

ARGENTINA: YUNGAS & ANDES

TUCUMÁN, SALTA & JUJUY

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Laguna de los Pozuelos Jujuy



Argentina! Birth-country of the pope and two times FIFA World Cup winners, this fantastic country hosts one of the world's greatest varieties of natural ecosystems. From the lush Iberá wetlands in the north, to the wilderness of Patagonia in the south, this vast ecosystem variety has produced an exceptionally biodiverse country. With this in mind, it can be difficult to fathom where to begin a birding trip, which biomes to include and which to leave out. For our trip, we faced this same dilemma, finally deciding to spend our time in the stunning northwest of the country, home to some of Argentina's largest mountains and beautiful lakes, as well as pristine montane forest. The ease of accessibility to this region also helped with the decision-making process. January is an excellent month for birding here, as the breeding season begins to wrap up, but still with good amounts of activity. For some species, this late in the breeding season means established territories and chicks, so it can be harder to find. However, we still managed to find 287 bird species during our 11 days of travelling, as well as a wide range of mammals, amphibians and other animals.

Logistics

Visa

A UK passport entitles you to visa-free entry to Argentina for a period of 90 days, after which you must either leave the country, apply for an extension or receive a fine on departure. It may be that border officials request proof of onward travel, but this is not always the case. This trip was initially planned due to Daniel's Brazilian visa expiring, requiring him to be out of that country for at least ten days before the visa would renew. When passing through passport control we were asked for an address. We used the

address of our friends, but it may be worthwhile making at least one hotel reservation beforehand as a precaution.

Before we landed, it was necessary to complete a 'sworn declaration' form, which can be found on the Argentinean government website page; <https://ddjj.migraciones.gob.ar/app/home.php>. This must be completed 48 hours before arriving in the country and must be done online.

Flights

We were already in São Paulo, so flew outbound from Guarulhos (GRU) to Buenos Aires (AEP), and returning from San Miguel de Tucumán (TUC) via Buenos Aires (AEP) to São Paulo Guarulhos (GRU). We constructed our trip in this way because we were meeting friends around Buenos Aires, but who were themselves then travelling onwards to Salta,

so could take us in their vehicle. The flights cost us £388.60 each, with Aerolineas Argentinas. This figure also included 23KG of luggage. San Miguel de Tucumán (TUC) does not take flights from Europe, so travellers from Europe will most likely have to change from an international to a domestic flight in Buenos Aires.



Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris* Cuesta del Obispo

Language

The language spoken in Argentina is Spanish, although a different dialect from that of Spain. At least a limited knowledge of the language will be a great asset, although not essential. You are unlikely to find many

English speakers, especially outside large cities. Because Lia is Brazilian, she speaks fluent Portuguese and can adapt this into 'Portunhol', a mixture of the two languages that can be used for communication.

Accommodation

Although our lodgings at each point are noted within the report, there are a few general details it is worth laying out here at the start. We did not make any prior reservations, as most small towns have ample small hostels and hotels that we could use, meaning we were able to keep our schedule flexible. This strategy worked well, and we were able to find lodging at each of our stops. For us, keeping our budget to a minimum was a priority when picking a bed for the night, and we were more than happy to stay in low budget, run-down hostels, which may not appeal to some birders.

Birders willing to accept a more rustic approach to their trip should also consider camping an option. There is good camping infrastructure in many of the towns we visited (although the facilities' quality varies from site to site), and it is a significantly cheaper option. We frequently camped during a previous trip to Patagonia and never paid more than 1000 pesos per person. On this occasion, camping was not chosen for several reasons; sickness, weather and just plain tiredness, but it is certainly an option worth considering.

Transport

We hired our car from Europcar in San Miguel de Tucumán, which cost us £635.63 for the most basic vehicle we could find for 13 days, a Toyota Etios or something similar. However, on arrival, we were informed that the car reserved for us (A Nissan Note as it happened)

had a fault, and as such, we were given a different, larger car for no extra charge, which suited us just fine. The collection was arranged at the airport itself, so there was no need to collect the car in the city itself.

The car we got (not the car we ordered) was a Nissan Versa. This is a medium-sized vehicle with enough room in the boot for our luggage, as well as a healthy amount of space for four passengers.

The fuel tank could hold around 45 litres, and it seemed to be quite efficient, especially considering some of the steep slopes that it managed. We would always fill up the car when the gauge dropped below 50% to ensure we would have fuel in some of the more remote areas we were visiting.

The crucial difference between this car and the one we ordered was that this vehicle was an automatic, not a manual. There were no instances where this created a problem for us, although it perhaps made us a little more conservative when overtaking. It still managed to climb all the hills we needed it to, and we were never required to abort a birding destination because of the car.

It did take quite a battering on our trip. In addition to the burst tire that we elaborate on, one of the support brackets for the front of the car snapped at some point, leaving the vehicle drooping a little on the passenger side. We repaired this with some wire, and we have not been charged yet...





Roads in Argentina are generally excellent. We did have to use a few dirt roads on our travels, but for the most part, these were fine to drive on, without much large detritus and with very few potholes. Highways are normally just a single lane, but there were mercifully few trucks compared to other South American countries we have experienced, and we were able to make very good time on them. Speed Cameras are not really a thing on the highways, but we often encountered police checkpoints at the entrance or exits of small towns. On our travels, we were only stopped on two occasions. On the first occasion, our broken Spanish was enough to put him off, but that strategy did not work on the latter. That said, it is nothing more than a standard check of the papers that the hire company provided, which they explained that we might need to show if stopped at a checkpoint.

For navigation we primarily used Google maps, although we did also use maps.me and Guru maps as well, to offer a second opinion on the routes that we took. Helpfully, Daniel is with the UK mobile network provider O2, who provide free data roaming for many South American countries, including Argentina, allowing us to easily use Google maps, including up to date information about the road and traffic conditions. However, for insurance, we also downloaded our route on Google maps offline, which allows the operation of google maps in a downloaded area as if it were using data. The signal is poor in large areas of our itinerary, so it can be useful insurance and save mobile data. Google maps allows the easy input of coordinates, so getting around is logistically much more straightforward. The time estimates given to a destination can be pretty generous but are worth keeping in mind when travelling between sites. We checked our entire route on Google street view before setting off, confirming that many of the highways were in excellent condition. However, a few more 'off-beat' locations require dirt road access, which can slow progress when travelling.

Be aware that many roads on this itinerary pass through narrow gorges with steep cliffsides. Although it was not a problem for us, rockfalls and landslides could cause potential issues. We encountered an altogether different issue, as a flash flood in the mountains on our descent from Yavi did close the main highway, which set us back a short while.

Food

We loved Argentina, its beautiful landscapes, its people and its culture. But one area we found lacking was in the culinary department. We usually tried to have one full meal a day, consisting of snacks and fruits for the rest of our meals, but often we would end up eating some fast food or takeaway as options in small towns, understandably, are pretty limited. In larger towns, there were more options but there was nowhere that we felt like we had enjoyed a traditional Argentinian meal, and if you were to ask us now what that

would be, having been there, we still could not give you a clear answer.

As an additional problem, Lia and I are both vegetarians. We managed fine, but this obviously restricted our options further. On one occasion, we ordered a Lasagna without meat 'sin carne' but this instruction was unclear as it came with ham (for some mysterious reason, 'carne' is associated with beef only). If you are a vegetarian, it's important to stress 'sin Jamon, pollo y pescado' to avoid ambiguity.

Money

At the time of writing, a single Argentine Peso is worth an astonishingly low £0.0073, or \$0.0098. Despite this, Argentina is one of the most expensive South American countries, although the cost of living is still cheap compared to Europe. Due to high levels of inflation globally, but especially in Argentina, at the time of our visit, we decided to take US Dollars with us and then sell these to our friends for a better exchange rate (to be clear, they advised this strategy and asked us to take them foreign currency). This meant that we could obtain more Pesos per Dollar than would have been available had we ordered them in Brazil before and brought them with us. Although this is the most cost-effective way to obtain the currency at the time of writing, it was only feasible because of our connections within Argentina. It may not be possible for many travellers.

Finding ATM machines in even small cities is possible, but be cautious. In the high Andean town of La Quiaca, on the Bolivian border, we tried to withdraw some cash, but Daniel's Santander card was consumed by the ATM and a system error. After nearly half an hour, the machine reset and the card was

regurgitated, but that was half an hour of very much unwanted stress and panic. Some of the hotels we stayed at did use card, as did many restaurants. However, this was not a guarantee, so try to work with cash where possible.

Puna Plover *Charadrius alticola* Laguna de los Pozuelos



Literature

Perhaps the best option in terms of field guides is the 2020 *Field Guide to the Birds of Argentina and the Southwest Atlantic* (ISBN: 0713645792). Its recent publication date means that all the information is up to date. The illustrations are excellent and clear, serving as an excellent tool in the field, as well as a reference before and after the trip. Several cute details are included, such as diagrams of nest structures, sonograms, and even a table documenting the species of plant the illustrated birds are perched on. There is no need for any other field guide.

The internet resource eBird is a very useful tool, specifically for checking distribution data, which can help provide context to the field guides. For species that can be rare migrants, it can provide data on the most

recent sightings, giving you a better chance of seeing them. The photo library on eBird is also handy for comparing to the illustrations in the book to help confirm identifications.

While many tour companies lead trips here, their reports are typically vague and unhelpful logistically for those planning an independent visit to the region. There were a few trip reports that we could extract useful information from. The first was the *John van der Woude* 2014 report, which includes helpful maps and grid references of the most important species. Another was *Ian Davies* 2013, which also had a lot of valuable details, such as prices and hotel details. Ian used public transport for his travels and includes a lot of information about this for those who might try something similar.

Tapes

The Merlin Bird ID app; Argentina package was the source of most of the calls we needed on this trip. This free resource also has photos that are useful for in-field reference. We found a handful of species missing from this package, so we also downloaded the Bolivia package to ensure nothing was missing. Then,

we cross-referenced the species lists of these two packages on the app with our target list and any outstanding species we downloaded from Xeno Canto, as well as downloading additional calls for species that generally require more effort to see e.g., Owls & Tapaculos.

Rufous-throated Dipper *Cinclus schulzii* Quebrada Los Sosa



Climate

The timing of our trip coincided with a record-breaking heatwave in Argentina that certainly skewed our perception of the expected temperatures at this time of year. Mercifully, we were given some respite from the heat by spending most of our time at higher altitudes, but the heat could be unbearable at lower climbs, with birding being a huge challenge after mid-morning. By the time our trip

reached its conclusion, the heatwave had subsided, and there was even thunderstorms and rainfall in the altiplano, which is quite a rare occurrence. It should be noted that it does get cold in the Altiplano at night, so early morning birding can require at least a warm jacket. You will usually want to shed this extra layer by mid-morning.

Guides

Part of the reason for visiting this area of Argentina was to meet with Lia's friends who live in San Miguel de Tucumán, Giselle Mangini, and her boyfriend, Facundo. Helpfully they both work as bird guides and were able to help us a great deal with our itinerary. They are well-versed in all Argentina's bird species, especially the region described in this trip report. Unfortunately for our itinerary, there was an overlap of schedules, and they were only able to join us

except for our final few days in Parque Nacional Calilegua, where their knowledge of the birds, especially the songs and calls, enabled us to get to grips with almost all of the Yungas endemics. The knowledge they provided before our trip was one of the reasons that we were able to be so successful with the majority of our targets. If considering a guide for a trip to this region, we certainly recommend them.

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About us

Having spent a lot of time birding together in Brazil, this was our first time travelling together to another country in the Neotropics. We wanted to enjoy some South American ecosystems that are entirely alien to

us, there being nothing similar to the high altiplano in Brazil. Anybody with any questions about our trip is welcome to email either of us to ask more questions, and we will happily do our best to answer.

Daniel James Branch

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Originally from Halifax, West Yorkshire, England, in recent years he has found himself more and more in the Neotropics, specifically Brazil. In the past he has spent three years working at the Spurn Bird Observatory on the east coast of Britain, and now works as a consultant ornithologist.



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Born in São Paulo, Lia has been studying birds in Brazil for over 10 years. She recently finished her PhD on the breeding strategy of the Helmeted Manakin *Antilophia galeata*. In addition to her academic career with birds, she has also spent time as a consultant ornithologist working in the Amazonia & Cerrado



Itinerary

Our itinerary underwent many revisions in the build-up to our trip, as we tried to cover as many sites and biomes as possible, travelling through three states in the north of Argentina; Tucuman, Salta and Jujuy. We arrived in the city of San Miguel de Tucuman on the evening of the 8th January and collected our car from the airport there before spending the night in the city. Consequently, we were ideally placed to begin our travels the following day with the site Quebrada Los Sosa, just a short drive from Tucuman.

Helpfully our itinerary did not include many long drives, with none more than a few hours in length, and we were able to visit all the sites we wanted. This was helped by the fact that we were fortunate with our key targets, finding them quickly and allowing us to move on with our trip. As mentioned before, the fact that we made no hotel reservations beforehand meant that we could remain fluid in our itinerary if our situation changed at any point. The only significant enforced disruption during our schedule was on the afternoon of the 16th when we had hoped to accomplish a rather hefty drive to Parque Nacional Calilegua, at least lodge at the bottom of the park, but we were stopped at the small town of Tilcara by a flash-flood across the road, forcing us to turn around to find lodging.

There were no sites that had to be left out of our itinerary due to timing, but there were a few occasions where the birding felt a little rushed. Even though we managed to find all of our targets, it would have been nice to spend more time birding the Monte Desert around Amaicha del Valle. And there is no way that we could do full justice to Parque Nacional Calilegua in the time that we were able to spend there. It would also have been nice to head further to the east into the larger

expanses of Chaco, but this was something our time frame simply did not allow for.

All that said, we did have to miss off a site called Quebrada del Corralito due to a mechanical problem. Not to our car, but this high Andean site requires a 4x4. On our final day, Giselle and Facundo had offered to take us in their vehicle, but their car broke down on the return trip from Calilegua, ending our chance to visit this site. There were not many species to target, but there were high Andean specialities such as Scribble-tailed Canastero *Asthenes maculicauda* and Paramo Pipit *Anthus bogotensis* that are significantly easier to find here than at other localities.

Many of the tour companies that operate trips to this region seem to combine this region with the Mata Atlántica biome found in the Northeast province of Misiones, including more of the Chaco biome enroute. Having spent significant amounts of time in the Mata Atlántica in Brazil, we did not need to incorporate this into our itinerary, but it may be something others planning a trip to the region may wish to consider.

Monte Yellow Finch *Sicalis mendozae* El Infiernillo



Tucuman International Airport

1

Quebrada Los Sosa

2

El Infiernillo

3

Amaicha del Valle

4

Cafayete

5

Dique Cabra Corral

6

Valle Encantado

7

Parque Provincial Potrero De Yala

8

Yavi

9

Abra de Lizoite

10

Laguna de los Pozuelos

11

Abra Pampa

12

Humahuaca

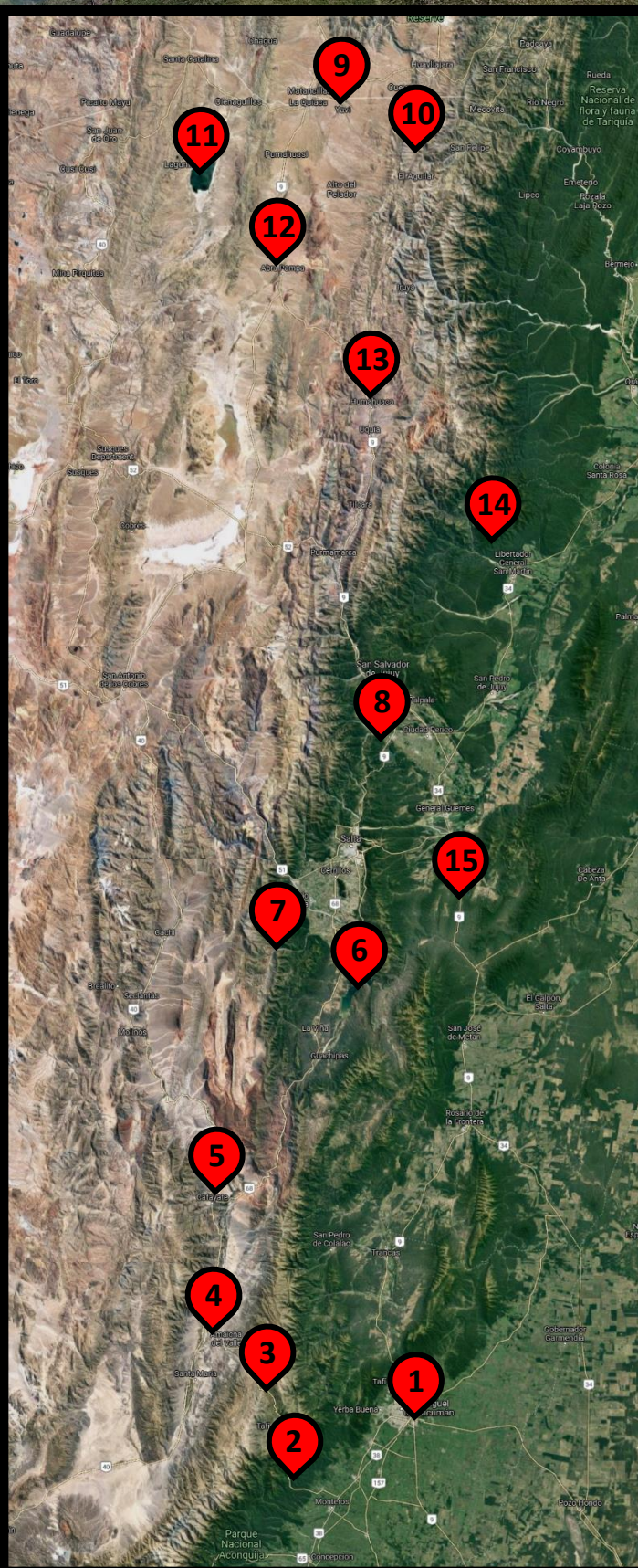
13

Parque Nacional Calilegua

14

RN9 Chaco

15



Day 1 09.01.2022	AM PM	Quebrada Los Sosa	Full day birding this forested valley, arriving mid-morning and staying until late afternoon.
Day 2 10.01.2022	AM PM	El Infiernillo Amaicha del Valle & Cafayate	Spent the morning birding El Infiernillo, leaving mid-morning to bird Amaicha del Valle around midday and then finishing in Cafayate.
Day 3 11.01.2022	AM PM	RN86 Chaco Dique Cabra Corral	Birding along the RN86 highway stopping off at suitable Chaco habitat. Arrived at Dique Cabra Corral mid-morning and finished the day there.
Day 4 12.01.2022	AM PM	Valle Encantado	Full day travelling up the Valle Encantado stopping off at various birding points. Did not descend until late afternoon.
Day 5 13.01.2022	AM PM	RP112 Chaco Parque Provincial Potrero De Yala	Quick early morning stop at the RP112 Chaco before heading to Yala mid-morning. Spent the rest of the day birding at Yala.
Day 6 14.01.2022	AM PM	Parque Provincial Potrero De Yala Laguna de Huancar	Spent the morning birding Yala, before heading to the high Andes after lunch. Made various stops along the RN9 highway, including Huancar Lagoon.
Day 7 15.01.2022	AM PM	Abra de Lizoite Yavi	We managed a few hours in the morning at Abra de Lizoite, and spent the afternoon in Yavi, once the car had been repaired.
Day 8 16.01.2022	AM PM	Laguna de los Pozuelos	Early start to travel from Yavi to Pozeulo. Spent most of the morning and early afternoon at Pozeulo. Finished the day in Humahuaca
Day 9 17.01.2022	AM PM	Humahuaca Parque Nacional Calilegua	Just a few hours around Humahuaca before heading to Calilegua. Began birding the national park after lunch
Day 10 18.01.2022	AM PM	Parque Nacional Calilegua	Spent the whole day birding the national park and adjacent forest
Day 11 19.01.2022	AM PM	Parque Nacional Calilegua RN9 Chaco	Set off from our lodging at the top of the forest, driving slowly down birding along the way. Headed south to Tucuman after lunch.

SITE DIRECTORY

We have tried to include as much detail as possible in explaining our experiences at each of the sites we visited, both for the species encountered and logistics. Helpfully, there are no sites in our itinerary that require any prior arrangement for access or are particularly tricky logistically, so for the most part, it is relatively easy to navigate our itinerary. The design for the tables used here were borrowed from an excellent report; NE Brazil, Dec-Jan 2017-2018, Sjoerd Radstaak. For us, they acted as a helpful guide as to which species to target at each location so that species that may not be considered key targets but only occur at a handful of sites are not missed. They are not designed to be comprehensive but act as a guide. Species were allocated a status based on eBird data, other trip reports and, of course, our own experiences at the sites.

Dique Cabra Corral **Salta**



Quebrada Los Sosa

09.01.2022

Our first location in the northwest of Argentina is the stunning forested valley of Quebrada Los Sosa. However, you will get used to using the word stunning when describing the scenery in this area of the country. The road slowly ascends from 600 meters above sea level up the forested slopes until it opens out at an altitude of around 1700 meters. Along the way are numerous small laybys adjacent to the forest to check for forest species and mixed flocks while also checking from bridges that cross the numerous small rivers and streams that flow down the mountainside.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
White-browed Tapaculo	Yungas Guan	Yungas Dove
Rufous-throated Dipper	Torrent Duck	Dot-fronted Woodpecker
Yellow-striped Brushfinch	Tucuman Amazon	Plumbeous Tyrant
	Brown-capped Whitestart	Andean Slaty Thrush
	Rusty-browed Warbling Finch	Black-backed Grosbeak

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Yungas forests of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

We encountered our first **Yellow-striped Brushfinch** *Atlapetes citrinellus* on the roadside at -27.0489899, -65.6698108, just up from the collection of shops known as El Indio -27.056032, -65.670804. We started birding at this location due to the key target species being more abundant higher up the valley. Although this was our first Yellow-striped Brushfinch of the day, it was certainly not the last, and we encountered the species at multiple stops during the day, often roaming around in pairs.

The species that we feared would require the most effort was the **Rufous-throated Dipper** *Cinclus schulzii*, but the birds are known to breed near the road at the top of the valley, so this was the area we searched. At -26.9884611, -65.6617330 is a bridge which is a known location to check some of the dipper's preferred haunts, and after waiting around 20 minutes, we spotted the bird. It

then performed very nicely, showing very well. There is also a track immediately uphill of the bridge that leads down to the river, so we made the most of this and had phenomenal views of the bird feeding. At the end of the afternoon, we returned to this location and spent another half an hour watching the bird whilst it fed. While we watched, a **Yungas Guan** *Penelope bridgesi* came to the river to drink, and a flock of **Tucuman Amazon** *Amazona tucumana* flew overhead. As we departed the site at the end of the day, we also checked another, larger bridge at -26.9845780, -65.6636816, where we also had another, albeit more distant, view of the dipper. At this location, we spotted a female **Plumbeous Tyrant** *Knipolegus cabanisi*, but it was elusive, and our views were brief.

Most of the days birding was spent in the area around these bridges. Just down the hill at

-26.9938324, -65.6630244, we found our only **White-browed Tapaculo** *Scytalopus superciliaris* of the day. Here a small track leads into the forest from the main road, and just a short distance along this, we heard the bird calling. It responded well to playback, but views were always too quick for photos. It is also possible to find this species at El Infiernillo, our site for the following day, but we wanted to find it here as insurance.

Birding in the valley was generally very enjoyable, despite the main road's proximity at all times. We encountered several mixed-species flocks through the day, in which we found our first **Black-backed Grosbeak**

Logistics

We travelled to the site from San Miguel de Tucumán in the morning. It takes just over an hour to reach El Indio from the city, a journey of roughly 75 kilometres. There is no accommodation within the valley itself, and it is limited between Tucuman and the base of the mountain, so lodging within Tucuman may be the best option. There is little point birding the forest below this point as the species likely to be encountered are common. The road up the valley is winding and can be narrow in places but is remarkably busy with traffic. The tarmac means that any car can manage the ascent without issue. There are no places to eat in the valley, so it is essential

Pheucticus aureoventris, **Brown-capped Whitestart** *Myioborus bruniceps* and **Dot-fronted Woodpecker** *Dryobates frontalis* of the trip. These flocks almost always also contained Yellow-striped Brushfinch, the species being possibly the most common bird in the valley. Where possible, scan the river for **Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata*. The first pair we found around 200 meters upstream from the bridge where we saw the dipper, but this pair was elusive, and only one member of our party saw them. It was not until mid-afternoon that we found another pair, which we picked up distantly from the vantage point at -27.0285830, -65.6617242, a religious site called 'Virgen de las Flores.'

to bring some food if you plan to spend the whole day birding here.

In the evening, we lodged in Tafi del Valle, at Hosteria Orcko Huasi, located in the downtown at -26.8524155, -65.7091088. The lodging was simple but friendly, with WiFi, hot water and a safe place to park the car, with a double room costing 4000 pesos. Breakfast is included but only after 08:00, and we had already departed at this point. There are many restaurants in the town, but we chose to eat at Alma Resto bar -26.8541124, -65.7092966, which was cheap and reasonable quality, with plenty of variety on the menu.

Yellow-striped Brushfinch *Atlapetes citrinellus* Quebrada Los Sosa





Tucuman Mountain Finch *Poospiza baeri* El Infiernillo

El Infiernillo

10.01.2022

This was our first encounter with the high Andes, a montane dry grassland and pasture scattered with deep, steep-sided ravines filled with lush shrubbery. At the time of our visit, the grassland was filled with flowers, and many of the streams flowed with water from recent rainfall. The wide montane valley ranges from the small town of Tafi del Valle and then northwest along the road until it narrows. This open area is called El Infiernillo, meaning 'The Little Hell' in Spanish, and provides some excellent opportunities for high Andean birding. The best birds are found by walking up the steep-sided ravines that cut across the roads at various points, reminiscent of wadis in the desert.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Moreno's Ground Dove	Black-winged Ground Dove	Ornate Tinamou
White-browed Tapaculo	Grey-hooded Parakeet	Andean Tinamou
Tucuman Mountain Finch	Buff-breasted Earthcreeper	Huayco Tinamou
Monte Yellow Finch*	Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail	Andean Lapwing
	Streak-fronted Thornbird	Cinereous Harrier
	Steinbach's Canastero	Cordilleran Canastero
	Puna Canastero	Scribble-tailed Canastero
	White-browed Chat-Tyrant	Subtropical Doradito
		Black Siskin

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Andean region of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find
 *Found in the transition habitats between El Infiernillo and Amaicha del Valle



Since we hoped to effectively condense two days birding into one, we made an early start to bird El Infiernillo. We arrived at the first ravine at -26.805345, -65.721861 around 07:00, but the sunlight did not reach the valleys until around 08:00, and it was only after this time that the birding picked up. Consequently, this first valley was not particularly lively, although, despite this, we managed to find several species whilst walking upstream. At -26.8039781, -65.7214195, a barbed-wire fence crosses the valley, but at the left-hand side, as you face upstream, there is a gap so that you can continue further. We made it to around -26.8024306, -65.7197525 before deciding to head back and try another valley. At this location, we found two **White-browed Tapaculo** *Scytalopus superciliaris*, including one that showed for photos. Another good species to check for here is **White-browed Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca leucophrys*, which we found at -26.802702, -65.720131. However, the highlight of the day and a contender for the highlight of the trip occurred in this valley. At one stage, an **Andean Tinamou**

Nothoprocta pentlandii flew down the valley towards us, which is bizarre behaviour for any tinamou species, leading to the question, what flushed it? This question was answered moments later when the striped head of a Lesser Grison *Galictis cuja* (South American Honey-Badger) appeared from the grass right in front of us. Although it was brief, it was an insane encounter.

After about 90 minutes birding this first ravine, we moved onto our second location, just 2.5 kilometres further up the road. Park the car at -26.792716, -65.728276, then take the track down the slope on the western side of the road. It is not possible to access this second ravine in the same way as the first, and birding is restricted to standing on the bank and scanning the bushes and river below. However, this second valley was far more productive than the first, as it was here that we found our only **Tucuman Mountain Finch** *Poospiza baeri*, but it was elusive. Views were often frustratingly brief as it moved between the bushes below, only occasionally perching in the open. It was also here that we picked out our only **Moreno's Ground Dove** *Metriopelia morenoi* for this site, a single individual sitting among the groups of more abundant **Black-winged Ground Dove** *Metriopelia melanoptera*. This quickly wrapped up our targets for this lower section of the El Infiernillo valley. We also enjoyed phenomenal views of **Subtropical Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*, with an individual building a nest in the grass here. It would often move past us through the grass at exceptionally close range, but we found this species quite common in areas of tall grass.

Moving up the valley, we progressed onto our third ravine, at -26.738700, -65.762929, which was much drier. There was no running water here, and the vegetation was comparatively reduced. The lush grasses and bushes of the previous two valleys were replaced with more bare surfaces and shorter grassy tussocks. Consequently, there was a noticeable change

in species composition, as it was here that we quickly spotted both **Puna Canastero** *Asthenes sclateri* and **Buff-breasted Earthcreeper** *Upucerthia validirostris*, the latter species taking food into an active nest site. We birded downstream at this valley, but we did not add many species to our list, and it now being mid-morning we decided to continue moving further along the road.

Not far after this third ravine, the broader valley of El Infiernillo contracts to a narrow passage composed of transitional vegetation between the Andean grassland of El Infiernillo and the Monte Desert ecoregion that we would be birding in the afternoon. We made a few stops as we passed through this region, mopping up on species we otherwise missed in the morning. Our first stop was at -26.724859, -65.790683 adjacent to a dry river bed. We did not descend into the river for birding, but we found our first **Streak-fronted Thornbird** *Phacellodomus striaticeps* from the roadside and had a small flock of **Black Siskin**

Spinus atratus fly past us. Carrying on up the valley, the road ascends, and the vegetation gradually changes, with grass cover becoming more limited and giant cacti appearing. At -26.694418, -65.803764, a steep dry river cuts through the landscape. This location was recommended to us by Giselle to search for **Monte Yellow Finch** *Sicalis mendozae*, which we managed to find easily. A large layby allows easy parking and excellent views down into the dry scrub below. We spotted a pair of Yellow Finch feeding on the far wall, but with some playback, they approached extremely close. It was also here that we found our first **Patagonian Mockingbird** *Mimus patagonicus*, but this species would become more abundant as we transitioned into the Monte Desert. Our final stop was at -26.671747, -65.816706, where we wandered upstream into an impressive canyon. Here we found our first **Greenish Yellow Finch** *Sicalis olivascens* and **Rufous-sided Warbling Finch** *Poospizopsis hypochondria*.

Logistics

From our lodging in Tafi de Valle, it was only a 10-minute drive to our first stop. The road was excellent the whole way through the site, although it starts to wind once the valley narrows. It is not a particularly busy road, so it is easy to drive slowly, scouting the landscape for birds. At each of the points we stopped, there was parking for the car. The valleys themselves, at least at the time of our visit, were quite wet, so good, waterproof, boots would be our recommendation. There are no footpaths through any of the mentioned valleys, so walking can be tough going, often on material that can be loose underfoot. We were fortunate that we wrapped up most of our targets very quickly.



Amaicha del Valle & Cafayate

10.01.2022 – 11.01.2022

Another new habitat for our itinerary is the arid Monte Desert that composes the wide, open valley from Amaicha del Valle northwards to Cafayate. As with many montane habitats, the species variety is notably limited, but it has several unique residents. Within the greater biome are several different habitat types, ranging from open dry riverbeds to thick scrub and everything in between. On a previous trip through Argentina, we had spent some time in the lowland equivalent of this habitat, and as such many of the species were familiar to us and so not our priorities. That said, we still encountered many of the target species that would be of interest to birders who have not previously enjoyed this biome.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Burrowing Parrot	White-fronted Woodpecker	Elegant Crested Tinamou
Sandy Gallito	Checkered Woodpecker	Black-legged Seriema
White-throated Cacholote	Tufted Tit-Spinetail	Cinnamon Warbling Finch
	Patagonian Mockingbird	
	Ringed Warbling Finch	

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the montane deserts of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

We opted for just an afternoon in this biome to condense our itinerary, as we only had a single outstanding target species; the gloriously brown **Sandy Gallito** *Teledromas fuscus*. We arrived at Amaicha del Valle at noon and began birding the Monte Desert to the west of the town. In the heat of the midday sun, activity was obviously significantly reduced. However, we still managed to find a pair of **Tufted Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura platensis* at -26.5631174, -65.9559978, and a pair of the much sought-after **White-throated Cacholote** *Pseudoseisura gutturalis* at -26.5640398, -65.9554077. The only other bird we recorded here was **Patagonian Mockingbird** *Mimus patagonicus*, with an individual singing from the side of the main road. In the distance, we heard a Gallito singing, but on approaching the area using playback to locate, the bird became silent, and we were left frustrated. By

combing the area in systematic transects, we were eventually able to spot the bird at -26.5528063, -65.9637212 as it scurried along the floor. Helpfully, it then subsequently perched atop a leafless bush and began to sing, allowing absolutely outstanding views.

Having seen the species we wanted so well and suffering from the heat, we decided to make tracks for our lodging in Cafayate. In the evening, after a cold shower and ice cream, we visited an area of Monte Desert to the east of the town called Los Médanos, a site famous for its picturesque sand dunes. There is good parking at -26.063600, -65.915115 and easy to walk footpaths through the scrub. Although a handful of tourists were also using the site, we were still able to find a few new species, including a pair of **Ringed Warbling Finch** *Microspingus torquatus* at -26.0651131 -65.9113799 and a **Checkered Woodpecker**



Sandy Gallito *Teledromas fuscus* Amaicha del Valle

Dryobates mixtus at -26.0643439, -65.9112565.

The following morning, whilst travelling to our next destination, we planned on stopping at a colony of **Burrowing Parrots** *Cyanoliseus patagonus* in the stunning valley of Quebrada de las Conchas, -25.950278, -65.746944, to the north of Cafayate. It was hoped by arriving early that many of the birds would still be in the area before they dispersed into the

desert, but we found our largest flock on the roadside wires at -26.0420784, -65.8714733 at 06:50, just as the sun was coming over the mountains. There were still a good number of birds lingering at the colony itself, and we watched a few adults fly up to visit the nests. It would have been nice to do some more Monte Desert birding in the valley here, but recent rainfall had turned the ordinarily bone-dry valley into a torrent, so we opted to give it a miss.

Logistics

Although the distance is only around 60 kilometres, it is impossible to judge how long it will take to travel from El Infiernillo to Amaicha del Valle because it depends entirely on how many birding stops are made. Amaicha is a small town but has a fuel station and a few shops. We did not need to enter the town, so headed straight for the Monte Desert. The roadside margins are broad, and it was easy to park the car. The desert is easy to wander across, but there are many sharp plants, plus ample broken bottles, so make sure suitable clothing is worn. As mentioned, we arrived in the middle of the day but managed to find all our targets in just over an hour.

From Amaicha, it is 66 kilometres to Cafayate, which took us just under an hour to drive straight, but we did not make any birding

stops along the way. The species diversity in this valley remains largely consistent, so it may not be necessary to make multiple stops between the sites. We spent the night in Cafayate at a small hostel called 'Hospedaje Familiar' -26.0668000, -65.9743622 which cost a very reasonable 3000 pesos for a room with two single and a double bed, plus a private bathroom. The town itself has many small restaurants and a fuel station, so it provides an excellent opportunity to stock up on supplies if they are required.

The Burrowing Parrot nest site is around 34 kilometres from Cafayate, taking roughly 30 minutes to reach driving. While the road is in good condition, it can be very winding in places. The site lies en route to Salta and the Chaco region, so there was no detour from our planned route.

RN86 Chaco & Dique Cabra Corral

11.01.2022

The Chaco woodland is a biome that stretches through northern Argentina, eastern Bolivia and western Paraguay. Its thorny vegetation has limited biodiversity, but many of the species that make their homes here are unique to this environment. Although most of the Argentinian Chaco lies further to the east, a nice area in the Andean foothills south of Salta provides an excellent opportunity to see many of the endemic species whilst not causing too much of a detour in our itinerary. Typically, Chaco is a distinctly dry habitat, but rainfall before our visit had turned the ordinarily bone-dry riverbeds into torrents of brown sludge while the vegetation was in full bloom.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Black-legged Seriema	Chaco Chachalaca	Brushland Tinamou
Crested Gallito	Chaco Puffbird	Dark-billed Cuckoo
Chaco Earthcreeper	Cream-backed Woodpecker	Burrowing Parrot
Black-crested Finch	Blue-crowned Parakeet	Greater Wagtail-Tyrant
Many-colored Chaco Finch	Great Rufous Woodcreeper	Moss-backed Sparrow
	Black-capped Warbling Finch	

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Chaco of northern Argentina, Paraguay & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

The Chaco forest stretches for many kilometres north along the valley until it reaches Salta, so it can be difficult to know precisely where to bird. We received some tips about finding a few birds between -25.623324, -65.615540 and -25.607490, -65.606999, so between 08:00 and 10:00, we birded this area. There are very few paths entering the woodland, so most of the birding was done from the side of the RN86 highway. During the morning, this area was very lively, quickly finding common Chaco targets such as **Chaco Chachalaca** *Ortalis canicollis*, **Chaco Puffbird** *Nystalus* and **Black-capped Warbling Finch** *Microspingus melanoleucus*. At -25.6126603, -65.6061687, there was a short track into the forest on the eastern side of the highway, which should have led to a dry-river bed, but instead led to a raging rapid of montane debris. Enjoying this new addition to the environment were two of both **Wood**

Stork *Mycteria americana* and **Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*. It was down this track that we found our first key Chaco endemic; the elusive **Black-legged Seriema** *Chunga burmeisteri*. It initially ran across the track in front of us, and although it returned with playback, it was hesitant and only ever obscured by the vegetation.

Continuing north, our next location was the Chaco Forest at Dique Cabra Corral, which surrounds a large reservoir popular with tourists. Whilst travelling, we had three more **Burrowing Parrot** *Cyanoliseus patagonus* fly east across the road. It was already 11:00 by the time we arrived, but commoner species were still quite active. It took some effort going uphill through the dry vegetation, but we managed to find the stunning **Many-colored Chaco Finch** *Saltatricula multicolor* at -25.2780534, -65.3863633, as well as a day

roosting **Tropical Screech-Owl** *Megascops choliba*, before we stopped birding for lunch and to see out the heat of the day. The restaurant we had lunch at overlooked the reservoir, and from here, we could see **Great Grebe** *Podiceps major*, while an adult **Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* flew over.

Remarkably, at around 15:00, there was a short rain shower, which undoubtedly helped increase the levels of activity in our afternoon birding session. We headed back into the field at around 16:00, heading to an area of Chaco 15 kilometres further along the road from the restaurant. At this point, -25.274696, -65.335625, the road splits in two. We only made a few short stops on the way, and the only bird of note we found was a wintering **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*. Once you arrive at the split in the road, take the dirt road on the right and bird the Chaco here. The quieter traffic movement and

excellent habitat quality yielded some brilliant birding with good species such as **Blue-crowned Parakeet** *Thectocercus acuticaudatus* among the large flocks of **Mitred Parakeet** *Psittacara mitratus*, **Dark-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus melacoryphus*, **Moss-backed Sparrow** *Arremon dorbignii* and **Greater Wagtail Tyrant** *Stigmatura budytoides*. We were able to locate another key Chaco species when we heard a **Chaco Earthcreeper** calling near the road at -25.274112, -65.333640. With patience, we got excellent views of this species and heard others calling while we birded. Frustratingly, however, our key target eluded us, as we were only able to hear the **Crested Gallito** *Rhinocrypta lanceolata* calling distantly in the Chaco at -25.275782, -65.332787. Here is a small stream, and some birds such as Chaco Chachalaca *Ortalis canicollis* and **Ultramarine Grosbeak** *Cyanoloxia brissonii* came down to drink in the early evening.

Logistics

In the morning, we travelled from Cafayate and drove north along the RN86 highway until we descended from the mountains and into the Chaco woodland. Our first stop was a 90-minute drive from Cafayate, which was not ideal for the early start required to maximise the birding in the Chaco but worked for our itinerary. For Chaco birding, the earlier you start, the better your chances, as the environment becomes extremely hot. We arrived in the Chaco at around 08:00, but many birders may prefer to lodge in a town nearer the habitat and start birding from first light.

We decided to streamline our day's birding by having our main meal at lunchtime, allowing us to bird as much as possible at the end of the day. Helpfully there is an excellent restaurant called 'Restaurante Viento Norte'

at -25.2841519, -65.3936217, which sits in the middle of the sites Chaco woodland, adjacent to the Embalse Cabra Corral reservoir. We enjoyed a nice lunch and a few choice beverages during the heat of the afternoon before heading our birding again at around 16:00.

In the evening, we lodged in a small town of Chicoana, which is 35 kilometres to the north of Dique Cabra Corral. Our lunchtime strategy paid off, as we were able to have a few snacks for dinner and then crash. Our bed for the night was 'Hostal Los Faroles Chicoana' at -25.106481, -65.537278, one of just a few hostels in the small town. That said, it was an excellent quality room for both of us and a reasonable price of 3000 pesos.

Valle Encantado

12.01.2022

Translated to the Enchanted Valley in English, this site is arguably the most breath-taking location on our itinerary. The stunning Valle Encantado rises from a river valley of Yungas forest to the plateau of the high altiplano, with a number of incredible views along the way. As you ascend through the valley, the road passes through several different habitats, each with excellent birding and different species to target, and the vegetation slowly changes from thick forest into open grassy plains.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Tawny-throated Dotterel	Moreno's Ground Dove	Andean Tinamou
Zimmer's Tapaculo	Least Seedsnipe	Ornate Tinamou
Maquis Canastero	Grey-hooded Parakeet	White-sided Hillstar
Rufous-bellied Mountain Tanager	Streak-fronted Thornbird	Puna Snipe
	Rock Earthcreeper	Black Siskin
	Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail	
	Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant	
	Rufous-sided Warbling Finch	

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Andean region of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

Cuesta del Obispo

The first birding location to visit as you travel up the Valle are the bushes at Cuesta del Obispo; the best place to find the **Rufous-bellied Mountain Tanager** *Pseudosaltator rufiventris*. We parked the car at -25.180627, -65.814229, and almost immediately, this key target flew past us. Despite quickly grabbing our equipment, we failed to relocate the bird. Shortly after two more flew past us and alighted briefly in the bushes before they carried on flying up the valley. Frustratingly, only one of us saw the birds, and despite continuing in the area for a few hours and returning at the end of the afternoon, we failed to see the species again. As it appeared



to us, the best strategy was to view from the road at -25.179724, -65.814928, looking down into the bushes below. Although this is not where we saw the birds, this is where there appeared to be the most activity of other similar species.

Another key species to try and find in this location is the **Zimmer's Tapaculo** *Scytalopus zimmeri*. Typically elusive, we found our first individual at -25.178786, -65.815877, but it did not show, and we eventually left the site without seeing the bird. On our return at the end of the afternoon, we were stunned to find presumably the same bird perched right out in the open and doing the complete opposite of typical tapaculo behaviour. Also, in this first area, keep an eye open for **Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura fuliginiceps*, which we found very common here, and **Grey-hooded Parakeet** *Psilopsiagon aymara*, which would occasionally stop by feeding on the bare rock faces adjacent to the road.

Slightly further up the valley at -25.162192, -65.841257, just five kilometres from the first

Logistics

From our hotel in Chicoana, it took about an hour to drive to the first location we had marked in Cuesta del Obispo. The road was surfaced to a point, -25.188054, -65.802266, when it turned into a dirt road, but this was not in awful condition, and our car had no issues on its ascent. The road twists and turns as it winds its way up the mountain, so it can be slow going. This is the main road between the city of Salta and the town of Cachi, so there is a surprising amount of movement along the road, which can be frustrating at times, both for birding and for driving. There was suitable room for us to leave the car out

location, we stopped again to do some more birding. Here a small river comes down from the highlands and creates a well-vegetated valley where it is possible to find the **Maquis Canastero** *Asthenes heterura*. It did not take us long to find this species here. Originally the plan was to walk up the river, but unhelpfully there were roadworks taking place where the river crossed the road, and so we were required to walk up the bank on the eastern side of the stream instead, and it was in these bushes that we found the Canasteros. It was also here that we found **Rock Earthcreeper** *Ochetorhynchus andaecola*, a tricky species that we had planned to target further up the mountain. Take care when identifying this species, as it is very similar to Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus*, which we did not find at this site. Commoner species we also encountered in these bushes included our first **Rusty Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa sittoides* and **Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans* of the trip.

of the way at each location we wished to stop for birding.

At the end of the days birding, we travelled from here to the town of General Güemes to the east of Salta, a journey of some 2.5 hours driving. Once there, we found a cheap hostel called 'Hostel Güemes' at -24.6684728, -65.0493781, which charged 2500 pesos for a bed for the night. This location positioned us perfectly for our birding the next day. There were multiple small restaurants in the town, so finding food for the evening was not a problem.



Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii* Cuesta del Obispo

Finca El Candado

As the valley rises to its peak begins the Parque Nacional los Cardones. Just after the national park entrance sign, at -25.183959, -65.853336, a dirt track leads back down the mountain to a large rocky outcrop and well-vegetated stream. We pulled up the car at -25.1880741, -65.8432186, and almost immediately spotted an **Ornate Tinamou** *Nothoprocta ornata* walking along the bank of the river. We walked upstream around 200 metres before turning around and heading downstream.

Upstream we found small pockets of activity. The most common bird we encountered was **Black Siskin** *Spinus atratus*, which made up for the otherwise brief views we had been restricted to with our only other observation at El Infiernillo. The stream was in full flow at the time of our visit, and this may be why we were lucky enough to find a pair of **Puna Snipe** *Gallinago andina* feeding. Initially, we only saw the birds in flight, but helpfully they landed rather conspicuously, allowing us to

study them in more detail. We also had our second **Puna Canastero** *Asthenes sclateri* and **Buff-breasted Earthcreeper** *Upucerthia validirostris* of the trip in this valley. As we headed downstream, we also encountered a **Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant** *Cnemarchus rufipennis*, a high-altitude species that can easily be missed on a trip to this region of Argentina. On our itinerary, Finca El Candado is one of the best locations to find it.

Check areas with more vegetation cover for **Zimmer's Tapaculo** *Scytalopus zimmeri*. Having failed to see the bird earlier in the morning, we were relieved to find an individual that showed reasonably well at -25.190638, -65.842245. Occasionally it would perch on the open rock faces before scurrying back into cover. While we were waiting for the Tapaculo, a small group of **Moreno's Ground Doves** *Metriopelia morenoi* perched on the adjacent hillside, allowing us to have better views than we had been afforded when we saw a solitary individual at El Infiernillo.

Logistics

You turn off the main road at -25.183959, -65.853336 and then take the narrow dirt track down the hill. On the date of our visit, the

gate at this junction was open, and we were able to drive down easily, but we were told this was not always the case. In this event it is

a four-kilometre walk to reach the gully that we found productive for birding. The track down is driveable, but care is needed due to its narrow nature, and there are not so many

places suitable for parking. It is necessary to spend at least an hour birding here to make the most of it. We arrived around midday, and there was still ample activity.

Parque Nacional los Cardones

At the end of Valle Encantado, the road continues over the mountain and descends onto a large flat plain. For the most part, this area is flat and featureless, and it can be a pretty daunting task as to where to begin searching for birdlife here. The number one target on these plains is the beautiful **Tawny-throated Dotterel** *Oreopholus ruficollis*, which breeds here before spending the rest of the year in the lowlands of southern South America.

We walked c.3 kilometres across the plains from our parking place before we found the birds we were looking for. Because of the afternoon's heat haze, it wasn't easy to make out distant shapes. We finally spotted what

appeared to be orange-coloured heads protruding from the grassland at -25.254567, -65.889154, and, on closer inspection, we found a flock of 12 Tawny-throated Dotterels, including a rather well-grown chick or recent fledgling. The birds showed remarkably well as they ran across the ground, never choosing to fly.

While scanning for the dotterels, we also spotted two pairs of **Least Seedsnipe** *Thinocorus rumicivorus*, the only Seedsnipe species we encountered on our trip. In contrast to the dotterels, these were very skittish and did not allow us to approach at all before taking flight.

Logistics

Pull off the Ruta Provincial 33 highway at -25.235615, -65.878483 and take the Ruta Provincial 27 dirt road heading south. As before, this dirt road was of reasonable quality, and in our car, we had no problems driving it, but we did not drive down particularly far. There are no clear places to park, but the road is straight and not busy with traffic, so we pulled over to the side and had no problems. Due to our itinerary, we birded this area in mid-afternoon, so we spent a good two hours walking in the open during the hottest part of the day. This was tough going, but we both agreed that this was one of the highlights of our trip, making it well worth this effort.



RP112 Chaco

13.01.2022

This would be our final morning birding a Chaco environment, so it provided us with an opportunity to catch up on some species that we missed before. The habitat in this area is much more fragmented, and access to the site requires passage through fields of plantation before the woodland begins. Once in the Chaco itself, the forest is very nice, with the Ruta Provincial 112 dirt road passing through, making the birding easy.

We started our birding just after first light, parking the car at -24.7366613, -6.0048858 and then walking along the road to the east. The birding was very enjoyable in the first few hours, with excellent views of **Many-coloured Chaco Finch** *Saltatricula multicolor* and **Blue-Grey Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* in the shrubbery adjacent to where we parked the car. As we walked up the road, we found a **Chaco Earthcreeper** *Tarphonomus certhioides* at -24.7351354, -65.0018499, as well as other commoner Chaco species that we had already encountered on the trip.

We chose to make this visit to try and find **Cinereous Tyrant** *Knipolegus striaticeps*, a species of black-tyrant that we would otherwise be unlikely to find on this itinerary. At first, we could only find a female, which was elusive and difficult to get good views. However, there were at least three displaying males once the road straightened out at -24.734399, -65.000039. Listen for their low, scratchy songs to indicate their presence, then look for the males displaying as they hurl themselves into the air before dropping back onto the perch. If time allows, it is well worth seeking out this species.

Logistics

From our lodging in General Güemes, it took about 15 minutes to drive to the site, a distance of about 10 kilometres. The 112 road itself starts at -24.738222, -65.028418, just south of the YPF fuel station, and can be easily missed if not paying attention. Although it is a dirt road for its entire duration, the driving is not difficult. There is no need to spend more than a few hours birding here before continuing to Yala.



Parque Provincial Potrero de Yala

13.01.2022 – 14.01.2022

The oldest of the protected areas in this region, founded in 1952, it protects a large expanse of Yungas cloud forest, composing 98% of the park. In addition to the forests, there are also large lagoons, offering a unique mix of wetland and forest species. The fast-flowing rivers that cut through the mountainsides not only provide a stunning addition to the landscape but also provide another opportunity to catch up with species missed at other locations. While there is significant overlap in species diversity with PN Calilegua, a few species can only be found here.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Red-faced Guan	Torrent Duck	Yungas Screech Owl
Rothschild's Swift	Yungas Guan	Highland Elaenia
Spot-breasted Thornbird	Yungas Dove	Andean Slaty Thrush
Fulvous-headed Brushfinch	Lyre-tailed Nightjar	Brown-capped Whitestart
	Slender-tailed Woodstar	Black-backed Grosbeak
	Dot-fronted Woodpecker	
	Tucuman Amazon	
	Plumbeous Tyrant	
	Slaty Elaenia	
	Rufous-throated Dipper	
	Rusty-browed Warbling Finch	
	Rust-and-yellow Tanager	

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Yungas forests of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

The road through the park at Yala is circular and can be accessed via either entrance. We were advised not to try and access the top of the park via the southern entrance through Termas de Reyes, but that this access road would be our best opportunity to find the number one target for the park; the **Red-faced Guan** *Penelope dabbenei*. We arrived at this road just after midday and parked the car at -24.167214, -65.491840, just after crossing the bridge before setting off birding uphill. Birding felt like something of a lost cause at this time of day, with very little activity in the bushes, but we persevered regardless. A small stream crosses the road not far uphill from where we parked the car at -24.166462, -

65.489267. Here we had some activity, with a pair of **Rusty-browed Warbling Finch** *Microspingus erythrophrys* collecting food and a **Slaty Elaenia** *Elaenia strepera* enjoying the shade. While we enjoyed these birding offerings, a guy who had been resting in his van, which was parked in the shade next to the stream, called to us. Recognising that we were interested in birds, he pointed to the bushes above the van and said, 'Pava de Monte'. This meant little to us, but we followed his directions and there, sat motionless in the shade, was a relaxing Red-faced Guan. Without this, we would have certainly have overlooked this bird. Overjoyed at landing our number one target within an



Red-faced Guan *Penelope dabbeni* PP Potrero de Yala

hour of arriving at the park, we headed off for some lunch.

We headed back to the park at around 16:00, once the worst of the day's heat had subsided. This time we accessed via the more northern road to reach the top and bird the forest there. On the way, the road follows the river here, and it would be worth checking here for Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata* and Rufous-breasted Dipper *Cinclus schulzii*. Frustratingly, our visit coincided with the heatwave, and as such, the river was crammed with tourists, so we opted not to waste our time looking for these species here. We left the car at -24.1181380, -65.4680520 and set off uphill. Birding was quiet until early evening, and it was only then that activity increased. As you ascend the park, the forest opens out, and it was in these environments on the border of the dense forest that we encountered the most activity, both during this evening and the following morning.

We found our first **Spot-breasted Thornbirds** *Phacellodomus maculipectus* in the scrub at -24.110367, -65.483896, but the species was relatively abundant, and we encountered others in the vegetation at -24.113609, -65.475905 as part of a mixed flock. This mixed flock, in particular, had several interesting species in it, including more Rusty-browed Warbling Finches and **Rust-and-yellow Tanager** *Thlypopsis ruficeps*, as well as the first **Fulvous-headed Brushfinch** *Atlapetes fulviceps* of the trip. However, we found this latter species far more abundant the following morning. Whilst enjoying this mixed flock, we had a female **Slender-tailed Woodstar** *Microstilbon burmeisteri* fly over us, but the views were brief, and it did not return. At around 18:30, whilst watching the Thornbirds at the first location -24.110367, -65.483896, two **Rothschild's Swift** *Cypseloides rothschildi* began hawking over the Laguna Comedero, the westernmost lake. Although it is marked as a key target for this location in the table, the bird is species of swift at the end of the day, which means it roams far and wide and can be very tricky to get to grips with. It is not reported very often, so it was a real bonus bird of our trip that we were able to spot it. Be vigilant of all swifts, as **White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* is very common in the park, and in dull light conditions, the white-collar could be easily overlooked.

The park lakes do not have any key targets, but they are worth a quick check to boost any trip list. There were many commoner waterbirds, but we also enjoyed phenomenal views of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* hunting low over the Laguna Rodeo. The birding activity ground to halt around mid-morning, so, having enjoyed some excellent birding and seen all of our key targets, we decided to head off to our next destination.

Logistics

The Ruta Provincial 4 road through Yala is circular with two entrances. The southern entrance, which accesses via Termas de Reyes, is tarmacked until -24.168546, -65.489936, where it begins to ascend once you have passed through the village and crossed the bridge over the Río Reyes. From here, it turns into a dirt road, but not of terrible quality, but it is not necessary to climb the road far in a vehicle. We parked not far after where the road turned to dirt due to our ignorance about potential parking spots, but we need not have been worried, as we passed many convenient locations on just our short hike. Although it is possible to continue driving uphill from here until you reach the park lagoons, we were informed that the drive would be far simpler to return to the main highway and then go to the lagoons via the other northern entrance via the town of Yala itself.

Entering the park via the other, northern, road, the road is paved until the village of Los Nogales at -24.120236, -65.438785. From this point on until it begins to ascend, the road is a good quality dirt road, but the quality deteriorates once it starts to climb. There is a lot of loose material, some of it quite large, but small cars can still climb without any problems. There were many parked cars along the sides of the road on our ascent due to tourists enjoying the warm weather. This did not help the situation, but we still managed to navigate our way to the top of the park.

Yala, and its neighbouring towns, are not large, so there are limited options for places to stay and eat. It did not help that many of the hotels we did find were well out of our price range. In the end, we found an excellent location that provided both meals and accommodation, with a site called 'El Refugio' located to the north of Yala town at -24.1178399, -65.4042966. It markets itself as the complete tourist experience, and they are not wrong, complete with a good restaurant, camping, private bedrooms and even a swimming pool. We considered camping, but the site was busy with many chumps playing loud music, so we opted for the more comfortable private bedroom for 3500 pesos. It was quite a find, as the rooms were excellent and had ample parking for the car. We can't recommend staying here enough if doing a trip with a tighter budget. It is worth noting that there is also a restaurant at the top of the park at -24.107187, -65.478680, and this option may be preferable to some.

Rothschild's Swift *Cypseloides rothschildi* PP Potrero de Yala

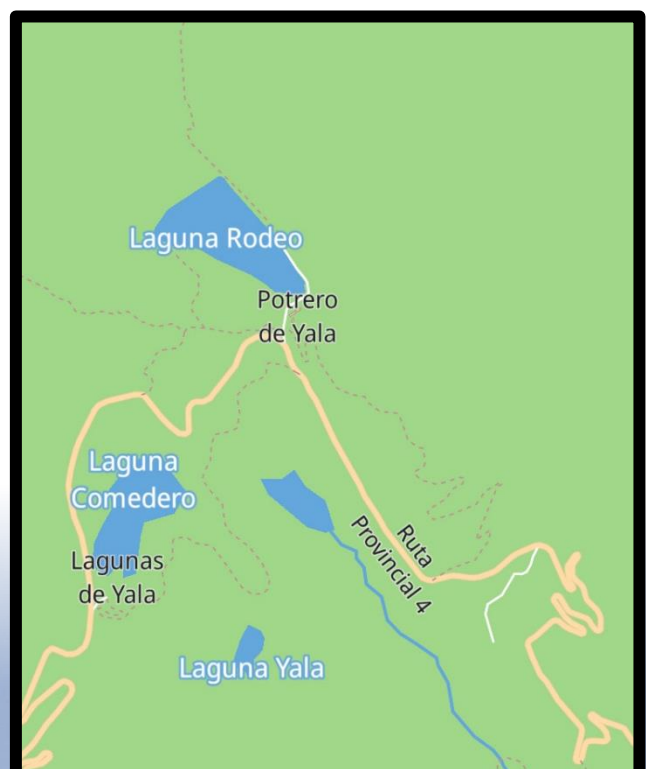


Fig 1. Map identifying the various lakes, as well as plotting the various footpaths that cross this main area of the PP Potrero de Yala



Brown-backed Mockingbird *Mimus dorsalis* RN9

Humahuaca & RN9

14.01.2022 & 16.01.2022

Humahuaca is a small Andean town located off the Ruta Nacional 9 highway. Between this town and the town of Abra Pampa, 85 kilometres further to the north, the highway passes many dry river beds and expanses of the open altiplano, and as such, birding can be done at any time. This highway is an essential route to reach several key itinerary sites. As such, details of our exploits and birding stops along the way are included here.

Many species likely to be encountered in this area will also be expected in the higher places at the end of the RN9 highway. However, a few species are worth keeping an eye open for in this area; the most notable of these is the **Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas*. Although not as colourful or elaborate as many other members of the family, the size of this bird more than compensates. Once the road passes the town of Humahuaca, look for the tubular yellow flowers of *Nicotiana glauca*, which are common along the roadside. These appeared to be the bird's favourite. At our first stop at -22.993584, -65.374076, we only managed flyby views, followed by better flyby views at -22.959953, -65.392896, before finally finding a more docile and approachable bird at -22.951857, -65.402976. We spent a good half an hour with this latter bird before continuing along the

way. Another good species to look out for on this drive is the very range-restricted **Brown-backed Mockingbird** *Mimus dorsalis*. This bird would also be abundant at later sites, notably around Yavi, but this highway offers an excellent opportunity to find it before. Further up the highway at -22.91706, -65.57210, we found our first **Mountain Parakeet** *Psilopsiagon aurifrons* perched on a roadside fence post. This species occurs in low densities across the Altiplano and can be tricky to get, so we were relieved to find one so quickly.

After a night in Humahuaca on the 15th, we birded a dry river bed behind the town the following morning. We parked the car at -23.195399, -6.346461 and headed upstream. This was the last time we would be birding in the high Andes on our itinerary, so we

enjoyed our last observations of many species we had become familiar with over the last few days. **Black-hooded Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus atriceps*, **D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca oenanthoides* and **Rufous-banded Miner** *Geositta rufipennis* were three species that we had brilliant views of during the morning,

Logistics

Despite being just a single lane highway, the RN9 is a fast road and progress along it can be very quick, depending on the number of birding stops. Traffic movement is, in our experience, quite limited, and there are wide margins on both sides, so it is never an issue to stop if there is an opportunity for birding. There are fuel stations in various towns along the way, so fuel need not be a concern. From Yala to Abra Pampa, it is nearly 200 kilometres (with an additional 90 kilometres to Yavi), taking at least two and a half hours. Still, more time should undoubtedly be allowed for this journey to prepare for inevitable birding encounters along the way.

Humahuaca is a charming Andean town with multiple quaint restaurants and hostels. On our return from the altiplano, we stayed one night here on the night of the 15th, although this was enforced by a flash-flood shutting the highway. We found a small hostel called 'El Portillo' at -23.203938, -65.348085, which also had a restaurant and was more than suitable for our needs. Staying here meant we had to leave the car on the road, but we were fortunate that it received no damage overnight. Our options in the town were restricted due to an extravagant religious

and we also added a new species to our trip list with **Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes flavirostris*, which we found pretty common at this site. We only spent a couple of hours birding here before proceeding with our travels, but it was worth it.

festival which had brought in many travellers. If we had more opportunities, we would maybe have selected somewhere with more secure parking for the car. The town itself is full of very narrow one-way cobbled streets, making navigating it tricky.



Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas* RN9



Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea* Laguna de Huancar

Laguna de Huancar & Abra Pampa

14.01.2022 & 16.01.2022

Although only a small Andean town, Abra Pampa is certainly worth a stop if time allows since numerous small wetlands and pools surround it. Despite a significant overlap between the birds at these small wetlands and the larger Laguna de los Pozuelos, these sites offer insurance for some species.

During the afternoon of the 14th, we spent the best part of two hours birding Laguna de Huancar, located just to the south of Abra Pampa. It is also worth noting that many of the targets here were far more confiding here than we were to experience at Laguna de los Pozuelos, affording excellent views. This applies to one species in particular; **Giant Coot** *Fulica gigantea*, as we were afforded unbelievable, point-blank views like Mallards on a duck pond. Equally tame here is **Andean Coot** *Fulica ardesiaca*, although it is not as abundant as the former. Although we would eventually see these species at Laguna de los Pozuelos, there were a few birds that we encountered here that we did not see there. The most notable of these was **Puna Ibis** *Plegadis ridgwayi*, which we found strangely

lacking at Pozuelos but very abundant here, with medium-sized flocks passing over regularly. Other species to look out for here are **White-tufted Grebe** *Rollandia rolland*, which was uncommon, but we found three individuals among the groups of **Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis*, and **Wren-like Rushbird** *Phleocryptes melanops*, which is a small Furnariid that moves cryptically among the reeds around marshes. Other species to look for here, which we also found at Pozuelos, included **Puna Teal** *Spatula puna* and **Andean Gull** *Chroicocephalus serranus*. In the grass adjacent to the lagoon, look for **Puna Miner** *Geositta punensis*. We managed to find three of these feeding on the roadside as we left.



Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi* Laguna de Huancar

On the whole, we found the site to be much greener, with more waterside vegetation than Pozuelos, and if time allows, it is certainly worth a short stop.

More roadside pools are north of Abra Pampa, although these are far less spectacular with fewer species on offer. That said, if passing, they are certainly worth a quick check. The complex array of lagoons at -22.710245, -65.706067 had a few species, mainly similar to Laguna de Huancar, but it was here that we found our only **Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera* of the trip. Slightly further out, at the watering hole at -22.696775, -65.728986, we spotted what was one of only two **Lesser Rhea** *Rhea pennata* that we were able to find in the altiplano.

Logistics

The entrance to the Laguna de Huancar is just off the main highway 9 at -22.7731832, -65.7055190, six kilometres to the south of Abra Pampa. There is a gate to access the lagoon via an entrance track, the northern gate of the two you will find here. Giselle informed us that there would be no problem opening the gate and entering upon arrival, but to make sure that it was shut before carrying on. However, when we arrived, we found the gate already open, the small ticket office manned, and a price of 400 pesos for the vehicle. This is not a tremendous amount of money, but it could be enough to put some birders off. It was then a short drive, just over a kilometre, along a dirt road to the lagoon, where we spent about two hours birding.

The town of Abra Pampa has a few small shops and restaurants where it is possible to grab some supplies if passing through. However, we did not stay in the town so cannot offer any advice on lodgings or restaurants. The small pools behind the town are accessed along the Ruta Provincial 7 road, which turns off the Ruta Nacional 9 main highway at -22.711743, -65.694910. Although the RP7 is a dirt road, it is of reasonable quality, and it is not required to drive more than a couple of kilometres to bird these pools. For us, at least, these pools required no more than a quick check when passing.

Abra de Lizoite

15.01.2022

At over 4,500 meters above sea level, this high-altitude valley is the home of one of the key target species on our itinerary; the stunning Diademed Sandpiper-Plover *Phegornis mitchellii*. Despite being one of the most remote destinations in our trip, the possibility of encountering this species was a prospect simply too good to turn down. But there is more to this site than just its special wader, as several other montane species can only be found or best found here.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Diademed Sandpiper-Plover	Andean Hillstar	Ornate Tinamou
Puna Ground Tyrant	Mountain Parakeet	Grey-breasted Seedsnipe
Red-backed Sierra Finch	Slender-billed Miner	
	Straight-billed Earthcreeper	
	Black-fronted Ground Tyrant	

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Andean region of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

Although we initially planned to visit the site in the afternoon, we ultimately decided to try in the morning to hopefully see the bird and then enjoy a more relaxed afternoons birding. The drive across the altiplano was straightforward until our back right tyre disintegrated, and then it became somewhat more stressful as we prayed that it didn't happen again. Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna* was common along the way, with some areas having huge groups. As the landscape changed from flat to steep Andean ascent, we found a small ground of **Mountain Parakeets** *Psilopsiagon aurifrons* feeding by the roadside at -22.232571, -65.264261.

We parked the car at -22.202287, -65.211218, where there are some small ruined buildings, before setting off upstream. The river often splits in two and winds across the valley, while the sides of the valley are flanked by multiple open bogs that all add together to create the

perfect environment for this charismatic upland wader. In short, we didn't find it!

Red-backed Sierra Finch *Idiopsar dorsalis* Abra de Lizoite



We ultimately walked about two kilometres upstream before the altitudinal pressure became too much, and we had already been looking for a good few hours. And at that point, if you have not found it, the chances are that you won't. It was a tough one to take, especially when our friend Giselle informed us that they had seen it on each of their three visits to the site, generally in less than half an hour. Perhaps it was the recent Andean rainfall we had experienced, or the end of the breeding season, or something else, but we were very disappointed not to be able to find this bird.

The other birds were a little more cooperative for us. The **Red-backed Sierra Finch** *Idiopsar dorsalis* was very common, with small feeding

groups scattered all across the valley. They were often very approachable and undoubtedly the highlight of the morning, given that we failed to find the plover. Check open rocky areas for *Muscisaxicola* Ground Tyrants, as we were lucky enough to find a relatively approachable **Puna Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola juninensis* about a kilometre into our walk. A few **Andean Hillstars** *Oreotrochilus estella* in the valley, but they were not approachable at all, and we were often restricted to distant views. Another common species to keep an eye open for here is **Straight-billed Earthcreeper** *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus*. Although on paper, it is not restricted to this location, it was the only place we saw it during our travels.

Logistics

From Yavi, the road is 37 kilometres long before you arrive at Abra de Lizoite. The road is unpaved the entire way, with an abundance of loose material on the surface. This, combined with an inappropriate driving speed for such a road, absolutely shredded our back-right tyre. We quickly changed and continued on our way, but it did mean that we had to try and acquire a new spare tyre in the afternoon. We were lucky to find a small mechanics still open on a Saturday afternoon in La Quiaca at -22.108061, -65.599760. Otherwise, our best option to find a mechanic was probably in neighbouring Bolivia. It was cheap to replace the tyre, at only 2000 pesos and eased our concerns ahead of the day's visit to Laguna de los Pozuelos, another site that required a lot of driving on dirt roads.

Depending on how many birding stops are made on the way, it takes between one to two hours to reach Abra de Lizoite from Yavi. The road twists and turns as it ascends but is not busy with traffic. Once you arrive at the valley, you can easily park the car at -22.202287, -65.211218. There is no footpath upriver, so good hiking boots or wellies are

essential. Be aware that this is at 4500 meters above sea level, and as such, clambering over rocks can take a heavy toll. Presumably, the euphoria of seeing the plover helps, but this is not something we can relate to.





Bare-faced Ground Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae* Yavi

Yavi

15.01.2022

This is a small, unassuming village situated on Argentina's northern border, and is the best location on this itinerary to catch up with a few species otherwise only found in Bolivia. It is a special place not just to bird, but also to experience. The Andean lifestyle here feels a million miles away from 21st-century living, with houses constructed from clay and small farm plots scattered along the valley. The town itself is most famous for its neolithic paintings, which draws most tourists to the area.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Bare-faced Ground Dove	Mountain Caracara	Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail
Wedge-tailed Hillstar	Grey-hooded Parakeet	Mourning Sierra Finch
Rusty-vented Canastero	Mountain Parakeet	Black-hooded Sierra Finch
Brown-backed Mockingbird	Rock Earthcreeper	
Citron-headed Yellow Finch	D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant	
	Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Andean region of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

Although we had stayed in Yavi the previous night, our birding here only began in the afternoon of the 15th, once we had taken the car to the mechanics. Although it was around 15:00, some activity was still taking place, not least a flock of about 15 **Citron-headed**

Yellow Finch *Sicalis luteocephala* feeding on the roadside -22.133171 -65.460357, just at the entrance to the town. We did find more of this species later in the afternoon. When we returned to our hostel, even the simple courtyard was hosting species that we were

targeting with a pair of **Bare-faced Ground Doves** *Metriopelia ceciliae* roosting on the clay walls and a **D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca oenanthoides* singing from an electric mast. Although we saw the dove many more times, finding it one of the most common species around the town, this was the only chat-tyrant that we saw here.

We started birding Yavi by heading down the path into the wadi at the north-western edge of the town around -22.128841, -65.461434. The scrub here had a breeding pair of **Rusty-vented Canastero** *Asthenes dorbignyi*, and on the walls of the farm plots we found many Bare-faced Ground Doves. At least two **Brown-backed Mockingbird** *Mimus dorsalis* were singing, even during this hot part of the afternoon.

The best area we found for birding was around 'El Mirador', a viewpoint located at the north of the town around -22.127439, -

65.465368. The shrubs below this site are the best places to find the birds in Yavi. We found a sizeable mixed-species flock in the bushes at -22.128398, -65.464468, with Citron-headed Yellow Finch, **Greenish Yellow Finch** *Sicalis olivascens*, **Mourning Sierra Finch** *Rhopospina fruticeti*, **Black-hooded Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus atriceps*, and even **Greyish Baywing** *Agelaioides badius* all here. From here, continue along the footpath around and under the Mirador. Scan the cliffs for Mountain Viscacha *Lagidium viscacha*, which we spotted here. It is in this area directly below the Mirador that is usually best for the Wedge-tailed Hillstar *Oreotrochilus adela*. When we visited there were very few flowers, and although we searched until evening, we could not find it. During the evening, there was a small roost movement of **Mountain Caracara** *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*, with at least ten individuals passing overhead, all going north.

Logistics

Yavi is a 3.5-hour drive from Yala, 300 kilometres in distance, but this does not consider the time spent on birding stops. In the end, we arrived in Yavi quite late and went to 'Pousada Tika'. However, on arrival, we learned that the price for nationals and foreigners differs, and the price was around 100 dollars a night. As such, we abandoned that plan and found another place to stay, more suited to our budget. We settled for a hostel called 'La Casona', located at -22.129939, -65.462043 in the centre of Yavi. It was basic but suited our needs for a reasonable price of 3000 pesos a night. We decided to spend two nights, which worked best for our itinerary.

There are no fuel stations in Yavi; the final options en route are in La Quiaca, around 16.5 kilometres to the west of Yavi. While for Yavi itself, this is not such a huge problem, if proceeding to Abra de Lizoite or further to Santa Victoria, then it is certainly something that should be taken into account. There are a few restaurants in the town, with additional options in La Quiaca. We ate at 'El Mirador De Yavi' (which also has accommodation options), located at -22.132028, -65.461111. Here we had brilliant views of an ongoing thunderstorm whilst enjoying a fantastic Quinoa soup, possibly the best meal we enjoyed in Argentina.

Laguna de los Pozuelos

16.01.2022

Situated in the middle of the Puna ecoregion, this massive saline lake is a must-visit for anyone visiting this area of Argentina. The lake's volume varies throughout the year due to the impact of seasonal rainfall, and in drought years, it can even dry completely. At roughly 25km long and 9 km wide, this site is most well-known for its populations of Flamingos, but other Puna species occur around the lake, which are unlikely to be found elsewhere on this itinerary.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Lesser Rhea	Andean Goose	Puna Tinamou
Puna Teal	Crested Duck	Ornate Tinamou
Golden-spotted Ground Dove	Andean Coot	Grey-breasted Seedsnipe
Giant Coot	Horned Coot	Baird's Sandpiper
Andean Flamingo	Silvery Grebe	Common Miner
James's Flamingo	Chilean Flamingo	
Andean Avocet	Puna Ibis	
Puna Plover	Mountain Caracara	
Andean Gull	Andean Negrito	
Puna Miner	Black-hooded Sierra Finch	
Cordilleran Canastero	Band-tailed Sierra Finch	
Bright-rumped Yellow Finch		
Puna Yellow Finch		

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Andean region of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find



We set off from Yavi before first light, with the hope of arriving at Laguna de los Pozuelos before the heat haze became a problem. We took the route via the town of Cienaguillas before heading south along the Ruta Provincial 69 road. The sun had just started to appear as we set off down the highway, and as such, we were able to enjoy the early morning burst activity. We found the **Golden-spotted Ground Dove** *Metriopelia aymara* feeding along the roadside, although it took some time before we could find one that would sit for more than a few seconds.



James's Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* Laguna de los Pozuelos

This was fortunate, as we found none once we arrived at the Laguna. We had this problem for other species, including the **Bright-rumped Yellow Finch** *Sicalis uropigyalis*, of which we found a small flock feeding in a field at -22.431352 -65.956211, and **Puna Miner** *Geositta punensis*, which was common in well-grazed areas as we travelled south along the road. Another species not restricted to this site but very noticeable on our morning drive was **Ornate Tinamou** *Nothoprocta ornata*. In the end, we passed at least 15 different individuals, often alone but sometimes in pairs. They could be spotted rather conspicuously sitting at the roadside or feeding in the fields. We also had our only **Band-tailed Sierra Finch** *Porphyrospiza alaudina* on this road, with a male singing from the wires that hang adjacent to the road.

Once you access the site, there are seven kilometres of driving before you reach the lagoon car park. This area is very well grazed by domestic llamas and wild Vicuñas *Vicugna vicugna*. In this area, we found our only **Common Miner** *Geositta cunicularia*, of the trip. The large white-rump initially had us suspecting that it could be another species, but after discussing with Giselle and Facundo, we decided that was probably not the case, largely because that species (Creamy-rumped Miner *Geositta isabellina*) is extremely rare here. Once you arrive at the car park at 22.4206423, -65.9925365, check the bushes for **Cordilleran Canastero** *Asthenes modesta*,

which we were able to find a pair here. We spotted our only **Lesser Rhea** *Rhea pennata* from this location, but it was distant and in the company of Vicuña.

Frustratingly, upon arrival, we could see that most of the flamingos were concentrated in the very southeast corner of the lagoon, around -22.392260, -65.973016 and that we would require some walking (four kilometres as it happened) before we would be close enough to identify the rarer species through the already prominent heat-haze. The majority of the flamingos around the site were **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, with this large concentration numbering over 500 individuals. On our way to inspect this flock, we were able to find a small group of **Andean Flamingos** *Phoenicoparrus andinus*, but our only **James's Flamingos** *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* were feeding just to the south of this largest group, at around -22.394757, -65.976279.

Birding at the lake is very straightforward. For this site, it is beneficial to have a scope, as the birds can often be distant, and it is necessary to filter through large flocks of ducks, coots and flamingos to find rarer species. On our walk over to the flamingos, we picked up other target species, such as **Andean Avocet** *Recurvirostra andina*, **Puna Plover** *Charadrius alticola*, and **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*. Both **Andean Coot** *Fulica ardesiaca* and **Giant Coot** *Fulica gigantea* were very common on the water, with large flocks of **Crested Duck**

Lophonetta specularioides and **Andean Goose** *Chloephaga melanoptera*. Although we only saw the lagoon on one day, Giselle told us that the birds move around a lot, and we were unlucky to have the flamingos so distant. One surprise species for our visit was a drake **Chiloe Wigeon** *Mareca sibilatrix* among the rafts of **Yellow-billed Teal** *Anas flavirostris* and **Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica*. This is a rare species here and should not be considered a target for a trip to the area.

When we left the lagoon, it was already mid-afternoon, and it was hot. We did not hold out much hope for finding the **Puna Yellow Finch** *Sicalis lutea* in the grassland as we left, but we were lucky that a striking male flew across the road at -22.510101, -65.880058, as we headed towards Abra Pampa. It alighted briefly on the rocks for a few minutes before continuing up the valley.

Logistics

There are two roads to access the lagoon, depending on your point of origin; take either the number 7 road from Abra Pampa or the number 5 road, followed by the number 69 from La Quiaca. Since we were travelling from Yavi in the morning, we took the latter to the site and then left via the former. All of the aforementioned roads are dirt tracks but are of reasonable quality. At least for our trip, there was no excess of potholes or particularly large debris, so our car made the journey easily. That said, we took the road slowly and carefully to prevent a repeat of the previous day's incident. The routes both take at least 90 minutes to complete, but be aware that there is good birding to be had regardless of the entry road, so expect to add on at least another hour for stops.

When you arrive at the park, you must first register your entry at the guard post located at -22.4735020, -65.9935185. We arrived pretty early, and on a Sunday, so there was nobody around, and we decided to let



Andean Avocet *Recurvirostra andina* Laguna de los Pozuelos

ourselves into the reserve. The entrance to the reserve is located just to the west of the guard post at -22.4732046, -65.9962715, and is well signposted. That said, it is required to open a gate at the entrance, and there are another four gates to pass through before you reach the lagoon car park, located seven kilometres down a dirt track from the entrance at -22.4206423, -65.9925365. From this point, depending on the lake's water level, it can be up to a two-kilometre walk to the water's edge, but the ground is easy to walk on, so it is not a particularly arduous hike.

There are no hotels in the vicinity of the lake. As mentioned, we travelled from our lodging in Yavi, but the most sensible option is more likely to lodge in Abra Pampa and then travel from there. Camping is not permitted on-site, but there are plenty of secluded spots on the mountains if that more basic approach suits you.

Parque Nacional Calilegua & San Francisco

17.01.2022 – 19.01.2022

Calilegua is the largest conservation area in the Yungas ecoregion, with an area of 763.06 km² composed almost entirely of pristine montane forest. However, the park does not protect all the forest here, so we expanded our exploration of this region to incorporate other accessible areas of Yungas forest. The scenery is spectacular, with steep forested slopes and deep river canyons. For birding, it offers the best chance to connect with several Yungas endemics, and at least a couple of days of birding is essential to make the most of the Yungas birdlife as a whole. We enjoyed almost two full days birding the park, spending most of our time in the higher altitude montane forest searching for the regional endemics found here.

KEY TARGETS	GOOD TARGETS	POSSIBLE TARGETS
Blue-capped Puffleg	Yungas Guan	Tataupa Tinamou
Yungas Screech Owl	White-tipped Swift	Torrent Duck
Yungas Pygmy Owl	Speckled Hummingbird	White-throated Quail-Dove
Green-cheeked Parakeet	Slender-tailed Woodstar	Blue-crowned Trogon
White-throated Antpitta	Yungas Dove	Cream-backed Woodpecker
Yungas Manakin	Black-banded Owl	Mitred Parakeet
Buff-banded Tyrannulet	Dot-fronted Woodpecker	Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper
Sclater's Tyrannulet	Tucuman Amazon	Ochre-cheeked Spinetail
Speckled Nightingale-Thrush	Golden-collared Macaw	Giant Antshrike
White-browed Brushfinch	Rough-legged Tyrannulet	
Pale-legged Warbler	Slaty Elaenia	
Two-banded Warbler	Fulvous-headed Brushfinch	
	Moss-backed Sparrow	

Key:
Bold – Only at this site on this trip
Red – Endemic to the Yungas forests of north-west Argentina & southern Bolivia
Blue – Possible but difficult to find

This was the only site that we could bird with Giselle and Facundo due to a clash of schedules. Their knowledge of the area certainly helped us to connect with so many of the target species, as they were quick to pick up on species based on even the smallest calls. Their contacts in San Francisco also helped us out logistically, as we did not need to search for hostels or restaurants, this information being already known by them. Their vehicle was also a 4x4, so we used this on our full day in the park, as it had more

space for the four of us, as well as its obvious ability to tackle the road more comfortably than our car would, although I must stress that there would have been no problem for our car at any point.

Before the park entrance, the road travels through a dry woodland intergrade between the Chaco and Yungas ecoregions. There are good species to be found here, but the park endemics are located at higher altitudes, so we did not spend any time birding here on our ascent and only a short time on the descent.

We found our first **Green-cheeked Parakeets** *Pyrhura molinae* feeding in the roadside fruiting trees at -23.775896, -64.830363, although we also encountered this species at higher altitudes, and a little further on the road at -23.774544, -64.833074, we found **Black-banded Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* and **Ochre-cheeked Spinetail** *Synallaxis scutata*. This drier forest habitat extends past the park gate, and at -23.757684, -64.854346, there is a small car park and a short trail into the woodland. In this area we looked for the Golden-collared Macaw *Primolius auricollis*, but we were unsuccessful in our search. This lower section is also the best place to find the **Blue-crowned Trogon** *Trogon curucui*, which we heard several times and saw once. We also heard **Giant Antshrike** *Batara cinerea* on a number of occasions. Although we tried to find it here, including using playback, it was, as is typical, very elusive, and we never managed to spot one, which is a shame as it truly is a spectacular bird.

On our ascent through the park, we made our first stop at -23.693751, -64.867882 and started to find our first target species. At this location, a small stream runs across the road, and we birded this area several times during our stay in the park. The guardhouses are just up the road at -23.6998122, -64.8669730, and here there are parking spaces where it is possible to safely leave the car before birding along the road. On our ascent, we were able to find **Two-banded Warbler** *Myiothlypis bivittata* and **Speckled Nightingale Thrush** *Catharus maculatus*, although the latter was typically elusive. When we visited this area the following day, we finally found **Yungas Manakin** *Chiroxiphia boliviana*. A few Manakins were calling in the forest, but they did not approach with playback, and in the end, we only spotted a 'green' individual high in the canopy. After dark, we found the superb **Black-banded Owl** *Strix huhula* here, with a pair calling in the forest. Usually, one bird will call deep in the forest while another



White-throated Antpitta *Grallaria albigula* PN Calilegua

silently approaches and investigates your playback. Thunderstorms hampered our night-birding attempts on both nights that we spent in the park, so we were lucky to be able to observe this species before the rain set in.

Between this point and the top park gate, any roadside stop yields chances of finding target species for the park. We found our first **White-throated Antpitta** *Grallaria albigula* at -23.687901, -64.879862. Although there were at least four individuals in this area, we only managed to see one by climbing the bank into the vegetation. In the same place, we also found what turned out to be our only **White-browed Brushfinch** *Arremon torquatus*. The roadside is lined with flowers, so be vigilant for hummingbird species. The area directly below the top park gate at -23.681030, -64.901179 was in particularly full bloom. Here, we found **Slender-tailed Woodstar** *Microstilbon burmeisteri* and **Speckled Hummingbird** *Adelomyia melanogenys*, as well as the commoner **White-bellied Hummingbird** *Elliotomyia chionogaster*. In the evening, we found our only **Yungas Pygmy**

Owl *Glaucidium bolivianum* at -23.68404, -64.88758, and we managed views of the bird crossing the road, but it stayed high in the canopy.

The forest habitat continues past the park exit until San Francisco, and once again, any stop could yield target species. White-throated Antpitta was still quite common, and we had good views of another individual at -23.678692, -64.916327. Not far from here, at -23.67960, -64.93009, we found our only **Pale-legged Warbler** *Myiothlypis signata*. An excellent place to bird is the Rio Jordan that the road crosses at -23.648533, -64.937056. On our ascent, the site was busy with tourists playing in the river and cooking barbeque, but the following morning it was much quieter, and we enjoyed some excellent birding. Two Two-banded Warblers were feeding along the riverbank, and in the river itself, a female **Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* was swimming, with a **Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper** *Lochmias nematura* jumping from rock to rock. The sheer cliff face that flanks the river had breeding **Cinnamon Flycatcher** *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* and **Golden-crowned Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*, and in the breeding season check at night for the stunning Lyre-tailed Nightjar *Uropsalis lyra*, which can even be spotted roosting during the daytime, but sadly we were too late in the season for this latter species.

We spent one morning birding the Alto Calilegua trail above San Francisco. The car can be safely left at -23.623384, -64.946444 just at the entrance to the trail. From there head up the hill, following the signpost. After a short distance, at -23.624773, -64.946565, the trail splits in two. As you face the divide, the right-hand path is shorter but still worth some birding. Along this shorter trail we walked only around 100 metres before turning around, but along this distance we were able to find **Cream-backed Woodpecker** *Campephilus leucopogon*, while in the early morning flocks of **Tucuman Amazon** *Amazona*

tucumana flew over, among the throngs of commoner **Scaly-headed Parrot** *Pionus maximiliani*. The left-hand trail continues all the way into the high Andes, but there is no need to go this far. We birded this trail for most of the morning, and it was very birdy, allowing us to easily find both of the Yungas endemic tyrannulets; **Sclater's Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias sclateri* and **Buff-banded Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus hellmayri*, as well as **Rough-legged Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*. Overhead check for flocks of **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus* that fly over, as we saw two flocks during the morning. Other birds we encountered along this trail included our second **Dot-fronted Woodpeckers** *Veniliornis frontalis* of the trip and exceptional views of **Tataupa Tinamou** *Crypturellus tataupa* at -23.627595, -64.944192, the only tinamou species that occurs within the park.

In addition to the birding, there are other animals that can be enjoyed in the park. We had an exceptional encounter with a Red Brocket *Mazama americana* on a night drive as it fed on the roadside vegetation. Also, keep an eye open for the endemic Yungas Red-bellied Toad *Melanophryniscus rubriventris*, a spectacular animal we were lucky enough to find crossing the road on our final morning after heavy overnight rainfall.



Yungas Red-bellied Toad *Melanophryniscus rubriventris* PN Calilegua



Black-banded Owl *Strix huhula* PN Calilegua

We did miss a couple of target species, which is to be expected. Many of the flowers preferred by the Blue-capped Puffleg *Eriocnemis glaucopoides* had finished by the time of our trip, and while it is always possible to encounter the species, we did not have any luck. As mentioned before, night birding was

significantly hampered by the weather, and although we heard the Yungas Screech Owl *Megascops hoyi*, none would come close enough for us to find before the weather set in. White-throated Quail-Dove *Zentrygon frenata* was typically elusive, and it was hardly a surprise that we neither heard nor saw it.

Logistics

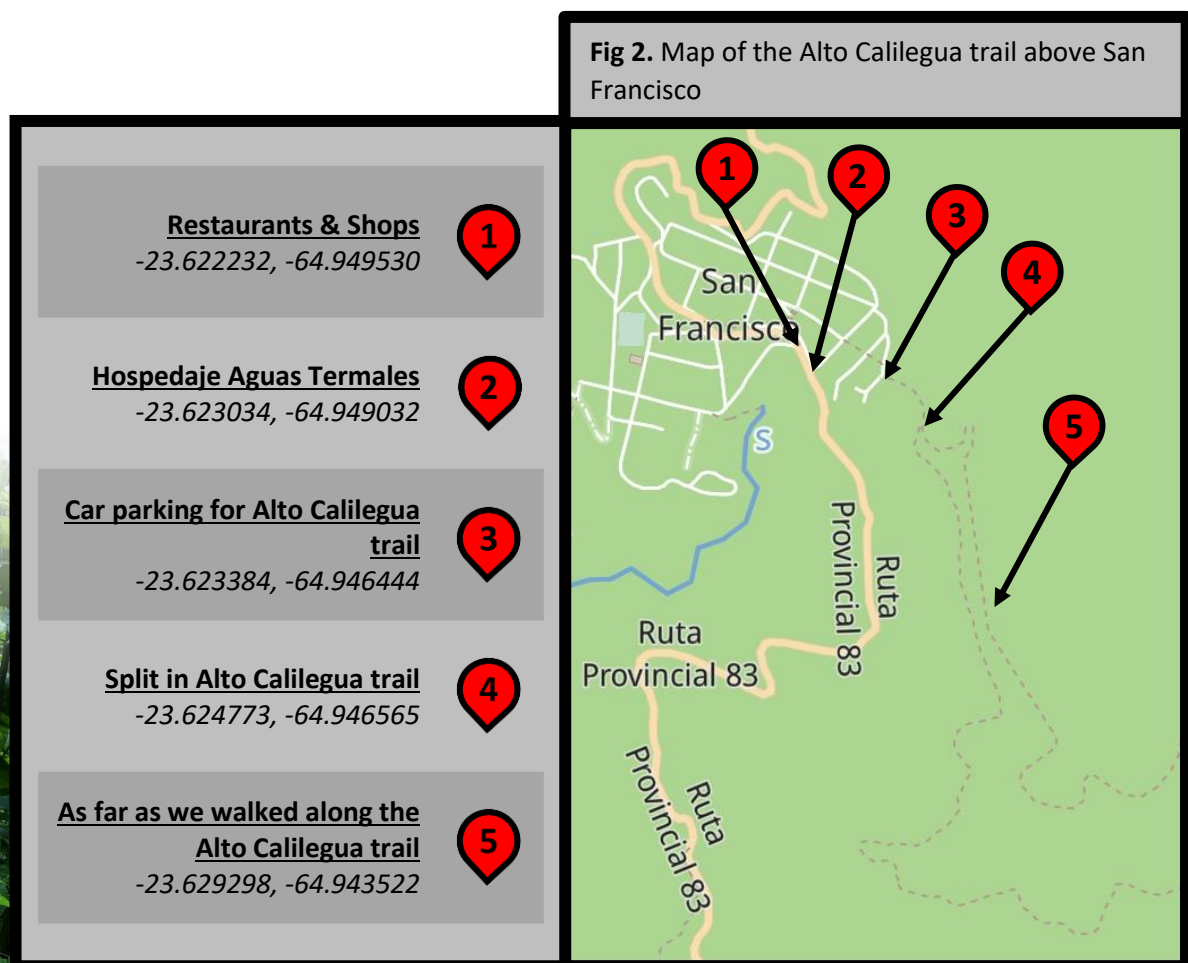
Entry to the park is free of charge. The entrance to the park is located at -23.7606740, -64.8502900, after you have already travelled eight kilometres through a large stretch of lowland Chaco – Yungas intergrade forest from the closest town of Libertador General San Martín. The road then climbs up the mountain until you leave the park at -23.680522, -64.900688. This road is nothing more than a winding narrow dirt track, but we were impressed with the quality of the road, and our car had no issues at all while ascending. There is some traffic movement during the day, as vehicles use the road to reach the Andean villages beyond the park. Because of this, it is essential always to ensure that your vehicle is well parked when

being left. There are trails into the forest throughout the park, but for the most part, we only birded on the road.

The town of San Francisco sits beyond the park, some 48 kilometres from Libertador General San Martín. It takes at least 90 minutes driving to reach the town, and that excludes any time spent birding. Once at the town, you will find facilities limited, so it is good to stock up on commodities such as snacks and fuel before making the ascent. The town has only a single small shop and two small restaurants. These restaurants finish serving at around 22:00, and this is worth bearing in mind if planning on trying to find the park's owl species. There is a little more

choice in hostels, as we were able to find at least five that had vacancies. Since we travelled with Giselle, we stayed at the hostel they use when visiting the park (although not when leading tours), Hospedaje Aguas Termales, located at the -23.623034, -64.949032 in the entrance to the town. This hostel was very basic but very cheap at only 1500 for a room for two nights. However, if you plan to use this hostel, make sure to bring toilet paper, towels and breakfast. There are other, more up-market hostels available, but many birders may decide that the trip up the mountain is just not worth it and prefer to stay in Libertador General San Martin at the bottom of the park. We did not make any reservations for this journey, and it is unlikely that you would be unable to find a room.

Calilegua was the final destination on our itinerary; if we had been able to gain any time on our trip through successful visits to other sites, it would be better to spend the time acquired here. In total, we spent one afternoon, a full day and a morning birding the forest, but we still missed a few targets, and it would have been nice to have more time here. From Libertador General San Martin, it is a 380-kilometre, five-hour journey, to San Miguel de Tucumán, and this is worth bearing in mind when planning a visit. Consequently, our final morning was somewhat rushed, as we needed to descend the mountain and travel south on the same day.



RN9 Chaco

19.01.2022

This was a rather unexpected addition to our itinerary when Giselle and Facundo's car broke on the return journey from Libertador General San Martín to San Miguel de Tucumán. Our car could take them home, but we were required to wait until a tow truck could arrive to collect their moribund vehicle.

The silver lining here is that the car broke down at -24.948221, -64.986994 in an area of Chaco woodland, which extended on both sides of the highway. Since we had time available, we spent about an hour exploring the habitat on the eastern side of the road, where a disused railway line offered easy access through the thorny scrub. Here we encountered a notable bonus species for our

trip with **Yungas Sparrow** *Rhynchospiza dabbenei*, one of the now two species formally known as Stripe-capped Sparrow. This species is endemic to the region but does not occur at any sites on our itinerary, so we could at least gain something from this unfortunate development. In addition, we had excellent views of the **Many-coloured Chaco Finch** *Saltatricula multicolor*.

Logistics

Having a car break down is never a good thing, but we were somewhat fortunate that the location was easily accessible, being just a short drive from Salta, and that there was suitable habitat we could bird while we waited. As with most highways, there was a

wide margin where we could safely leave the cars while we birded, but this is a fast road. It took some time for the truck to come and collect the vehicle, and as such, we did not reach San Miguel de Tucumán until the early hours of the morning.

Yungas Sparrow *Rhynchospiza dabbenei* RN9 Chaco



COMPLETE SPECIES LIST

BIRDS, MAMMALS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, BUTTERFLIES &
DRAGONFLIES

Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis* Parque Nacional los Cardones



BIRDS

Rheas

- 1 **Lesser Rhea** *Rhea pennata*
A single was seen at Laguna de los Pozuelos and another at Abra Pampa

Tinamous

- 2 **Tataupa Tinamou** *Crypturellus tataupa*
Two together were seen on the Alto Calilegua trail, two more were heard at Dique Cabra Corral
- 3 **Ornate Tinamou** *Nothoprocta ornata*
First seen at Finca El Candado, but then found to be common on the 69 road to Laguna de Pozuelo
- 4 **Brushland Tinamou** *Nothoprocta cinerascens*
Heard only in RN9 Chaco
- 5 **Andean Tinamou** *Nothoprocta pentlandii*
Two were seen at El Infiernillo and another at Cuesta del Obispo. Heard only at other locations

Wildfowl

- 6 **Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata*
A pair was seen on the river at Quebrada Los Sosa, and a female was on the Rio Jordan at PN Calilegua
- 7 **Andean Goose** *Chloephaga melanoptera*
Notably common at Laguna de los Pozuelos, but also seen at other upland wetland sites
- 8 **Crested Duck** *Lophonetta specularioides*
Very common at Laguna de los Pozuelos, but also small numbers at Abra Pampa and Laguna de Huancar
- 9 **Puna Teal** *Spatula puna*
Around 30 at Laguna de los Pozuelos, but also small numbers at Abra Pampa and Laguna de Huancar
- 10 **Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*
Two drakes and a female at Abra Pampa
- 11 **Chiloe Wigeon** *Mareca sibilatrix*
A single drake with the teals at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 12 **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*
Small numbers at Laguna de los Pozuelos, plus two at Abra Pampa
- 13 **Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica*
Abundant at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 14 **Yellow-billed Teal** *Anas flavirostris*
Very common at Laguna de los Pozuelos, two also seen Abra de Lizoite
- 15 **Andean Duck** *Oxyura ferruginea*
Most abundant at Laguna de Huancar, but also small numbers at Laguna de los Pozuelos

Guans & Chachalacas

- 16 **Chaco Chachalaca** *Ortalis canicollis*
Abundant in Chaco environments, although often heard only. Highest numbers seen at RN86 Chaco
- 17 **Red-faced Guan** *Penelope dabbeni*
Two seen at PP Potrero de Yala; one at Termas de Reyes and another on the main road
- 18 **Yungas Guan** *Penelope bridgesi*
One seen at Quebrada Los Sosa, another at Embalse Cabra Corral. Heard at PN Calilegua

Swifts

- 19 **Rothschild's Swift** *Cypseloides rothschildi* **Near Threatened**
Two flying above the Laguna Comedero at PP Potrero de Yala
- 20 **White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris*
Quite common at PP Potrero de Yala
- 21 **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus*
Two flocks were seen above the Alto Calilegua trail above PN Calilegua
- 22 **Andean Swift** *Aeronautes andecolus*
Three were seen El Infiernillo and another five at Dique Cabra Corral

Hummingbirds

- 23 **Planalto Hermit** *Phaethornis pretrei*
Encountered reasonably frequently at PN Calilegua, feeding on flowers along the main road
- 24 **Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans*
Three were seen in Valle Encantado, also encountered a few times around Humahuaca and RN9 roadside stops
- 25 **Speckled Hummingbird** *Adelomyia melanogenys*
Two were seen at PN Calilegua
- 26 **Red-tailed Comet** *Sappho sparganurus*
Encountered regularly throughout the trip, in both Yungas and high Andean habitats
- 27 **Andean Hillstar** *Oreotrochilus estella*
A few individuals were seen in the valley at Abra de Lizoite
- 28 **Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas*
One was seen briefly at Humahuaca, and three others were seen at roadside stops along the RN9 highway
- 29 **Slender-tailed Woodstar** *Microstilbon burmeisteri*
A female was seen at PP Potrero de Yala, a male was seen briefly at PN Calilegua
- 30 **Glittering-bellied Emerald** *Chlorostilbon lucidus*
Three were seen at Dique Cabra Corral, and another three at PN Calilegua
- 31 **White-bellied Hummingbird** *Elliotomyia chionogaster*
Quite common at PP Potrero de Yala, where an active nest was located, and at PN Calilegua

Cuckoos

- 32 **Guira Cuckoo** *Guira guira*
Occasionally seen flying across the road in lowland agricultural areas
- 33 **Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*
One was seen on the lower part of the road at PN Calilegua
- 34 **Dark-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus melacoryphus*
A single was seen at Dique Cabra Corral
- 35 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*
A single was seen at Dique Cabra Corral

Pigeons & Doves

- 36 **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Yeah!
- 37 **Picazuro Pigeon** *Patagioenas picazuro*
Reasonably common in lowland habitats, the highest numbers were seen at PP Potrero de Yala
- 38 **Spot-winged Pigeon** *Patagioenas maculosa*
Small numbers were seen at Cafayate and at Yavi

- 39 **Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata*
Two were seen at Quebrada Los Sosa
- 40 **Picui Ground Dove** *Columbina picui*
Encountered a few times, mostly around Amaicha del Valle and Dique Cabra Corral
- 41 **Bare-faced Ground Dove** *Metriopelia ceciliae*
Reasonably common around Yavi, especially around the Mirador
- 42 **Moreno's Ground Dove** *Metriopelia morenoi*
Just a single was seen in the second valley at El Infiernillo, but a group of seven was seen at Finca El Candado
- 43 **Black-winged Ground Dove** *Metriopelia melanoptera*
Small numbers were encountered at El Infiernillo
- 44 **Golden-spotted Ground Dove** *Metriopelia aymara*
Two were on the 69 road to Laguna de los Pozuelos. Other *Metriopelia sp.* flushed here were probably also this species
- 45 **White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi*
Fairly common in Chaco habitats, but more often heard than seen
- 46 **Yungas Dove** *Leptotila megalura*
Regularly heard at PP Potrero de Yala and PN Calilegua, but only seen on a couple of occasions
- 47 **Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata*
Common throughout the trip, except in Yungas habitats

Rails, Crakes & Coots

- 48 **Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*
Two were seen on the lakes at PP Potrero de Yala
- 49 **Red-fronted Coot** *Fulica rufifrons*
A small number were seen on the lakes at PP Potrero de Yala
- 50 **Giant Coot** *Fulica gigantea*
Abundant and confiding at Laguna de Huancar, also very common at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 51 **Andean Coot** *Fulica ardesiaca*
Small numbers at Laguna de Huancar and Abra Pampa, but very common at Laguna de los Pozuelos

Grebes

- 52 **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*
A small number were seen on the lakes at PP Potrero de Yala
- 53 **White-tufted Grebe** *Rollandia rolland*
At least four were present on the Laguna de Huancar
- 54 **Great Grebe** *Podiceps major*
Two on the reservoirs at Dique Cabra Corral
- 55 **Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis*
Abundant at Laguna de Huancar and at Laguna de los Pozuelos

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* Laguna de los Pozuelos



Flamingos

- 56 **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* **Near Threatened**
Huge numbers at Laguna de los Pozuelos, with a small number also at Abra Pampa
- 57 **Andean Flamingo** *Phoenicoparrus andinus* **Vulnerable**
Present in small numbers at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 58 **James's Flamingo** *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* **Near Threatened**
A small group of around 10 individuals was seen at Laguna de los Pozuelos

Stilts & Avocets

- 59 **White-backed Stilt** *Himantopus melanurus*
Present in small numbers at Laguna de Huancar, Laguna de los Pozuelos and on the lakes at PP Potrero de Yala
- 60 **Andean Avocet** *Recurvirostra andina*
A small number was present along the shoreline at Laguna de los Pozuelos

Plovers

- 61 **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*
A handful were seen at El Infiernillo and PP Potrero de Yala
- 62 **Andean Lapwing** *Vanellus resplendens*
Present in small numbers at Laguna de Huancar, Laguna de los Pozuelos and Abra Pampa
- 63 **Puna Plover** *Charadrius alticola*
Around 10 were seen at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 64 **Tawny-throated Dotterel** *Oreopholus ruficollis*
A group of 12 was found on the open plains at PN los Cardones

Seedsnipes

- 65 **Least Seedsnipe** *Thinocorus rumicivorus*
Two different pairs were found on the open plains at PN los Cardones

Sandpipers & Snipes

- 66 **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*
Common at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 67 **Puna Snipe** *Gallinago andina*
A single was seen in the small river ditch at Finca El Candado
- 68 **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*
Two were at Laguna de Huancar

Gulls & Terns

- 69 **Andean Gull** *Chroicocephalus serranus*
Small numbers were present at Laguna de los Pozuelos, plus two at Laguna de Huancar and one at Abra Pampa

Storks

- 70 **Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*
Two were present on a flooded river through the RN86 Chaco

Anhingas

- 71 **Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*
At least two were seen flying over the reservoirs at Dique Cabra Corral

Cormorants

- 72 **Neotropic Cormorant** *Nannopterum brasilianum*
Large numbers present on the lakes at PP Potrero de Yala, also seen on the reservoirs at Dique Cabra Corral

Ibis & Spoonbills

- 73 **Buff-necked Ibis** *Theristicus caudatus*
A group of four flew over the RN86 Chaco
- 74 **Bare-faced Ibis** *Phimosus infuscatus*
Four were present on the lakes at PP Potrero de Yala
- 75 **White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*
A single was seen at Laguna de Huancar
- 76 **Puna Ibis** *Plegadis ridgwayi*
Good numbers at Laguna de Huancar and Abra Pampa, strangely none at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 77 **Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*
Two were present on a flooded river through the RN86 Chaco

Hérons

- 78 **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Quite common at Laguna de Huancar and Abra Pampa, also seen on the reservoir at Dique Cabra Corral
- 79 **Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
Strangely only seen at Laguna de Huancar, where it was quite abundant
- 80 **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
A single at Quebrada Los Sosa, but otherwise only seen at Dique Cabra Corral where it was abundant
- 81 **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*
A single was at Abra Pampa

Vultures

- 82 **King Vulture** *Sarcoromphus papa*
Two adults flew over the forest at PN Calilegua
- 83 **Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus* **Vulnerable**
Encountered fairly regularly in Yungas and Andean habitats, the highest count was three at Quebrada Los Sosa
- 84 **Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*
Five were seen together at Dique Cabra Corral
- 85 **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*
Could be encountered in small numbers at numerous sites

Kites, Hawks & Eagles

- 86 **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus*
One was perched in the lower forest at PN Calilegua
- 87 **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*
Was common at PN Calilegua, with small groups flying together. A single was also seen at PP Potrero de Yala
- 88 **Rufous-thighed Kite** *Harpagus diodon*
One was soaring high above the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua
- 89 **Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea*
Two were seen soaring together above PN Calilegua
- 90 **Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*
Singles were seen at PN Calilegua, Dique Cabra Corral and RP112 Chaco

- 91 **Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma*

Reasonably abundant in high Andean habitats

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

One was seen at El Infiernillo, with another two at PP Potrero de Yala

Owls

- 93 **Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia*

Common at El Infiernillo and on the 69 road to Laguna de los Pozuelos

- 94 **Yungas Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium bolivianum*

One seen flying across the road in response to playback in the upper forest of PN Calilegua

- 95 **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius*

Two heard duetting in the upper areas of forest at PN Calilegua, but were not seen

- 96 **Tropical Screech Owl** *Megascops choliba*

A day roosting individual was found in the Chaco at Dique Cabra Corral

- 97 **Yungas Screech Owl** *Megascops hoyi*

A few different individuals were heard in the upper areas of forest at PN Calilegua, but none were seen

- 98 **Black-banded Owl** *Strix huhula*

One showed above the road in the upper forest at PN Calilegua

Trogons

- 99 **Blue-crowned Trogon** *Trogon curucui*

Heard frequently in the lower forest at PN Calilegua, but only seen briefly when one flew across the road

Kingfishers

- 100 **Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*

One flew downriver at Quebrada Los Sosa

Puffbirds

- 101 **Chaco Puffbird** *Nystalus striatipectus*

One was seen by the side of the road in the RN86 Chaco, it was also heard in the RP112 Chaco

Toucans

- 102 **Toco Toucan** *Ramphastos toco*

One flew across the road at PP Potrero de Yala, and was seen a few times in PN Calilegua

Woodpeckers

- 103 **White-barred Piculet** *Picumnus cirratus*

Reasonably common in Yungas forest

- 104 **Dot-fronted Woodpecker** *Veniliornis frontalis*

One was seen at Quebrada Los Sosa, another three were seen on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua

- 105 **Checkered Woodpecker** *Veniliornis mixtus*

One was seen in the Monte Desert near Cafayate

- 106 **Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Leuconotopicus fumigatus*

One was seen on the road in the upper forest in PN Calilegua

- 107 **Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus*

One was seen at Quebrada Los Sosa, another four were seen in Yungas around PN Calilegua

- 108 **Green-barred Woodpecker** *Colaptes melanochloros*

Two were seen on the roadside at El Infiernillo

- 109 **Andean Flicker** *Colaptes rupicola*
Reasonably common in high Andean habitats, a family party was found at El Infiernillo
- 110 **Cream-backed Woodpecker** *Campephilus leucopogon*
One was seen on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua, another was seen distantly in the RN9 Chaco
- Seriemas**
- 111 **Black-legged Seriema** *Chunga burmeisteri*
Our only sighting of the trip was a brief individual seen in the RN86 Chaco
- Caracaras & Falcons**
- 112 **Mountain Caracara** *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*
A roost movement of eight individuals flew over Yavi, also reasonably common around Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 113 **Crested Caracara** *Caracara plancus*
Encountered reasonably frequently, although never abundant
- 114 **Chimango Caracara** *Milvago chimango*
Three were seen at El Infiernillo, and another two at Amaicha del Valle
- 115 **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*
Encountered in open habitats, although never abundant
- 116 **Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis*
Two were seen at El Infiernillo and another on the open plains at PN los Cardones
- Parrots**
- 117 **Grey-hooded Parakeet** *Psilopsiagon aymara*
Four were seen at El Infiernillo, two at Cuesta del Obispo and seven at Yavi
- 118 **Mountain Parakeet** *Psilopsiagon aurifrons*
One was seen by the side of the road on the RN9 highway, two small groups were seen on the road to Abra de Lizoite
- 119 **Scaly-headed Parrot** *Pionus maximiliani*
Common on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua, two also flew over the RP112 Chaco
- 120 **Tucuman Amazon** *Amazona tucumana* **Vulnerable**
A flock of 10 flew over Quebrada Los Sosa, and large numbers were heard on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua
- 121 **Green-cheeked Parakeet** *Pyrrhura molinae*
Quite common throughout PN Calilegua, especially in the lower forest
- 122 **Burrowing Parrot** *Cyanoliseus patagonus*
Large numbers were seen early morning on the drive north from Cafayate
- 123 **Blue-crowned Parakeet** *Thectocercus acuticaudatus*
A group of 10 was seen at Dique Cabra Corral
- 124 **Mitred Parakeet** *Psittacara mitratus*
Common throughout in Yungas and Chaco habitats, the largest numbers seen at PP Potrero de Yala
- Furnariids**
- 125 **Common Miner** *Geositta cunicularia*
Four were found in the short grass around Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 126 **Puna Miner** *Geositta punensis*
Common in the short grass around Laguna de los Pozuelos and on the 69 road, also at Laguna de Huancar
- 127 **Rufous-banded Miner** *Geositta rufipennis*
A single was at El Infiernillo, another at Cuesta del Obispo and four at Humahuaca
- 128 **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus*
Three seen on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua

- 129 **Black-banded Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*
Two were seen in the lower forest at PN Calilegua
- 130 **Narrow-billed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*
At least five were seen in the various Chaco habitats we visited
- 131 **Streaked Xenops** *Xenops rutilans*
One was seen in PN Calilegua
- 132 **Straight-billed Earthcreeper** *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus*
A few individuals were seen at Abra de Lizoite
- 133 **Rock Earthcreeper** *Ochetorhynchus andaecola*
A pair was seen at Cuesta del Obispo
- 134 **Chaco Earthcreeper** *Tarphonomus certhioides*
One was seen at Dique Cabra Corral, and another at RP112 Chaco
- 135 **Rufous Hornero** *Furnarius rufus*
Reasonably common in lowland habitats
- 136 **Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper** *Lochmias nematura*
One was seen on the Rio Jordan at PN Calilegua
- 137 **Wren-like Rushbird** *Phleocryptes melanops*
One was seen at Laguna de Huancar
- 138 **Buff-breasted Earthcreeper** *Upucerthia validirostris*
Two were seen at El Infiernillo, two more at Finca El Candado and two at Abra de Lizoite
- 139 **Cream-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes albiventris*
Quite common in high Andean habitats
- 140 **White-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes atacamensis*
Three were seen at El Infiernillo
- 141 **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*
Common at PP Potrero de Yala and at PN Calilegua
- 142 **Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura fuliginiceps*
Reasonably common at Cuesta del Obispo, and another individual was seen at Yavi
- 143 **Tufted Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura platensis*
A pair was seen in the Monte Desert at Amaicha del Valle
- 144 **Streak-fronted Thornbird** *Phacellodomus striaticeps*
Twos were seen at El Infiernillo, Cuesta del Obispo and Finca El Candado

Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus* Abra de Lizoite



- 145 **Spot-breasted Thornbird** *Phacellodomus maculipectus*
Reasonably common in the scrub and forest above the lagoons at PP Potrero de Yala
- 146 **Rusty-vented Canastero** *Asthenes dorbignyi*
At least six were seen around Yavi
- 147 **Puna Canastero** *Asthenes sclateri*
One was seen at El Infiernillo and another at Finca El Candado
- 148 **Cordilleran Canastero** *Asthenes modesta*
A pair in the scrub adjacent to the car park at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 149 **Maquis Canastero** *Asthenes heterura*
Two were seen at Cuesta del Obispo
- 150 **Stripe-crowned Spinetail** *Cranioleuca pyrrhophia*
Common in Yungas habitats, and three also seen at the RP112 Chaco
- 151 **White-throated Cacholote** *Pseudoseisura gutturalis*
A pair was seen in the Monte Desert at Amaicha del Valle
- 152 **Ochre-cheeked Spinetail** *Synallaxis scutata*
One was seen in the lower forest at PN Calilegua
- 153 **Sooty-fronted Spinetail** *Synallaxis frontalis*
One was seen in the RN9 Chaco
- 154 **Azara's Spinetail** *Synallaxis azarae*
Common at PP Potrero de Yala and at PN Calilegua

Antbirds

- 155 **Variable Antshrike** *Thamnophilus caerulescens*
One in the RN68 Chaco, another at Dique Cabra Corral and two at PN Calilegua
- 156 **Great Antshrike** *Taraba major*
A pair was seen at Dique Cabra Corral
- 157 **Giant Antshrike** *Batara cinerea*
Heard a few times at PN Calilegua, but was never seen

Antpittas

- 158 **White-throated Antpitta** *Grallaria albigula*
Quite common in the upper forest at PN Calilegua, but difficult to see

Tapaculos

- 159 **Crested Gallito** *Rhinocrypta lanceolata*
Two were heard singing at Dique Cabra Corral, but were not seen
- 160 **Sandy Gallito** *Teledromas fuscus*
One was seen in the Monte Desert at Amaicha del Valle, another was heard near Cafayate
- 161 **White-browed Tapaculo** *Scytalopus superciliaris*
One was seen at Quebrada Los Sosa, and two more at El Infiernillo
- 162 **Zimmer's Tapaculo** *Scytalopus zimmeri*
One was seen at Cuesta del Obispo and another at Finca El Candado

Tyrant Flycatchers

- 163 **Rough-legged Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*
Five were seen on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua
- 164 **Sclater's Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias sclateri*
Common on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua, three more seen on the main road through PN Calilegua itself

- 165 **Large Elaenia** *Elaenia spectabilis*
One was seen in the RN9 Chaco
- 166 **Chilean Elaenia** *Elaenia chilensis*
A small number were seen in PN Calilegua
- 167 **Small-billed Elaenia** *Elaenia parvirostris*
Found occasionally throughout the trip, in a variety of habitats
- 168 **Slaty Elaenia** *Elaenia strepera*
One seen briefly at PP Potrero de Yala and three at PN Calilegua
- 169 **Highland Elaenia** *Elaenia obscura*
One seen at PP Potrero de Yala and three at PN Calilegua
- 170 **Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum*
One was heard in the RP112 Chaco, and another was seen in the RN9 Chaco
- 171 **White-throated Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus leucophrys*
Reasonably common in Yungas habitats
- 172 **Buff-banded Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus hellmayri*
Four were seen on the Alto Calilegua trail, another was seen on the main road through PN Calilegua itself
- 173 **Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes flavirostris*
At least two seen around Humahuaca
- 174 **Tufted Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes parulus*
Two were seen at El Infiernillo and another three at Cuesta del Obispo
- 175 **Subtropical Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*
Three were seen at El Infiernillo and another one at Cuesta del Obispo
- 176 **Greater Wagtail-Tyrant** *Stigmatura budytoides*
Common in Monte Desert and Chaco habitats
- 177 **Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes ventralis*
Abundant in PN Calilegua, the most commonly encountered Tyrannulet
- 178 **Bran-colored Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus*
One was seen at Dique Cabra Corral and another in the RN9 Chaco
- 179 **Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*
Common in Chaco habitats
- 180 **Yellow-olive Flatbill** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*
Two were seen in PN Calilegua
- 181 **Cinnamon Flycatcher** *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*
Reasonably common around PN Calilegua, especially around the Rio Jordan

Cinereous Tyrant *Knipolegus striaticeps* RP112 Chaco



- 182 **Cliff Flycatcher** *Hirundinea ferruginea*
One was seen in the RN86 Chaco, and another at Yavi
- 183 **Euler's Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus euleri*
Two were seen on the Alto Calilegua trail, another was seen on the main road through PN Calilegua itself
- 184 **Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*
Three were seen at Quebrada Los Sosa, another at PP Potrero de Yala and another at PN Calilegua
- 185 **Smoke-colored Pewee** *Contopus fumigatus*
One was seen at PP Potrero de Yala and another at PN Calilegua
- 186 **Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus*
One was seen on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua
- 187 **Yellow-browed Tyrant** *Satrapa icterophrys*
One was seen at El Infiernillo and another at PP Potrero de Yala
- 188 **Puna Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola juninensis*
One was seen at Abra de Lizoite
- 189 **Plumbeous Tyrant** *Knipolegus cabanisi*
A female was seen at Quebrada Los Sosa, at least six were seen at PP Potrero de Yala
- 190 **Cinereous Tyrant** *Knipolegus striaticeps*
At least two were seen, and another two heard in the RP112 Chaco
- 191 **White-winged Black Tyrant** *Knipolegus aterrimus*
Two were seen at Yavi and another two at Humahuaca
- 192 **Rufous-webbed Bush Tyrant** *Cnemarchus rufipennis*
One was seen at Finca El Candado
- 193 **Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis montanus*
One was flying around the rooftops in Yavi
- 194 **D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca oenanthoides*
One was seen in town centre in Yavi, and another was at Humahuaca
- 195 **White-browed Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca leucophrys*
Four were seen at El Infiernillo, two at Cuesta del Obispo and another two at Finca El Candado
- 196 **Cattle Tyrant** *Machetornis rixosa*
One was at Dique Cabra Corral
- 197 **Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus*
One was heard at PN Calilegua
- 198 **Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*
A few were seen throughout the trip
- 199 **Golden-crowned Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*
A pair was around the Rio Jordan near PN Calilegua
- 200 **Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus*
Seen occasionally throughout the trip in various habitats
- 201 **Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonomus varius*
One was heard in PN Calilegua
- 202 **Crowned Slaty Flycatcher** *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*
One was present in the RN9 Chaco
- 203 **Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*
A few were seen throughout the trip
- 204 **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*
Small numbers were seen at both PP Potrero de Yala and PN Calilegua

Cotingas

- 205 **White-tipped Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rutila*
Encountered fairly regularly in open Andean and Chaco habitats

Manakins

- 206 **Yungas Manakin** *Chiroxiphia boliviana*
A single 'green' individual was seen in PN Calilegua

Becards

- 207 **Crested Becard** *Pachyramphus validus*
Two were seen at PP Potrero de Yala

Vireos, Greenlets & Shrike-Babblers

- 208 **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis*
One was seen in PN Calilegua, and three more were heard
- 209 **Chivi Vireo** *Vireo chivi*
Quite common in Yungas forest habitats

Crows & Jays

- 210 **Plush-crested Jay** *Cyanocorax chrysops*
Quite common in Yungas forest habitats

Swallows & Martins

- 211 **Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*
Reasonably common throughout the trip
- 212 **Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera*
Two were seen flying over the RN9 Chaco
- 213 **Southern Martin** *Progne elegans*
Five were seen on Dique Cabra Corral, and a single was seen at Humahuaca

Wren

- 214 **House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*
Reasonably common throughout the trip
- 215 **Mountain Wren** *Troglodytes solstitialis*
Quite common in Yungas forest habitats

Gnatcatchers

- 216 **Masked Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila dumicola*
Common in Chaco habitats

Mockingbirds

- 217 **Patagonian Mockingbird** *Mimus patagonicus*
Two were seen in Amaicha del Valle
- 218 **Brown-backed Mockingbird** *Mimus dorsalis*
Reasonably common around Yavi and Humahuaca

Thrushes

- 219 **Speckled Nightingale-Thrush** *Catharus maculatus*
One was seen in the upper forest at PN Calilegua, plus two more were heard only
- 220 **Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*
Abundant in the Yungas forests at PN Calilegua
- 221 **Chiguanco Thrush** *Turdus chiguanco*
Reasonably common throughout the trip
- 222 **Andean Slaty Thrush** *Turdus nigriceps*
Quite common at PP Potrero de Yala and at PN Calilegua
- 223 **Creamy-bellied Thrush** *Turdus amaurochalinus*
One was seen at Dique Cabra Corral, another in the RP112 Chaco and two in the RN9 Chaco
- 224 **Rufous-bellied Thrush** *Turdus rufiventris*
Quite common in Yungas forest habitats

Dippers

- 225 **Rufous-throated Dipper** *Cinclus schulzii* **Vulnerable**
One showed incredibly well at Quebrada Los Sosa

Old World Sparrows

- 226 **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Some were seen

Pipits

- 227 **Hellmayr's Pipit** *Anthus hellmayri*
Two were singing and displaying at El Infiernillo, and four were on the open plains at PN los Cardones

Finches & Euphonias

- 228 **Hooded Siskin** *Spinus magellanicus*
Reasonably common throughout the trip
- 229 **Black Siskin** *Spinus atratus*
Three were seen at El Infiernillo, two at Cuesta del Obispo and another five at Finca El Candado
- 230 **Golden-rumped Euphonia** *Chlorophonia cyanocephala*
A small group was seen on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua
- 231 **Purple-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia chlorotica*
Common in Chaco habitats, and at PN Calilegua, more often heard than seen

New World Sparrows

- 232 **Common Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavopectus*
Common in mixed flock species in Yungas forest habitats
- 233 **Yungas Sparrow** *Rhynchospiza dabbenei*
Two were seen at RN9 Chaco
- 234 **White-browed Brushfinch** *Arremon torquatus*
Two were seen at PN Calilegua
- 235 **Moss-backed Sparrow** *Arremon dorbignii*
One was seen in the RN86 Chaco, another at Dique Cabra Corral and two on the Alto Calilegua trail near PN Calilegua
- 236 **Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis*
A common species throughout the trip

- 237 **Fulvous-headed Brushfinch** *Atlapetes fulviceps*

At least nine were seen at PP Potrero de Yala and three at PN Calilegua

- 238 **Yellow-striped Brushfinch** *Atlapetes citrinellus*

Common at Quebrada Los Sosa

Icterids

- 239 **Long-tailed Meadowlark** *Leistes loyca*

One was seen in the Monte Desert south of Cafayate

- 240 **Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus*

Common in the lower forest at PN Calilegua

- 241 **Golden-winged Cacique** *Cacicus chrysopterus*

A single was seen at PP Potrero de Yala and three at PN Calilegua

- 242 **Variable Oriole** *Icterus pyrrhopterus*

Two flew across the road at Dique Cabra Corral

- 243 **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis*

Small groups were encountered at various points throughout the trip

- 244 **Greyish Baywing** *Agelaioides badius*

Encountered in a few open habitats, but never abundant

New World Warblers

- 245 **Southern Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis velata*

One was seen in the RN9 Chaco

- 246 **Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitiauyumi*

Quite common in Yungas forest habitats

- 247 **Pale-legged Warbler** *Myiothlypis signata*

One was seen at PN Calilegua

- 248 **Two-banded Warbler** *Myiothlypis bivittata*

A few individuals were seen at PN Calilegua

- 249 **Brown-capped Whitestart** *Myioborus brunnicaps*

Quite common in Yungas forest habitats

Tanagers & Allies

- 250 **Red Tanager** *Piranga flava*

One was seen at Dique Cabra Corral

- 251 **Black-backed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus aureoventris*

Quite common in Yungas forest habitats

- 252 **Ultramarine Grosbeak** *Cyanoloxia brissonii*

A female was seen at Dique Cabra Corral

- 253 **Pampa Finch** *Embernagra platensis*

Two were seen at El Infiernillo, and another at Yavi

- 254 **Mourning Sierra Finch** *Rhopospina fruticeti*

A small flock was at Yavi, two were on the road whilst leaving Laguna de los Pozuelos

- 255 **Band-tailed Sierra Finch** *Porphyrospiza alaudina*

Five were seen on the 69 road whilst travelling to Laguna de los Pozuelos

- 256 **Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira*

Two were seen at PN Calilegua

- 257 **Many-colored Chaco Finch** *Saltatricula multicolor*

One was seen at Dique Cabra Corral, two at the RP112 Chaco and another at the RN9 Chaco

258	Blue-grey Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	
	A single was seen at RP112 Chaco		
259	Golden-billed Saltator	<i>Saltator aurantiirostris</i>	
	Quite common in various habitats throughout the trip		
260	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	
	Four were seen in the RN9 Chaco		
261	Red Pileated Finch	<i>Coryphospingus cucullatus</i>	
	Common in Chaco habitat		
262	Double-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>	
	A small flock was seen at Dique Cabra Corral, others were seen at PP Potrero de Yala		
263	Tucuman Mountain Finch	<i>Poospiza baeri</i>	Vulnerable
	A single was seen in the second valley at El Infiernillo		
264	Orange-headed Tanager	<i>Thlypopsis sordida</i>	
	Six were seen at PN Calilegua		
265	Rust-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Thlypopsis ruficeps</i>	
	Four were seen at PP Potrero de Yala		
266	Rufous-sided Warbling Finch	<i>Poospizopsis hypocondria</i>	
	Two at El Infiernillo, two more at Cuesta del Obispo and two at Yavi		
267	Rusty-browed Warbling Finch	<i>Microspingus erythrophrys</i>	
	Quite common at PP Potrero de Yala and at PN Calilegua		
268	Black-capped Warbling Finch	<i>Microspingus melanoleucus</i>	
	Common in Chaco habitat		
269	Bright-rumped Yellow Finch	<i>Sicalis uropigialis</i>	
	A small flock was seen near the south end of the 69 road whilst travelling to Laguna de los Pozuelos		
270	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	
	Seen occasionally in various open habitats throughout the trip		
271	Citron-headed Yellow Finch	<i>Sicalis luteocephala</i>	
	A few small flocks were present in Yavi		
272	Greenish Yellow Finch	<i>Sicalis olivascens</i>	
	Most abundant at Yavi, but also seen in other high Andean habitats		
273	Monte Yellow Finch	<i>Sicalis mendozae</i>	
	Good numbers were seen on the road between El Infiernillo and Amaicha del Valle		
274	Puna Yellow Finch	<i>Sicalis lutea</i>	
	A single male was seen on the road between Laguna de los Pozuelos and Abra Pampa		
275	Grey-hooded Sierra Finch	<i>Phrygilus gayi</i>	
	Six were seen on the road between El Infiernillo and Amaicha del Valle		
276	Black-hooded Sierra Finch	<i>Phrygilus atriceps</i>	
	Quite common around Yavi, also seen at Humahuaca		
277	Ash-breasted Sierra Finch	<i>Geospizopsis plebejus</i>	
	Common in high Andean habitats		
278	Plumbeous Sierra Finch	<i>Geospizopsis unicolor</i>	
	Common at Finca El Candado and Abra de Lizoite		
279	Red-backed Sierra Finch	<i>Idiopsar dorsalis</i>	
	Reasonably abundant at Abra de Lizoite		
280	Band-tailed Seedeater	<i>Catamenia analis</i>	
	Quite common in high Andean habitats		



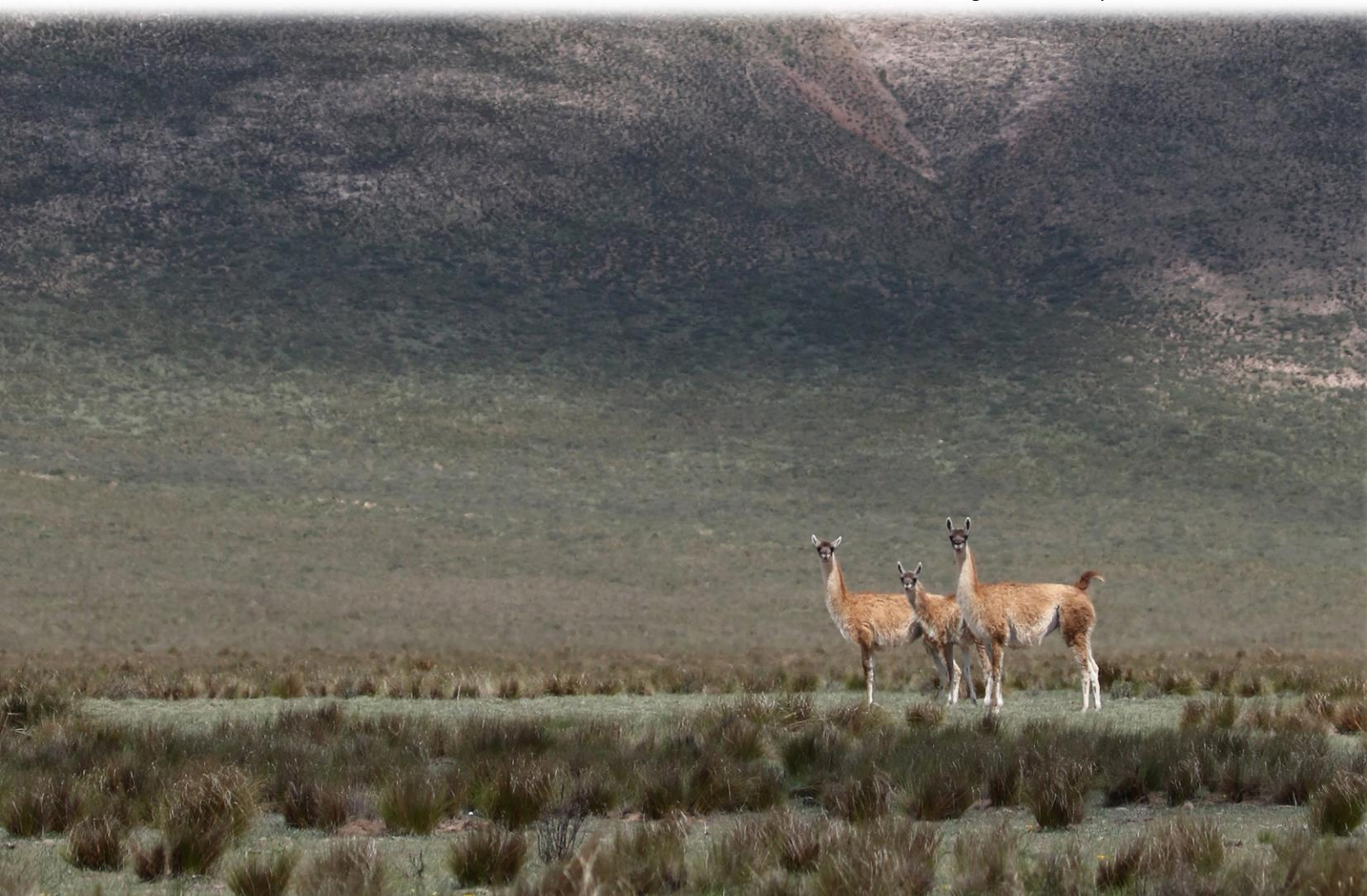
Rusty-browed Warbling Finch *Microspingus erythrophrys* PP Potrero de Yala

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|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| 281 | Plain-colored Seedeater | <i>Catamenia inornata</i> |
| | Seven at El Infiernillo, five more at Cuesta del Obispo and two at Finca El Candado | |
| 282 | Rusty Flowerpiercer | <i>Diglossa sittoides</i> |
| | At least four were seen at Cuesta del Obispo | |
| 283 | Fawn-breasted Tanager | <i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i> |
| | Quite common in Yungas forest habitats | |
| 284 | Blue-and-yellow Tanager | <i>Rauenia bonariensis</i> |
| | Quite common at various sites throughout the trip | |
| 285 | Rufous-bellied Mountain Tanager | <i>Pseudosaltator rufiventris</i> |
| | Two were seen briefly at Cuesta del Obispo | |
| 286 | Diuca Finch | <i>Diuca diuca</i> |
| | Five were seen at Yavi | |
| 287 | Sayaca Tanager | <i>Thraupis sayaca</i> |
| | Common in Yungas forest habitats | |

MAMMALS

- 1 **Screaming Hairy Armadillo** *Chaetophractus vellerosus*
A single was on the plains at Parque Nacional los Cardones, but was distant and hid in its burrow when we approached
- 2 **Bolivian Squirrel** *Notosciurus pucheranii*
Multiple individuals seen around PN Calilegua
- 3 **Azara's Agouti** *Dasyprocta azarae*
One crossed the road in the lower forest at PN Calilegua
- 4 **Mountain Viscacha** *Lagidium viscacia*
One was on the cliffs below the Mirador in Yavi, another was at Abra de Lizoite
- 5 **Highland Tuco-Tuco** *Ctenomys opimus*
Common around Laguna de los Pozuelos, although there was a large number of deceased individuals
- 6 **Red Brocket** *Mazama americana*
A single individual was seen in the road whilst looking for owls at PN Calilegua
- 7 **Vicuña** *Vicugna vicugna*
Abundant on the Altiplano around Yavi and Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 8 **Guanaco** *Lama guanicoe*
Very common on the plains at Parque Nacional los Cardones
- 9 **Lesser Grison** *Galictis cuja*
A stunning individual showed incredibly well but briefly in the first valley at El Infiernillo
- 10 **Culpeo** *Lycalopex culpaeus*
A very confiding individual was on the road Valle Encantado

Guanaco *Lama guanicoe* Parque Nacional los Cardones



REPTILES

- 1 **Eastern Smooth-throated Lizard** *Liolaemus wiegmanni*
A few were seen on the plains at Parque Nacional los Cardones
- 2 **Quilmes Smooth-throated Lizard** *Liolaemus quilmes*
One was seen in the Monte Desert in Amaicha del Valle

AMPHIBIANS

- 1 **Yungas Red-bellied Toad** *Melanophryniscus rubriventris*
One crossed the road in the upper forest at PN Calilegua, during the morning after a night of heavy rain
- 2 **Argentina Toad** *Rhinella arenarum*
Three were seen on the road through Calilegua, whilst driving at night
- 3 *Physalaemus cuqui*
One was seen in the lower forest at PN Calilegua
- 4 **Rufous Four-eyed Frog** *Pleurodema borellii*
Two were seen on the road through Calilegua, whilst driving at night

BUTTERFLIES

- 1 **Boullet's Skipper** *Hylephila boulleti*
One was seen on the plains at Laguna de los Pozuelos
- 2 *Staphylus musculus*
One was seen at Quebrada Los Sosa
- 3 **Cyan Emperor** *Doxocopa cyane*
One was seen at PP Potrero de Yala
- 4 *Telenassa berenice*
Possibly the most abundant butterfly species in Yungas habitats
- 5 **Orange Mapwing** *Hypanartia lethe*
A few were seen in Yungas habitats
- 6 *Hypanartia bella*
One was seen at Quebrada Los Sosa
- 7 **Brazilian Lady** *Vanessa braziliensis*
A few were seen throughout the trip
- 8 **White-bar Mountain Satyr** *Pedaliodes palaepolis*
A few were seen in Yungas habitats
- 9 **Cassius Blue** *Leptotes cassius*
One was seen at PP Potrero de Yala
- 10 *Itylos moza*
One was seen at PP Potrero de Yala



Rhionaeschna planaltica PN Calilegua

DRAGONFLIES

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Gomphomacromia nodisticta</i> |
| One was seen in an open area at PP Potrero de Yala | |
| 2 | <i>Rhionaeschna planaltica</i> |
| A single was seen by the side of the road in PN Calilegua | |
| 3 | <i>Rhionaeschna absoluta</i> |
| Quite common at PP Potrero de Yala | |

