#### TINAMIDAE

- Crypturellus tataupa*
- Rhynchotus maculicollis*
- Nothoprocta ornata*
- Nothoprocta cinerascens*
- Nothoprocta pentlandii*
- Eudromia elegans*

#### ANHIMIDAE

- Chauna torquata*

#### ANATIDAE

- Dendrocygna viduata*

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Coscoroba Swan

Andean Goose

Crested Duck

Muscovy Duck

Brazilian Teal

Torrent Duck

Cinnamon Teal

Red Shoveler

White-cheeked Pintail

Yellow-billed Pintail

Silver Teal

Puna Teal

Yellow-billed (Speckled) Teal

Rosy-billed Pochard

Black-headed Duck

(Andean) Ruddy Duck

Lake Duck

*Dendrocygna bicolor*

*Coscoroba coscoroba*

*Chloephaga melanoptera*

*Lophonetta specularioides*

*Cairina moschata*

*Amazonetta brasiliensis*

*Merganetta armata*

*Anas cyanoptera*

*Anas platalea*

*Anas bahamensis*

*Anas georgica*

*Anas versicolor*

*Anas puna*

*Anas flavirostris*

*Netta peposaca*

*Heteronetta atricapilla*

*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*

*Oxyura vittata*

#### **GUANS, CHACHALACAS, AND CURASSOWS**

Chaco Chachalaca

Rusty-margined Guan

Red-faced Guan

Dusky-legged Guan

#### **CRACIDAE**

*Ortalis canicollis*

*Penelope superciliaris*

*Penelope dabbenei*

*Penelope obscura*

#### **GREBES**

White-tufted Grebe

Pied-billed Grebe

Great Grebe

#### **PODICIPEDIDAE**

*Rollandia rolland*

*Podilymbus podiceps*

*Podiceps major*

#### **FLAMINGOS**

Chilean Flamingo

Andean Flamingo

James's (Puna) Flamingo

#### **PHOENICOPTERIDAE**

*Phoenicopterus chilensis*

*Phoenicoparrus andinus*

*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*

#### **STORKS**

Jabiru

Wood Stork

#### **CICONIIDAE**

*Jabiru mycteria*

*Mycteria americana*

#### **CORMORANTS AND SHAGS**

Neotropic Cormorant

#### **PHALACROCORACIDAE**

*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

**ANHINGA AND DARTERS**

Anhinga

**HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS**

Cocoi Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Cattle Egret

Striated Heron

Whistling Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

**IBISES AND SPOONBILLS**

White-faced Ibis

Puna Ibis

Bare-faced Ibis

Buff-necked Ibis

Roseate Spoonbill

**NEW WORLD VULTURES**

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Andean Condor

**HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES**

White-tailed Kite

Swallow-tailed Kite

Snail Kite

Plumbeous Kite

Sharp-shinned (Rufous-thighed) Hawk

Roadside Hawk

Harris's Hawk

Variable Hawk

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle

**RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS**

Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail

Plumbeous Rail

Common Gallinule

Red-gartered Coot

Red-fronted Coot

Giant Coot

Slate-colored (Andean) Coot

White-winged Coot

**PHALACROCORACIDAE**

*Anhinga anhinga*

**ARDEIDAE**

*Ardea cocoi*

*Ardea alba*

*Egretta thula*

*Bubulcus ibis*

*Butorides striata*

*Syrigma sibilatrix*

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

*Plegadis chihi*

*Plegadis ridgwayi*

*Phimosus infuscatus*

*Theristicus caudatus*

*Platalea ajaja*

**CATHARTIDAE**

*Coragyps atratus*

*Cathartes aura*

*Vultur gryphus*

**ACCIPITRIDAE**

*Elanus leucurus*

*Elanoides forficatus*

*Rostrhamus sociabilis*

*Ictinia plumbea*

*Accipiter striatus erythronemius*

*Rupornis magnirostris*

*Parabuteo unicinctus*

*Geranoaetus polyosoma*

*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*

**RALLIDAE**

*Aramides saracura*

*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

*Gallinula galeata*

*Fulica armillata*

*Fulica rufifrons*

*Fulica gigantea*

*Fulica ardesiaca*

*Fulica leucoptera*

**STILTS AND AVOCETS**

Black-necked (White-backed) Stilt  
Andean Avocet

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS**

Southern Lapwing  
Andean Lapwing  
Puna Plover

**SEEDSNIPES**

Gray-breasted Seedsnipe  
Least Seedsnipe

**JACANAS**

Wattled Jacana

**SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES**

Greater Yellowlegs  
Baird's Sandpiper  
South American Snipe

**GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS**

Andean Gull  
Large-billed Tern

**PIGEONS AND DOVES**

Rock Pigeon  
Pale-vented Pigeon  
Picazuro Pigeon  
Spot-winged Pigeon  
Band-tailed Pigeon  
Eared Dove  
Ruddy Ground-Dove  
Picui Ground-Dove  
Bare-faced Ground-Dove  
Bare-eyed (Moreno's) Ground-Dove (E)  
Black-winged Ground-Dove  
Golden-spotted Ground-Dove  
H Ruddy Quail-Dove  
White-tipped Dove  
Large-tailed (White-faced/Yungas) Dove

**CUCKOOS**

Guira Cuckoo

**RECURVIROSTRIDAE**

*Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*  
*Recurvirostra andina*

**CHARADRIIDAE**

*Vanellus chilensis*  
*Vanellus resplendens*  
*Charadrius alticola*

**THINOCORIDAE**

*Thinocorus orbignyianus*  
*Thinocorus rumicivorus*

**JACANIDAE**

*Jacana jacana*

**SCOLOPACIDAE**

*Tringa melanoleuca*  
*Calidris bairdii*  
*Gallinago paraguaiae*

**LARIDAE**

*Chroicocephalus serranus*  
*Phaetusa simplex*

**COLUMBIDAE**

*Columba livia*  
*Patagioenas cayennensis*  
*Patagioenas picazuro*  
*Patagioenas maculosa*  
*Patagioenas fasciata*  
*Zenaida auriculata*  
*Columbina talpacoti*  
*Columbina picui*  
*Metriopelia ceciliae*  
*Metriopelia morenoi*  
*Metriopelia melanoptera melanoptera*  
*Metriopelia aymara*  
*Geotrygon montana*  
*Leptotila verreauxi*  
*Leptotila megalura*

**CUCULIDAE**

*Guira guira*

Striped Cuckoo  
Greater Ani  
Smooth-billed Ani

**OWLS**

Montane Forest (Hoy's/Yungas) Screech-Owl  
Burrowing Owl

**NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES**

Common Pauraque  
Scissor-tailed Nightjar

**SWIFTS**

Rothschild's Swift  
Sooty Swift  
Great Dusky Swift  
White-collared Swift  
Andean Swift

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

Black Jacobin  
Planalto Hermit  
Sparkling Violetear  
Black-throated Mango  
Red-tailed Comet  
Andean Hillstar  
White-sided Hillstar  
Wedge-tailed Hillstar  
Giant Hummingbird  
Slender-tailed Woodstar  
Glittering-bellied Emerald  
Violet-capped Woodnymph  
White-bellied Hummingbird  
Versicolored Emerald  
Gilded Hummingbird

**TROGONS**

Surucua Trogon (Red-bellied)  
Black-throated Trogon

**MOTMOTS**

Rufous-capped Motmot

*Tapera naevia*  
*Crotophaga major*  
*Crotophaga ani*

**STRIGIDAE**

*Megascops hoyi*  
*Athene cunicularia*

**CAPRIMULGIDAE**

*Nyctidromus albicollis*  
*Hydropsalis torquata*

**APODIDAE**

*Cypseloides rothschildi*  
*Cypseloides fumigatus*  
*Cypseloides senex*  
*Streptoprocne zonaris*  
*Aeronautes andecolus*

**TROCHILIDAE**

*Florisuga fusca*  
*Phaethornis pretrei*  
*Colibri coruscans*  
*Anthracothorax nigricollis*  
*Sappho sparganura*  
*Oreotrochilus estella estella*  
*Oreotrochilus leucopleurus*  
*Oreotrochilus adela*  
*Patagona gigas*  
*Microstilbon burmeisteri*  
*Chlorostilbon lucidus*  
*Thalurania glaucopis*  
*Amazilia chionogaster*  
*Amazilia versicolor*  
*Hylocharis chrysura*

**TROGONIDAE**

*Trogon surrucura surrucura*  
*Trogon rufus*

**MOMOTIDAE**

*Baryphthengus ruficapillus*

**KINGFISHERS**

Ringed Kingfisher  
Amazon Kingfisher

**PUFFBIRDS**

Spot-backed (Chaco) Puffbird

**TOUCANS**

Chestnut-eared Aracari  
Toco Toucan

**WOODPECKERS**

White-barred Piculet  
Ochre-collared Piculet  
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker  
White-fronted Woodpecker  
Checkered Woodpecker  
Dot-fronted Woodpecker  
Golden-olive Woodpecker  
Green-barred Woodpecker  
Andean Flicker  
Blond-crested Woodpecker  
Cream-backed Woodpecker

**SERIEMAS**

H Red-legged Seriema

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS**

Mountain Caracara  
Southern Caracara  
Yellow-headed Caracara  
Chimango Caracara  
American Kestrel  
Aplomado Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon

**PARROTS**

Gray-hooded Parakeet  
Mountain Parakeet  
Scaly-headed Parrot  
Tucuman Parrot  
Turquoise-fronted Parrot  
Blue-winged Parrotlet (Blue-winged)  
Maroon-bellied Parakeet  
Burrowing Parakeet (Parrot)

**ALCEDINIDAE**

*Megaceryle torquata*  
*Chloroceryle amazona*

**BUCCONIDAE**

*Nystalus maculatus striatipectus*

**RAMPHASTIDAE**

*Pteroglossus castanotis*  
*Ramphastos toco*

**PICIDAE**

*Picumnus cirratus*  
*Picumnus temminckii*  
*Melanerpes flavifrons*  
*Melanerpes cactorum*  
*Veniliornis mixtus*  
*Veniliornis frontalis*  
*Colaptes rubiginosus tucumanus*  
*Colaptes melanochloros leucofrenatus*  
*Colaptes rupicola rupicola*  
*Celeus flavescens*  
*Campephilus leucopogon*

**CARIAMIDAE**

*Cariama cristata*

**FALCONIDAE**

*Phalcoboenus megalopterus*  
*Caracara plancus*  
*Milvago chimachima*  
*Milvago chimango*  
*Falco sparverius*  
*Falco femoralis*  
*Falco peregrinus*

**PSITTACIDAE**

*Psilopsiagon aymara*  
*Psilopsiagon aurifrons*  
*Pionus maximiliani*  
*Amazona tucumana*  
*Amazona aestiva*  
*Forpus xanthopterygius xanthopterygius*  
*Pyrrhura frontalis*  
*Cyanoliseus patagonus*

Mitred Parakeet  
White-eyed Parakeet

*Psittacara mitratus*  
*Psittacara leucophthalmus*

**TYPICAL ANTBIRDS**

Spot-backed Antshrike  
Giant Antshrike  
H Great Antshrike  
Rufous-capped Antshrike  
Variable Antshrike  
Plain Antwreio  
Rufous-winged Antwren  
Streak-capped Antwren  
White-shouldered Fire-eye

**THAMNOPHILIDAE**

*Hypoedaleus guttatus*  
*Batara cinerea argentina*  
*Taraba major*  
*Thamnophilus ruficapillus cochabambae*  
*Thamnophilus caerulescens dinellii*  
*Dysithamnus mentalis*  
*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*  
*Terenura maculata*  
*Pyriglena leucoptera*

**TAPACULOS**

Sandy Gallito (E)  
White-browed Tapaculo (E)

**RHINOCRYPTIDAE**

*Teledromas fuscus*  
*Scytalopus superciliaris superciliaris*

**OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS**

Slender-billed Miner  
Puna Miner  
Rufous-banded Miner  
Plain-winged Woodcreeper  
White-throated Woodcreeper  
Lesser Woodcreeper  
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper  
Rufous Hornero  
Rock Earthcreeper  
Straight-billed Earthcreeper  
Chaco Earthcreeper  
Wren-like Rushbird  
Scale-throated Earthcreeper  
Buff-breasted Earthcreeper  
Buff-breasted (Plain-breasted) Earthcreeper  
Cream-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes  
White-winged Cinclodes  
H Black-capped Foliage-gleaner  
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner  
Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner  
Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner  
White-eyed Foliage-gleaner  
Brown-capped Tit-Spintail  
Tufted Tit-Spintail  
Plain-mantled Tit-Spintail

**FURNARIIDAE**

*Geositta tenuirostris*  
*Geositta punensis*  
*Geositta rufipennis*  
*Dendrocincla turdina*  
*Xiphocolaptes albicollis*  
*Xiphorhynchus fuscus*  
*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*  
*Furnarius rufus*  
*Ochetorhynchus andaecola*  
*Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus*  
*Tarphonomus certhioides*  
*Phleocryptes melanops*  
*Upucerthia dumetaria*  
*Upucerthia validirostris validirostris*  
*Upucerthia validirostris jelskii*  
*Cinclodes albiventris*  
*Cinclodes atacamensis*  
*Philydor atricapillus*  
*Philydor rufum*  
*Anabacerthia lichtensteini*  
*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*  
*Automolus leucophthalmus*  
*Leptasthenura fuliginiceps*  
*Leptasthenura platensis*  
*Leptasthenura aegithaloides berlepschi*



Rufous-fronted Thornbird  
 Little Thornbird  
 Streak-fronted Thornbird  
 Spot-breasted Thornbird  
 Creamy-breasted Canastero  
 Short-billed Canastero  
 Puna Canastero  
 Cordilleran Canastero  
 Sharp-billed Canastero  
 Maquis (Iquico) Canastero  
 Stripe-crowned Spinetail  
 Steinbach's Canastero (E)  
 White-throated Cacholote (E)  
 Sooty-fronted Spinetail  
 Azara's Spinetail

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

Suiriri Flycatcher  
 Buff-banded Tyrannulet  
 White-throated Tyrannulet  
 Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant  
 Tufted Tit-Tyrant  
 Large Elaenia  
 White-crested (Chilean) Elaenia  
 Small-billed Elaenia  
 Slaty Elaenia  
 White-crested Tyrannulet  
 White-bellied Tyrannulet  
 Gray-hooded Flycatcher  
 Sepia-capped Flycatcher  
 Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet  
 H Rough-legged Tyrannulet  
 H Sclater's Tyrannulet  
 Southern Antpipit  
 Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant  
 Greater Wagtail-Tyrant  
 Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant  
 Cinnamon Flycatcher  
 Cliff Flycatcher  
 Bran-colored Flycatcher  
 Euler's Flycatcher  
 Smoke-colored Pewee  
 Tropical Pewee

*Phacellodomus rufifrons sincipitalis*  
*Phacellodomus sibilatrix*  
*Phacellodomus striaticeps*  
*Phacellodomus maculipectus*  
*Asthenes dorbignyi dorbignyi*  
*Asthenes baeri*  
*Asthenes sclateri lilloi*  
*Asthenes modesta*  
*Asthenes pyrrholeuca*  
*Asthenes heterura*  
*Cranioleuca pyrrhophia*  
*Pseudasthenes steinbachi*  
*Pseudoseisura gutturalis*  
*Synallaxis frontalis*  
*Synallaxis azarae superciliosa*

**TYRANNIDAE**

*Suiriri suiriri suiriri*  
*Mecocerculus hellmayri*  
*Mecocerculus leucophrys leucophrys*  
*Anairetes flavirostris*  
*Anairetes parulus*  
*Elaenia spectabilis*  
*Elaenia albiceps chilensis*  
*Elaenia parvirostris*  
*Elaenia strepera*  
*Serpophaga subcristata*  
*Serpophaga munda*  
*Mionectes rufiventris*  
*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*  
*Phylloscartes ventralis tucumanus*  
*Phyllomyias burmeisteri burmeisteri*  
*Phyllomyias sclateri*  
*Corythopsis delalandi*  
*Euscarthmus meloryphus meloryphus*  
*Stigmatura budytoides inzonata*  
*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*  
*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus cinnamomeus*  
*Hirundinea ferruginea pallidior*  
*Myiophobus fasciatus*  
*Lathrotriccus euleri*  
*Contopus fumigatus*  
*Contopus cinereus*

Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Andean Negrito	<i>Lessonia oreas</i>
Plumbeous Black-Tyrant (Andean Tyrant)	<i>Knipolegus cabanisi</i>
Cinereous Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus striaticeps</i>
White-winged Black-Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus aterrimus</i>
Spectacled Tyrant	<i>Hymenops perspicillatus</i>
Yellow-browed Tyrant	<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>
Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola maculirostris</i>
Puna Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola juninensis</i>
Cinereous Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola cinereus</i>
Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola frontalis</i>
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis montanus</i>
Gray-bellied Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis micropterus</i>
White Monjita	<i>Xolmis irupero irupero</i>
d'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca oenanthoides</i>
White-browed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca leucophrys tucumana</i>
Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
Sibilant Sirystes	<i>Sirystes sibilator</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus solitarius</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
Variiegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus</i>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
<b>COTINGAS</b>	<b>COTINGIDAE</b>
White-tipped Plantcutter	<i>Phytotoma rutila</i>
<b>MANAKINS</b>	<b>PIRPIDAE</b>
Swallow-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>
<b>TITYRAS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>TITYRIDAE</b>
Green-backed Becard	<i>Pachyramphus viridis viridis</i>
White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus spixii</i>
Crested Becard	<i>Pachyramphus validus</i>
<b>VIREOS</b>	<b>VIREONIDAE</b>
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus chivi</i>
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>

**CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES**

Plush-crested Jay

**SWALLOWS**

Blue-and-white Swallow  
Tawny-headed Swallow  
Southern Rough-winged Swallow  
Gray-breasted Martin  
Southern Martin  
Brown-chested Martin  
White-winged Swallow  
White-rumped Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow

**WRENS**

House Wren  
Mountain Wren

**GNATCATCHERS**

Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher

**DIPPERS**

Rufous-throated Dipper

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES**

Swainson's Thrush  
Pale-breasted Thrush  
Rufous-bellied Thrush  
Creamy-bellied Thrush  
(Andean) Slaty Thrush  
Chiguanco Thrush  
White-necked Thrush

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS**

Patagonian Mockingbird  
White-banded Mockingbird  
Brown-backed Mockingbird

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS**

Yellowish Pipit  
Short-billed Pipit  
Hellmayr's Pipit

**CORVIDAE**

*Cyanocorax chrysops*

**HIRUNDINIDAE**

*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*  
*Alopocheilidon fucata*  
*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*  
*Progne chalybea*  
*Progne elegans*  
*Progne tapera*  
*Tachycineta albiventer*  
*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*  
*Riparia riparia*  
*Hirundo rustica*

**TROGLODYTIDAE**

*Troglodytes aedon*  
*Troglodytes solstitialis auricularis*

**POLIOPTILIDAE**

*Polioptila lactea*

**CINCLIDAE**

*Cinclus schulzi*

**TURDIDAE**

*Catharus ustulatus*  
*Turdus leucomelas*  
*Turdus rufiventris*  
*Turdus amaurochalinus*  
*Turdus nigriceps nigriceps*  
*Turdus chiguanco*  
*Turdus albicollis*

**MIMIDAE**

*Mimus patagonicus*  
*Mimus triurus*  
*Mimus dorsalis*

**MOTACILLIDAE**

*Anthus lutescens*  
*Anthus furcatus*  
*Anthus hellmayri hellmayri*

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS**

Masked Yellowthroat  
Tropical Parula  
Golden-crowned Warbler  
H Two-banded Warbler  
Brown-capped Redstart

**TANAGERS AND ALLIES**

Magpie Tanager  
Orange-headed Tanager  
Black-goggled Tanager  
Fawn-breasted Tanager  
Blue-and-yellow Tanager  
Sayaca Tanager  
Green-headed Tanager  
Swallow Tanager  
Blue Dacnis  
Guira Tanager  
Rusty Flowerpiercer  
Black-hooded Sierra-Finch  
Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch  
Mourning Sierra-Finch  
Plumbeous Sierra-Finch  
Red-backed Sierra-Finch  
Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch  
Band-tailed Sierra-Finch  
Common Diuca-Finch  
Black-crested Finch  
Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch  
Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch  
Ringed Warbling-Finch  
Black-capped Warbling-Finch  
Tucuman Mountain-Finch (E)  
Puna Yellow-Finch  
Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch  
Citron-headed Yellow-Finch  
Greenish Yellow-Finch  
Saffron Finch  
Grassland Yellow-Finch  
Great Pampa-Finch  
Blue-black Grassquit  
Double-collared Seedeater  
Band-tailed Seedeater  
Plain-colored Seedeater

**PARULIDAE**

*Geothlypis aequinoctialis velata*  
*Setophaga pitaiyumi*  
*Basileuterus culicivorus*  
*Myiothlypis bivittata argentinae*  
*Myioborus bruniceps*

**THRAUPIDAE**

*Cissopis leverianus*  
*Thlypopsis sordida*  
*Trichothraupis melanops*  
*Pipraeidea melanonota*  
*Thraupis bonariensis*  
*Thraupis sayaca*  
*Tangara seledon*  
*Tersina viridis*  
*Dacnis cayana*  
*Hemithraupis guira*  
*Diglossa sittoides*  
*Phrygilus atriceps*  
*Phrygilus gayi*  
*Phrygilus fruticeti*  
*Phrygilus unicolor*  
*Phrygilus dorsalis*  
*Phrygilus plebejus*  
*Phrygilus alaudinus*  
*Diuca diuca*  
*Lophospingus pusillus*  
*Poospiza hypochondria*  
*Poospiza erythrophrys*  
*Poospiza torquata*  
*Poospiza melanoleuca*  
*Compsospiza baeri*  
*Sicalis lutea*  
*Sicalis uropygialis*  
*Sicalis luteocephala*  
*Sicalis olivascens*  
*Sicalis flaveola*  
*Sicalis luteola*  
*Embernagra platensis olivascens*  
*Volatinia jacarina*  
*Sporophila caerulescens*  
*Catamenia analis*  
*Catamenia inornata*

Red-crested Finch  
 Bananaquit  
 Rufous-bellied Saltator  
 Green-winged Saltator  
 Golden-billed Saltator  
 Many-colored Chaco Finch

*Coryphospingus cucullatus*  
*Coereba flaveola*  
*Saltator rufiventris*  
*Saltator similis*  
*Saltator aurantirostris*  
*Saltatricula multicolor*

**BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS**

Saffron-billed Sparrow  
 White-browed (Stripe-headed) Brush-Finch  
 Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch  
 Yellow-striped Brush-Finch (E)  
 Stripe-capped Sparrow  
 H Grassland Sparrow  
 Rufous-collared Sparrow  
 Common Bush-Tanager

**EMBERIZIDAE**

*Arremon flavirostris dorbignii*  
*Arremon torquatus*  
*Atlapetes fulviceps*  
*Atlapetes citrinellus*  
*Rhynchospiza strigiceps*  
*Ammodramus humeralis*  
*Zonotrichia capensis*  
*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus argentinus*

**CARDINALS AND ALLIES**

Hepatic (Red) Tanager  
 Red-crowned Ant-Tanager  
 Black-backed Grosbeak  
 Ultramarine Grosbeak

**CARDINALIDAE**

*Piranga flava flava*  
*Habia rubica*  
*Pheucticus aureoventris*  
*Cyanocompsa brissonii*

**TROUPIALS AND ALLIES**

Long-tailed Meadowlark  
 Grayish Baywing  
 Screaming Cowbird  
 Shiny Cowbird  
 Variable Oriole  
 Golden-winged Caci que  
 Red-rumped Caci que  
 Crested Oropendola

**ICTERIDAE**

*Sturnella loyca*  
*Agelaioides badius*  
*Molothrus rufoaxillaris*  
*Molothrus bonariensis*  
*Icterus pyrrhopterus pyrrhopterus*  
*Cacicus chrysopterus*  
*Cacicus haemorrhous*  
*Psarocolius decumanus*

**SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES**

Purple-throated Euphonia  
 Violaceous Euphonia  
 Golden-rumped Euphonia  
 Hooded Siskin  
 Black Siskin

**FRINGILLIDAE**

*Euphonia chlorotica*  
*Euphonia violacea*  
*Euphonia cyanocephala*  
*Spinus magellanicus*  
*Spinus atratus*

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

House Sparrow

**PASSERIDAE**

*Passer domesticus*

**MAMMALS**

Andean Hairy Armadillo

Black-striped Capuchin

Coypo (Nutria)

Bolivian Squirrel

Southern (Mountain) Viscacha

Common Yellow-toothed Cavy

Chacoan Mara

Brazilian Rabbit (Tapeti)

European Hare (I)

South American Coati

Guanaco

Vicugna

Red Brocket (Deer)

*Chaetophractus nationi**Cebus libidinosus**Myocastor coypus**Sciurus ignitus**Lagidium viscacia**Galea musteloides**Dolichotis salinicola**Sylvilagus brasiliensis**Lepus europaeus**Nasua nasua**Lama glama**Vicugna vicugna**Mazama americana*