

Argentina
From the Pampas to the End of the World
October – November 2022
By Jeff Hopkins



I recently took an Antarctica cruise from Argentina with Rockjumper Birding Tours, which afforded me the chance to do some land birding in Argentina, both before and after the cruise. I'd been to Argentina as a tourist 30 years ago before I started birding. However, since then I'd birded in the Pantanal of Brazil as well as briefly in Chilean Patagonia, so some of the birds shared with those areas weren't new. But there were some clear targets in Argentina that I wanted.

Toward that goal, I added a couple days in the Pampas near Buenos Aires, a few days in Tierra del Fuego, and then added a final day at Costanera Sur Reserve in Buenos Aires city on the way home. The time spent was well worth it. I got 54 lifers from the extra days, including most of my key targets. And in total I saw 210 species in Argentina in just 8 days of birding.

LOGISTICS

The birding was done in a few key locations:

Punta Rasa and General Lavalle – This is an area along the coast in Buenos Aires Province, about 330 km (200 miles) from Buenos Aires. There are numerous coastal marshes and mudflats for waterbirds, and some grassland areas for a few Pampas specialties. My main targets here were Olog's Gull and Hudson's Canastero.



Ushuaia – The southernmost city in the world. They call it the “*Fin del Mundo*” (End of the world, hence the title of this report). There are some good birds to be seen along the harbor area. The city dump is also a place to visit. White-throated Caracara was a key target. White-breasted Seedeater is possible in the mountains above town, but giving the difficulty of finding it, I didn’t make it a target.

Rio Grande – This is a city about 200 km (120 miles) from Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego. Tourist-wise,

it’s more known for fishing, but bird-wise the surrounding area is good for birds of the Patagonian grasslands. Key targets here were Magellanic Plover and Least Seedeater.

Tierra del Fuego National Park – This park is just outside of Ushuaia. It contains excellent Patagonian *nothofagus* (beech) forest. It also includes a lot of coastal fjords, so has a lot of ducks and geese. My main target here was Magellanic Woodpecker.

Costanera Sur – Actually a city park in Buenos Aires along the Rio de la Plata. It consists of coastal marshes with attached forest. I didn’t have any critical targets here, but depending on how things went in Punta Rasa there was the potential for quite a few lifers. As it was, much of what I needed I saw in Punta Rasa although I did pick up a few lifers.

Money:

Bring cash. In preferably new, clean, large, unmarked bills.

Argentina is currently suffering from >50% annual inflation. Nobody wants pesos. Everybody wants US dollars. The government has set an official exchange rate for the peso to the dollar, but there’s a black market in dollars. This has created a semi-official “blue dollar” exchange rate in addition to the official rate. To give you an idea, the official rate while I was there was 150-160 pesos per dollar, while the “blue dollar” rate was 280-300 pesos per dollar.

What this means to a foreign tourist:

- You don’t want to use credit cards issued by foreign banks. Those will convert the price in pesos at the official rate, even though the price is based on the real cost to the seller, i.e. the inflated rate. That means paying by credit card usually means paying double.
- You don’t want to get cash from an ATM. That’s the same as using a credit card plus exorbitant transaction fees.

- You want to exchange foreign cash at the blue rate for cash pesos. Note that this can't be done at banks – they only use the official rate - so it can't be done at Buenos Aires airport.

But most places only accept pesos, so you'll need to get some. Therefore, you need to find an exchange house or "*cueva*" (cave). The best place to do this is in central Buenos Aires. If you walk down the main shopping streets of Av. Florida or Av. Lavalle you will hear numerous men calling out "*¡Cambio! ¡Cambio!*" (Change! Change!). These men are nicknamed "*arbolitos*" (little trees, because they stand fixed in one place all day). You can ask them to quote you a rate, although they don't do the exchanging.



When you find a rate you like, based on the daily blue dollar rate posted online, the arbolito will take you back to the "*cueva*", which is usually a little exchange booth in a shopping center or store. Someone there will exchange the cash. While this sounds sketchy, it's perfectly legal and pretty safe. \$100 bills are best. \$50's are OK, but you'll get a lower exchange rate. Bills need to be in very good condition. Don't exchange more than you think you'll use immediately, because you can't conveniently exchange it back, and after a week or two it'll be worth less than when you bought it.

Some nuances:

- If your hotel has quoted you a rate in dollars, it might be practical to use your credit card for that. They'll likely convert the quoted rate at the official rate. Then your bank will reconvert it at the official rate. This saves you a 21% VAT (sales tax) charged on purchases. If you pay cash, you'll pay VAT. My hotel in Buenos Aires and my Posada in Ushuaia did this.
- Many restaurants catering to tourists will accept payment in cash dollars, usually at the blue rate, although you'll likely get change in pesos. The rates are often posted on the door, but if not, ask if you can pay in dollars.
- Same with taxis, especially to/from the airports. Ask if they'll take dollars.

Guides:

I used guides for most of the birding. That was partially due to the limited time, partly due to the unfamiliarity with the key birding locations, and partly due to the fact that most if not all rental cars in Argentina are manual shift and I only know how to drive automatic! It clearly turned out to be

the right choice, because all the guides were excellent! And I was able to share some of the costs with other birders.

I used Marcelo Gavensky of Birding Buenos Aires (<http://www.birdingbuenosaires.com/index.html>) for my “tour” to Punta Rasa. I gave him a list of targets and he determined the key sites to visit. He also organized the hotel in General Lavalle. He usually does a tour of Punta Rasa as three days and two nights, but was able to work with my schedule of two days / one night.

I worked with Esteban Daniels of Birding Ushuaia (<https://www.birdingushuaia.com/>) for the time in Tierra del Fuego. He assigned guide Federico Moyano for the “tour.” I originally planned on an overnight visit from Ushuaia to Rio Grande for a couple targets. Esteban organized a tour which



included the hotel in Rio Grande, but not dinner that night. However, when Rockjumper decided not to run a day trip into Tierra del Fuego National Park, I asked Esteban to add a day for that, too. He had a couple other clients already signed up for that, and after talking with them, not only could I join them for the one day in the park, but they chose to join me for the other two!

However, soon after Rockjumper decided not to run that day trip, they started

forwarding me names of other tour patrons who were interested in joining me. With all of those additions we ended up as 5 birders with one guide on the overnight to Rio Grande and 8 birders with two guides (in two vehicles) on the day trip into the National Park.

For Costanera Sur, two people I met on the cruise had organized a “Birding Pal” to show them around the reserve, and they invited me to join them. Unfortunately, he had to cancel at the last minute, but they were able to get in touch with some local guides. After numerous attempts, they hooked up with Diego Oscar of Sandpiper Birding & Tours (www.sandpipertours.com/en/). He was able to guide us for a noon-time session – he had other clients in the morning.

All of the guides preferred to be paid in cash dollars. You can understand why.

Hotels

I booked hotels in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia through Booking.com.

In Buenos Aires, I stayed at the Hotel Waldorf, a three-star in the downtown area. I picked it because it was close to the sights, restaurants, and was within walking distance to Costanera Sur (although I didn’t actually walk there). The cost was about \$50 per night. They accepted credit cards and converted at the official rate.

In Ushuaia, I stayed at the Posada del Fin del Mundo, a small guesthouse in a residential neighborhood a few blocks uphill from the harbor. They charged \$85 for a weekend night and \$77 for a Sunday night (including breakfast) and also converted credit cards at the official rate. It was very comfortable and the staff quite friendly. The room was big, too. There were definitely birds to be seen nearby, but I didn't spend much time there during daylight.

The hotel for the Punta Rasa trip was the Posada Venados del Tuyú in General Lavalle. It was booked by Marcelo, and included in his price for the tour. He chose it because it's cheaper than the hotels in the nearby beach resort of San Clemente del Tuyú and convenient to some of the birding sites. It's not fancy, but the rooms were spacious and clean, and the food in the restaurant was very good.

In Rio Grande, the group stayed at the Posada de los Sauces which is a block from the ocean in downtown Rio Grande. As noted above, it was included in the price of the tour Esteban organized. The rooms were modern, but somewhat plain. The restaurant was very good, and seemed to be popular with the locals (since it was Saturday night).

TOUR NARRATION

Day by day details follow. I'll use a convention I've seen in other trip reports: I'll highlight the first sighting of a species in bold as well as any repeat sightings of critical species. I'll note lifers with an asterisk and in red.

October 26th – Off to the Pampas



I arrived at a rainy Ezeiza Airport in Buenos Aires at about 6 AM. Marcelo was waiting for me in a coffee shop right outside customs. We picked up some food for the road and we were off on the four-hour drive to Punta Rasa. First bird for Argentina: **Eurasian Starling**, an introduced species that is widespread in the Buenos Aires area.



While arranging the trip, I had told Marcelo that a key goal was the Olrog's Gull. He warned me that they would be hard to find since the adults would likely all be on the breeding colonies further south, but a couple would likely still be around. Therefore his plan was to try to get the gull first, and once we had that, work on a bunch of other targets. With that in mind, we pretty much made the drive to Punta Rasa with only a

couple stops. The first was a quick pull-over to look at a small group of **Greater Rheas** where there was also the first of many **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** and a few **Barn Swallows**. A second stop to look at some **Coscoroba Swans** also had **Great Egret**, **Yellow-billed Pintail** and **Yellow-billed Teal**.

Of course, we also noted a lot of birds while driving. These included **Great Kiskadee**, **Eared Dove**, and **Maguari Stork**, along with numerous raptors including **Chimango Caracara**, **(Southern) Crested Caracara**, **Long-winged Harrier**, **Cinereous Harrier**, a small flock of **Snail Kites**, a **White-tailed Kite**, and a **Roadside Hawk**.

It was pouring when we arrived in Punta Rasa, but we went straight to the harbor in San Clemente del Tuyú. There were plenty of birds on the mud flats there. The only gulls there were **Kelp Gulls**, but there were lots of shorebirds wintering from North America. We found **White-rumped Sandpipers**, both **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Black-necked Stilts**, a few **Hudsonian Godwits** and **American Golden Plovers**, along with several **American Oystercatchers**, a few **Roseate Spoonbills** and **Snowy Egrets**, and some **White-winged Coots**. We also had a couple of **Picazuro Pigeons** in the trees and a **Rufous Hornero** in the parking lot.

The rain hadn't let up, so we decided to take a break for lunch at the Restaurante Puerto Santa Barbara seafood restaurant right on the harbor side. We took a seat by the window in case an Olrog's flew in. It didn't. But the food was wonderful.

After lunch and a quick additional scan of the harbor, we moved on to another area. Marcelo called this place Tapera de Lopez. However, from what I could tell, Tapera de Lopez is a small camping and boat launch at the base of Punta Rasa. The place we went is about a kilometer north of that boat launch in a more open area of the bay. It was accessed by a narrow dirt road through a marshy

area. As we started down the road, we found the first lifer of the trip, a **Great Pampa Finch***. We also saw a **Vermillion Flycatcher** and a (southern) **House Wren** along the way.

By the time we made it to the end of the road at the bayside, the rain had turned to a drizzle, so we hopped out and Marcelo started scanning the flats. A large flock of **Black Skimmers** was obvious along with a few **Cocoi Herons**, **Snowy Egrets**, and more Kelp Gulls. I expected distant pink birds in the water would be more spoonbills, but they were **Chilean Flamingos**.



While scanning, a nice male **Spectacled Tyrant*** flew into the brush nearby and perched for pictures. Marcelo called it a “spectacular tyrant” and I certainly agreed. Turning back to the mudflats, Marcelo pointed out a few **Snowy-crowned Terns***, a pair of **Semipalmated Plovers**, and more of the shorebirds seen at the port. A small group of **Grassland**

Yellow-Finches drew our attention back to the brush, and while Marcelo went back to scanning, I spent some time watching a **Chalk-browed Mockingbird** that dropped in. All of a sudden, a large flock of gulls flew over our heads. They were **Olrog’s Gulls***. Although they all appeared to be immatures, there were 53 of them! We both celebrated, and Marcelo could relax.

After that, the lifers came in fast and furious. Marcelo heard a Bay-capped Wren-spinetail, and



while looking for that a **Warbling Doradito*** popped up. After that we saw a little grey flycatcher which a little bit of tape confirmed as a **White-crowned Tyrannulet***. Right after that, a pair of **Screaming Cowbirds*** flew by. Marcelo pointed out a distant **Brown-and-Yellow Marshbird***. As soon as we went back to looking for

the wren-spinetail, a couple **Freckle-breasted Thornbirds*** came in behind us. Soon after that, a **Black-and-rufous Warbling-finch*** popped up.

Eventually all these moved on, so we re-focused on the **Bay-capped Wren-spinetail***, and after a bit of work got some nice views of that little skulker. And since we were now looking at the reeds, we also turned up a **Sulfur-bearded Reedhaunter*** and a **Yellow-winged Blackbird**. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** also put in an appearance.

Marcelo went back to scoping the mudflats and turned up a **Spotted Sandpiper** and a **Ruddy Turnstone** among the more expected shorebirds, and he even found a fly-by **Gull-billed Tern**. Mixed in with the large flock of skimmers were Snowy-crowned Terns and more **Olrog's Gulls**. As expected, the gulls were all immatures, but the scope views allowed a clear view of the field marks to nail down the ID.

Since we exhausted the possibilities at Tapera de Lopez, we decided to head to Punta Rasa itself. As we entered the reserve, Marcelo noted a small flock of the introduced, **European Goldfinch**. Just beyond that we stopped for a **(Pampas) Grass Wren** and heard a couple more Bay-capped Wren-spinetails. But the road to the point was flooded, and we didn't want to get stuck out there, so we had to turn around (fortunately we already had the Olrog's, so this wasn't a big loss). On the way out from the point, we found a few **Campo Flickers** and more Maguari Storks, and as we passed back through town saw a large flock of **Shiny Cowbirds** and a **Tropical Kingbird**.

Our next stop was a sample of wet grassland on the western outskirts of town. This was actually an extension of Avenida 1 in San Clemente. As soon as we got into the good habitat, we saw a pair of **Spotted Nothuras*** running along one side the road and a **Southern Lapwing** walking along the opposite side. A flock of **Brown-hooded Gulls** foraged in the grass. Marcelo picked a place to stop and try for Hudson's Canastero, and while we heard a couple, we couldn't coax one in. But a displaying **Correndera Pipit*** landed right near us allowing killer photos.



We drove down the road a bit hoping for more canasteros, and while we didn't hear or see one, we did add **Cattle Tyrant**, **American Kestrel**, **Spot-winged Pigeon**, both **Brown-chested Martin** and **Grey-breasted Martins**, more pipits, another Chalk-browed Mockingbird, several Maguari Storks, and even a couple heard-only Bay-capped Wren-spinetails. After another unsuccessful try for the canasteros, we headed on to General Lavalle, where a stop for coffee and a snack (empanadas!) at a

gas station / mini market added a flock of **Monk Parakeets** in the trees and a few **House Sparrows** around the pumps.



After refueling, we headed into the town of General Lavalle. Rather than heading to our hotel, we went to the Rio Ajo riverside. A **Great Grebe** was swimming in the middle of the river. On the far shore, there were flocks of **Neotropic Cormorants**, a Cocoli Heron, some Chilean Flamingos, Snowy-crowned Terns, and Black Skimmers, along with a couple **Grey-hooded Gulls**. While I was taking pictures of those, a **Common Tern** flew by. We also walked a bit in the park along the shore seeing Chimango Caracara, **Blue-and-white Swallows**, House and Grass Wrens, and Great Kiskadee, and hearing yet another wren-spinetail. Marcelo commented that once you know the song, you'll notice that they really are everywhere.

By this point the sun was setting, so we made our way back to our posada to check in, have dinner, and after that enjoy a well-needed night's sleep.

October 27th – Back to Buenos Aires

This morning we slowly started working our way back to Buenos Aires, although there was still a lot of birding to be done.

Our first stop was the Estancia El Palenque just west of General Lavalle. I believe it's still an active ranch (we actually saw a gaucho on horseback as we left). The entrance road passes through some spectacular wetlands and lakes at the head waters of the Rio Ajo. Marcelo knew that several duck and coot species would be lifers, and this was the place to see them. It's also known as a site for South American Painted-snipe.

On the way to the open water we had shorebirds: White-rumped Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts, both Yellowlegs, and American Golden-plovers that we'd seen before, and new shorebirds for the trip, **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**. There were also Maguari Storks, another Cinereous Harrier, the first **Southern Screamers** of the day and even a **Bank Swallow**. Correndera

Pipits were displaying everywhere. We checked the song of every one of them for Short-billed Pipit, but none of them were close enough to try for.

As soon as we hit the open water, we found large flocks of birds. Our first stop gave us **Ringed Teal*** and **Red-Fronted Coot*** along with Chilean Flamingos, Roseate Spoonbills, Snowy-crowned Terns, Grey-hooded Gulls, Snowy Egrets, and Yellow-billed Pintails. Some reeds at this stop held



Wren-like Rushbird*, **Many-colored Rush Tyrant** and of course an unseen Bay-capped Wren-spinetail. Another stop added a flock of **Black-headed Ducks***, a pair of **Lake Ducks***, both **Red-gartered Coot*** and **White-winged Coots**, a flock of **White-faced Ibis**, a **Cinnamon Teal** or two, and a lone **White-cheeked Pintail**.

Eventually we came to another large area of reeds near the end of the road. This was the place for the painted-snipe. Marcelo and I spent a good amount of time checking the reeds, but no snipe. We did find a **Plumbeous Rail**, a **Sooty Tyrannulet***, **Scarlet-headed Blackbird**, Red-fronted Coots and more pipits (including one seen on a barbed-wire fence). After about an hour, we began the drive out to the main road. This return trip added **Silver Teal***, Yellow-billed Teal, more Southern Screamers, both pigeons, and a **White-tipped Dove**. As we left the estancia, there was a flock of Monk Parakeets in the trees.



The next stop on the way home was a short drive away at the Estancia La Corvina. It's another ranch, but this one is pure Pampas grassland

habitat. As soon as we were inside the gate, we found **White-browed Meadowlarks***, Hooded Siskins, and Spectacled Tyrants, plus a few Greater Rheas.

Further down the road we started trying for Hudson's Canastero. The first try came up empty, but we did see **Yellow-browed Tyrant**, Grassland Yellow Finch, and more Spectacled Tyrants. At another spot, Marcelo found a Southern Long-nosed Armadillo, my first *live* armadillo (I'd seen lots of them as roadkill in Texas, but never a live one). He also picked out the song of a **Helmayr's Pipit*** from all the Correnderas, and we got a good look at him perched up on the grass.



Finally we found a good spot, and with a little coaxing, we had a close **Hudson's Canastero*** come and sit on the fence. And when we got tired of him, a **Bearded Tachuri**, several Brown-and-Yellow Marshbirds, and a flock of Shiny Cowbirds put in appearances. It was now getting close to lunch time, and we still had a four

hour drive ahead of us, so we reluctantly moved on after getting the key target.

After a while driving, Marcelo noticed a small pond beside the road with some ducks and Maguari Storks. We stopped there and found that there were **Rosy-billed Pochards***, my last target duck, as well as Yellow-billed Teal and **Chiloe Wigeon**. There was also a lone **Wood Stork** mixed in with the Maguaris.

After some more driving, Marcelo noticed something small run across the road. We pulled a U-turn and discovered another armadillo, this time it was a Hairy Screaming Armadillo (I love the name). And as I got out of the car to take a picture, Marcelo said "On the ground...hummingbird." It took me a while, but eventually I saw a **Glittering-bellied Emerald*** before it flew off. Then we headed to lunch at the Restaurante Landetcheverry, a very cool family-owned Basque restaurant near the mouth of the Rio Salado.

A short distance from our lunch stop, we turned off the paved road into some scrubby habitat on the road to Punta Piedras. When we saw a small flock of **Red-crested Cardinals** cross the road, we got out to look for other species in the flock. This turned up a **Tufted Tit-spinetail*** and yet another

armadillo, this time a Large Hairy Armadillo. So I went from never seeing a live armadillo to seeing three different armadillo species in a single day! Other more common species included a Great Kiskadee, some Grassland Yellow-finches, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher, two Rufous Horneros, and a few Spectacled Tyrants. Unfortunately, I was feeling a bit under the weather, so we cut our session short. But before we got back to the paved road, we added one more species to the trip list, a small group of **Guira Cuckoos**.



The rest of the afternoon was spent driving back to Buenos Aires, with Marcelo and I discovering a whole bunch of shared interests. We arrived at my hotel around 7 PM. After saying goodbye to Marcelo, I checked in, then went out to get some pesos at a *cueva*. Once I had some cash, I finished with dinner at a nice restaurant near my hotel and called it a night.

Oct 28th – Flying South



This was mostly a travel day. I had a mid-morning flight from Buenos Aires Aeroparque (the domestic airport) to Ushuaia. It arrived right on time and I was out of the airport by about 2:15. After a quick taxi ride from the airport, during which I saw an **Upland Goose** on the shore line, I was at my guesthouse. But while I was checking in, the weather turned. It started to rain, with some sleet mixed in. So I took a rest until the weather eased up.



By about 3:30 the weather had changed to light snow flurries, so it was time to explore. I headed straight down the hill from my hotel, hearing some birds that I later learned were **Black-chinned Siskins**. Once I hit the harbor, I saw lots of **Dolphin Gulls** and a few Kelp Gulls. From there I walked west along the harbor. There was a pair of **Kelp Geese** at the *Barco Hundido* (literally sunken ship, but in reality, a shipwreck).

I eventually reached *Bahia Encerrada*. There was one close **Crested Duck**, but most of the waterfowl were on the far side of the lagoon. I walked closer and discovered several female **Flying Steamer-ducks*** and a large flock of Crested Ducks. One of the steamer-ducks actually flew! I also picked out a couple **White-crested Grebes**, who kept diving and wouldn't pose for pictures. These were all accompanied by more gulls, both Dolphin and Kelp.

Rather than continuing out of town, I turned around and walked backed to my guesthouse exploring more of the city and scouting out locations for dinner. I eventually picked Bar Ideal, where I had delicious fried calamari and king crab soup. I slept well.

Oct 29th – Over the Andes to Rio Grande

Federico showed up at my guesthouse just before 8 AM. We then stopped at another guesthouse to pick up Digby, Rose, and Nick from South Africa followed by a stop the Rockjumper group hotel for Michael from Chicago. We made a stop at Federico's favorite bakery to pick up empanadas for lunch, then headed to the former ski resort at the Martial Glacier.

We hiked up the ski slope picking up Black-chinned Siskins, **Austral Thrush**, and several House Wrens. It was a fairly steep climb and over a mile to the top of the slope, which for me was exhausting. When Federico said we needed to go to the tree line, I decided to rest at the former ski lift and skip the chance for White-bellied Seedsnipe (which I figured was unlikely anyway). The others proceeded onward.

After about a half-hour getting drizzled on and not seeing any birds besides the occasional siskin, I decided I'd head up the trail a little. The first part was a little uphill and a bit icy, but soon the trail cleared and leveled out. It turns out the tree line at the base of the glacier was not as far up as I thought it was - I could see the rest of the group off in the distance. So I kept going.

I came to an area with some low brush that had a few birds. I saw a couple birds that I thought were thrushes but were probably ground-tyrants. While I tried to chase those down, the group had started back down. Federico met me half way and updated me on their results. He then noted that



the others wanted to keep looking for the seedsnipe while he caught me up on what they saw.

While he climbed up a snow bank to look for Yellow-bridled Finch, I watched an **Ochre-naped Ground-tyrant*** as it came close to me. Federico then called down from the

snow bank, pointing out a **Dark-faced Ground-tyrant***. He went out of sight for a while still trying for the finch, but it didn't respond. When he came back, he noted that the group was able to see a male that responded to the tape, but when he tried the second time for me, both the male and female were there (but distant), so they didn't respond. At that point, we all regrouped and headed back down to the van and into town.

We then went to the Laguna de las Sorpresas on the west side of Ushuaia. It's part of a naval base near the airport, but can be observed from a public road. As expected, there were plenty of Crested Ducks, but we added many **Red Shovelers**, a few **Chiloe Wigeon**, and a pair of Upland Geese. Shorebirds included a few **Baird's Sandpipers** and a distant **Wilson's Phalarope**. And flying around the assembled masses were several **Chilean Skuas**, along with more Kelp and Dolphin Gulls.

Next stop was the Barco Hundido. There was a **Magellanic Cormorant** (Rock Shag) on the rocks near the ship. Federico heard a **Dark-bellied Cinclodes***, and with a bit of tape, the bird came in singing and displaying. The Kelp Goose pair from the day before was still there too, along with plenty of gulls.



I've often said that "Birders go to the nicest places" and the next place exemplifies that. The most reliable site in Tierra del Fuego, if not the world, for White-throated Caracara is the Ushuaia Relleno Sanitario, aka Ushuaia Sanitary Landfill. Along the river below the landfill we spotted a Black-crowned Night-heron, but we pushed on to our target. It was snowing when we got to the landfill, but as soon as we got out of the van, we saw two Chimango Caracaras chasing a **White-throated Caracara***. We eventually saw two more White-throateds and a **Black-chested Buzzard-eagle**, too.

We walked a little bit of the road below the landfill just in case, but there were only a flock of House Sparrows and a couple House Wrens. It must have been the trees full of Chimangos keeping the activity down. Or maybe the nesting Crested Caracara. But since the snow was picking up and we had some traveling to do, we headed out of town and up and over Garibaldi Pass.



As we came down on the north side of the Andes (yes, north), we stopped at a former airstrip near Lago Escondido where there was a large flock of geese. They were fairly evenly split between **Ashy-headed Geese** and Upland Geese. We then headed down a dirt road into the *nothofagus* forest opposite the airstrip. Because of truck traffic (!), it wasn't especially active, with mostly Austral Thrushes, Black-chinned Siskins, and Rufous-collared Sparrows, but we did eventually see a pair of **Fire-eyed Diucons*** perching up at the top of a bare tree.

A three hour drive through the fields with an occasional sighting of distant Guanacos brought us to the outskirts of Rio Grande.



Federico drove us past an industrial zone to an area that was planned as a housing development. We saw a **Long-tailed Meadowlark*** on a fence and the first **Austral Negrito** of the trip, but then we found the target for that area, a pair of **Rufous-chested Dotterels***. They were harassing a Southern Lapwing, so we figure they had a nest somewhere nearby. We drove a bit more around the development turning up another meadowlark, another negrito, and a few more lapwings.

Our last stop for the day was Punta Popper right on the Atlantic coast. Our target there was **Two-banded Plover***, which we found fairly easily. In fact we found an adult with a few young. While we were watching her, we found a pair of **Least Seedsnipes***. We watched them walk down a small gully until they walked out of sight.



Just wow. Further on, we spotted a miner, which we concluded was a **Short-billed Miner**. We also added several more Austral Negritos and another White-browed Meadowlark. But since the light was fading, we headed to our hotel and dinner.

Oct 30th – Into the Grasslands



Our first stop this morning was the Laguna de los Patos (Duck Pond). A flock of Chilean Flamingos at the far end was the first thing we saw. We walked to the far end and as might be expected saw many ducks along the way: Red Shovelers, Chiloe Wigeons, Yellow-billed Teal, Crested Ducks, and a pair of Flying Steamer-ducks along with a few White-winged Coots. There were two **Magellanic Oystercatchers**, a couple Long-tailed Meadowlarks,

and an Austral Negrito on the shore. On the walk back we noted a Greater Yellowlegs, several Baird's Sandpipers, and a **Magellanic Snipe*** being followed by a few young.

Next Federico suggested to check out a place called Laguna Seca because **Magellanic Plover*** had been seen there recently. After a bit of driving around we spotted a pair of them! Not only that, but we found another pair of **Least Seedsnipe** with them. Another few Baird's Sandpipers and another Meadowlark completed the stop.



We then headed out through the grasslands on Ruta C, a dirt road that runs through about 30 km of grasslands and ranches on its way to Estancia Los Flamencos. We made multiple stops whenever we saw anything of interest. Often it was simply more Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers or another Austral Negrito, but one stop turned up **Common Miner*** and another stream crossing added **Buff-winged Cinclodes**. We made a targeted stop to get **Austral Canastero*** for everyone. Correndera Pipits were displaying all along the way. A photo stop for some llamas at Estancia Maria Behety gave us a surprise in the form of three **Andean Condors**. We even found another pair of **Least Seedsnipes** along with another pair of **Magellanic Plovers**.

Federico stopped at the office and got us permission to bird at Estancia Los Flamencos. Usually there are two main targets there. One is Magellanic Plover which we already saw – fortunately so, since the main lake at the estancia where they're usually found was dry. The other is **Ruddy-headed Goose***, which we found in a pasture right near the office, along with some Ashy-headed Geese.



On the drive back, we still had a few grassland targets. We all saw a couple **Tawny-throated Dotterel***. Soon after, two of us saw **Chocolate-vented Tyrant*** at the same time the others saw a Cinnamon-bellied Ground-tyrant. After some rather "pointed" discussion, we concluded that both had been seen. Along the way, there were of course more pipits, negritos, and sandpipers, along with another Common Miner, a Crested Caracara, a pair of Two-banded Plovers, and a small group of **Patagonian Yellow-finches**. We even had yet another pair of Magellanic Plovers!

Once back in Rio Grande we had one more stop before we headed back to Ushuaia. Digby wanted to see a Coscoroba Swan, so we headed to some ponds behind the Misión Salesiana Nuestra Señora de La Candelaria. We didn't find any swans, but there were quite a few **Black-faced Ibis**, a **Silvery Grebe**, along with a large flock of Chilean Flamingos, a few **Common Gallinules**, and all of the common ducks. Shorebirds included Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers, a Greater Yellowlegs, Southern Lapwings, and a nice Wilson's Phalarope. Someone picked out a few Blue-and-white Swallows among the more numerous Barn Swallows.

On the way out, someone spotted a bird running on the rocky hillside behind the ponds. It was distant, but the scope helped confirm that it was a **Cinnamon-bellied Ground-tyrant***. So we all finally connected with that species. And in the discussion of locating it without the scope, we concluded there were actually two of them.

After that, we drove back to Ushuaia, without any stops, because we were exhausted and all fell asleep. Rather than walking down to town, I discovered there were plenty of yummy empanadas left over from the previous day's lunch, so I scavenged those for a late dinner. While enjoying those, I heard parakeets in the yard across from my guesthouse, so I quickly ran outside to try to find them. No luck...they'd apparently flown off. I went back inside and heard them again. By now it was getting dark, so I passed on a second attempt, finished my empanadas, and called it a night.

Oct 31st - The End of the Road

Today was the day for forest birds in Tierra del Fuego National Park. After picking up the others from the previous two days, we met the new birders joining us for the day: Mona and Doug from New Mexico and Nancy from Delaware. They rode in a different van, but we all traveled and birded together.

We drove through the park and made our first stop at the visitors' center from where we walked along the shoreline of Lago Acigami. There were a few Upland Geese, a pair of Flying Steamer-ducks, and a pair of Great Grebes minding a nest. There were even a couple Black-faced Ibis and Chimango Caracaras feeding in the grass.



The path worked its way into the woods.

The first new birds were a couple of **Patagonian Sierra-finches*** mixed in with the House Wrens, Black-chinned Siskins, and Austral Thrushes. Someone spotted a White-throated Caracara flying over the lagoon. Further on we came to an active feeding flock which consisted of a few **Thorn-tailed Rayaditos***, some **Tufted Tit-tyrants**, and a pair of **White-crested Elaenias**. We tried for Magellanic Tapaculo, but didn't even hear one.



We started back to the vehicles, and while some of us were getting better looks at some Sierra-finches, a call went up from the others who'd continued past us. They'd found the woodpecker. We all rushed to catch up, but it had flown away. But eventually we tracked a nice male **Magellanic Woodpecker*** to some buildings where it was attacking its reflection in a window. It's a

wonder he didn't smash the glass. We gave it some space and watched for a while and eventually his mate joined him on a nearby tree. Everyone slowly crept closer to the pair and took lots of pictures of them both. While doing that several **Chilean Swallows** flew around us.

Satisfied, we made our way back to the waterside, finding a couple **Black-necked Swans** - a target for Digby - along with a distant couple of Yellow-billed Pintails. We stopped in the Visitors' Center for some snacks then headed further into the park to the trailhead for the Turbal Trail.

Right after we started out, we found a pair of **Austral Parakeets*** but the rest of the walk through the woods we really didn't see much. Once we reached the Castorera (Beaver Pond), we did see the (introduced) beavers, along with some Upland Geese and Yellow-billed Teal, but nothing out of the ordinary. We also spotted a Black-crowned Night-heron of the darker *obscurus* subspecies of southern South America.



Our last stop for the day was “the end of the road.” Ruta 3 in Argentina is the southern terminus of the Pan American Highway, and it ends at Bahia Lapatia in the park. It was fairly crowded and part of the path was under repair, but we walked as far as we could to overlook the bay. We found a few **Imperial Cormorants** and Flying Steamer-ducks out in the water. On a distant island out in the



channel we could see a pair of **Flightless Steamer-ducks**. It took a while, but I was finally able to see a **Blackish Oystercatcher*** on the island that the others picked out. Back near the parking lot we tried for the tapaculo again, but only saw another **Patagonian Sierra-finch** and some Austral Thrushes.

With nothing left to chase we headed out of the park, making a quick stop to see the southernmost post office in the world, before heading back to our hotels to await the cruise the next day.

I won't spend any time documenting the cruise since Rockjumper will take care of that, so I'll jump ahead to Buenos Aires on the day after the cruise.

Nov 20th – Birding in B.A.

I met Rachel at her hotel at 7:15, with lots of feral Rock Pigeons along the way. From there we caught a cab to the south entrance of Costanera Sur Reserve. As we got out of the cab, a flock of parakeets flew by and landed in the trees in the park opposite the lagoon. Rachel saw yellow in the wings, which made them **Yellow-chevroned Parakeets**. There were also Picazuro Pigeons in the park with them.

The reserve wasn't open yet, so we decided to walk north along the edge of the reserve by the lagoon. The swampy area had a few **Wattled Jacanas**. I heard a Great Kiskadee which Rachel found on the far side of the lagoon. The lagoon was full of Rosy-billed Pochards. I picked out a Great Egret on the far shore and she found a Cocoli Heron. We both watched as a Crested Caracara flew over the lagoon, spooking the waterfowl.

Further north, we found all three coots (White-winged, Red-fronted, and Red-gartered) and some Silver Teal. A couple White-faced Whistling-ducks were standing on the far shoreline with a group of pochards. **Rufescent Tiger-herons** moved through the high grass while a flock of Neotropic

Cormorants flew past and settled on an island. Another island had a couple Black-crowned Night-herons. And a few Black-headed Ducks were a lifer for Rachel.

Young birds were everywhere, too. There was a pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** with four stripy young, a couple Coscoroba Swans with grey fluffy cygnets, and even a pair of Southern Screamers with young. Non-water birds included a pair of **Greyish Baywings** picking through a garbage can, a pair of Shiny Cowbirds, a Chalk-browed Mockingbird, a



flock of hirundines with both Grey-breasted and Brown-chested Martins, and White-rumped Swallows, and of course House Wrens and Eurasian Starlings.

As we got near the north entrance we found a few more White-faced Whistling-ducks, Silver Teal and Yellow-billed Pintail, a White-tufted Grebe, a pair of Black-necked Swans, and some Snowy Egrets. And Common Gallinules wrapped up the new waterbirds we saw before we got into the Reserve.

It was already 9:00, so we headed into the park. Rachel found another Chalk-browed Mockingbird. We both saw a singing **Sayaca Tanager** and nearby a Glittering-bellied Emerald. Further on we found a couple **Streaked Flycatchers**. Some local birders pointed out the nest of a Rufescent Tiger-heron with two young. There were Picazuro Pigeons and Eared Doves everywhere and eventually we found a Spot-winged Pigeon, which was another of Rachel's targets. We saw a flock of streaky finch-like birds and a distant flycatcher that we couldn't identify, but found some **Masked Gnatcatchers** and **Hooded Siskins** that were a little easier to ID. Occasionally a Chimango Caracara would fly by. And everywhere was unfamiliar bird song.

Eventually we came to a more open grassy area with picnic tables and exercise equipment. There was a flock of cowbirds that we concluded were Screaming Cowbirds, a few Red-crested Cardinals, several Cattle Tyrants, and a large flock of **Nanday Parakeets**. We also ran into another couple from the cruise who pointed out a **Yellow-billed Cardinal**. Rachel and I worked the wooded area along the river on the edge of the clearing, where we found a pair of **Checkered Woodpeckers** and more Masked Gnatcatchers.

At this point, we needed to get back to the entrance in order to meet up with our guide, and on the way, we ran into Rachel's husband, Joseph. He'd been birding in the park using Cornell's Merlin app. This helped us to find and ID a few species we'd only heard including **Chivi Vireo**, **Creamy-bellied Thrush**, and **Tropical Parula**. And when Rachel stepped away, Joseph and I were able to see a **Narrow-billed Woodcreeper**.

Eventually, we made it back to the entrance where we met up with our guide, Diego Oscar. As we headed back into the woods, he immediately found my first lifer of the morning, a **Gilded Hummingbird***. We then re-found the flock of streaky finch-like birds, which he IDed as **Saffron Finches** (very different than the ones I'd seen elsewhere). Next up was a **Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet** that responded to tape, a few **White-lined Tanagers**, and a pair of **Variable Orioles**. We were also able to ID the unknown flycatcher as a **Small-billed Elaenia**.

We got to the clearing again, and Diego picked out a couple of **Golden-billed Saltators***, one of my



targets, and a few Black-and-rufous Warbling-finches. We walked past the clearing and the new birds kept coming. We found a couple Warbling Doraditos in the reeds along the Rio de la Plata (but unfortunately no terns for Rachel). Further on, a pair of spinetails turned out to be one of Rachel's targets, **Sooty-fronted**

Spinetail – I would have preferred a Chotoy. Some movement in the trees was a small group of **White-winged Becards**. And just before the half-way point of the walk, Diego pulled out a couple **Golden-crowned Warblers**.

We took a break near the beach & bathrooms, and while doing so I saw a female **Double-collared Seedeater**. Then it was back to the trail. I'd walked on ahead a bit, when the others called me back. They'd found an **Ultramarine Grosbeak*** in the brush just beside the trail. Gorgeous bird! The more open areas on the center track also gave us a couple Tropical Kingbirds, a handful of **White-eyed Parakeets**, and where we could see the skyline, we picked out a Roadside Hawk soaring against the buildings. Then Diego found a **White-banded Mockingbird***, which was the last of my lifers on the day, and a nice male Golden-billed Saltator.

On the last leg of the walk, we took another peek at the lagoon, and while we didn't see any new water birds – just Rosy-billed Pochards, Common Gallinules, Wattled Jacanas, and Neotropic Cormorants – but we did add Fork-tailed Flycatcher to the day list.

The rest of the walk back to the entrance was pretty quiet. After all it was almost 3 PM on a hot summer afternoon. So we enjoyed some ice cream from one of the many food trucks along the promenade before settling up with Diego for his guiding. He then drove us back to our hotels where we said our goodbyes.



SIGHTINGS LIST

A list of species (based on Clements/Cornell taxonomy) with locations seen follows.

Greater Rhea - *Rhea americana* – A flock of 6 on the way from Buenos to Punta Rasa and a few more at Estancia la Corvina.

Spotted Nothura - *Nothura maculosa* – A pair along Avenida 1 outside San Clemente del Tuyú and another at Estancia la Corvina.

Southern Screamer -
Chauna torquata – Several at Estancia el Palenque. A pair with young at Costanera Sur.

White-faced Whistling-Duck - *Dendrocygna viduata* – a few fly-bys at San Clemente harbor and several at Costanera Sur.

Black-necked Swan -
Cygnus melancoryphus – A pair in TdF National Park and another pair with young at Costanera Sur.



Coscoroba Swan -
Coscoroba coscoroba – A few in a roadside pond on the way from Buenos Aires to Punta Rasa, and a pair with young at Costanera Sur.

Flying Steamer-Duck - *Tachyeres patachonicus* – Several at Bahía Encerrada in Ushuaia, a pair at Laguna de los Patos in Rio Grande, and a couple pairs in TdF National Park.

Flightless Steamer-Duck - *Tachyeres pteneres* – Just one distant pair at Bahía Lapatía in TdF National Park.

Upland Goose - *Chloephaga picta* – The most common goose in Tierra del Fuego. Seen pretty much in any appropriate habitat.

Kelp Goose - *Chloephaga hybrida* – A pair in Ushuaia harbor and a few more in the Rio Grande area.

Ashy-headed Goose - *Chloephaga poliocephala* – A flock at a former airstrip at the base of the Andes near Lago Escondido in Tierra del Fuego.

Ruddy-headed Goose - *Chloephaga rubidiceps* – A pair at Estancia los Flamings.

Crested Duck - *Lophonetta specularioides* – Common in Tierra del Fuego.

Ringed Teal - *Callonetta leucophrys* – A few at Estancia el Palenque.

Silver Teal - *Spatula versicolor* – Several at Estancia el Palenque and a few at Costanera Sur.



Cinnamon Teal - *Spatula cyanoptera* – Just one at Estancia el Palenque.

Red Shoveler - *Spatula platalea* – A small flock at Laguna de las Sorpresas outside Ushuaia and a few at Laguna de los Patos in Rio Grande.

Chiloe Wigeon - *Mareca sibilatrix* – A few at Laguna de las Sorpresas, a small flock at Laguna de los Patos, and a few more at the Misión Candelaria outside Rio Grande.

White-cheeked Pintail - *Anas bahamensis* – One at Estancia el Palenque.

Yellow-billed Pintail - *Anas georgica* – Seen regularly in the Pampas and at lakes in Tierra del Fuego.

Yellow-billed Teal - *Anas flavirostris* – Also seen regularly in the Pampas and at lakes in Tierra del Fuego.

Rosy-billed Pochard - *Netta peposaca* – A couple in a roadside pond between Punta Rasa and Buenos Aires. Abundant at Costanera Sur.

Black-headed Duck - *Heteronetta atricapilla* – A small flock at Estancia el Palenque and a few at Costanera Sur.

Lake Duck - *Oxyura vittate* – Just a few at Estancia el Palenque.

Chilean Flamingo - *Phoenicopterus chilensis* – Large flocks at Laguna del los Patos and the Misión Candelaria in Rio Grande. A few at Tapera de Lopez in Punta Rasa.

White-tufted Grebe - *Rollandia rolland* – A pair at Bahía Encerrada in Ushuaia and one in Costanera Sur.

Pied-billed Grebe - *Podilymbus podiceps* – A pair with young at Costanera Sur.

Great Grebe - *Podiceps major* – One on the river in General Lavalle and a pair tending a nest in TdF National Park.

Silvery Grebe - *Podiceps occipitalis* – One at the Misión Candelaria outside Rio Grande.

Rock Pigeon - *Columba livia* – Abundant in urban Buenos Aires.

Picazuro Pigeon - *Patagioenas picazuro* – Common in Punta Rasa and abundant in Costanera Sur.

Spot-winged Pigeon - *Patagioenas maculosa* – One at Tapera de Lopez and another at Costanera Sur.

White-tipped Dove - *Leptotila verreauxi* – One at Estancia el Palenque. Another heard at Costanera Sur.

Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata* – Common around Buenos Aires and Punta Rasa.

Guira Cuckoo - *Guira guira* – Three on the road to Punta Piedras.

Glittering-bellied Emerald - *Chlorostilbon lucidus* – One along the roadside near Estancia las Corvinas and several at Costanera Sur.



Gilded Hummingbird - *Hylocharis chrysura* – A few at Costanera Sur.

Plumbeous Rail - *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* – One at Estancia el Palenque.

Common Gallinule - *Gallinula galeata* – A few at the Misión Candelaria outside Rio Grande and some at Costanera Sur.

Red-fronted Coot - *Fulica rufifrons* – Many at Estancia el Palenque and a few at Costanera Sur

Red-gartered Coot - *Fulica armillata* – Less common than Red-fronted but at the same locations.

White-winged Coot - *Fulica leucoptera* – Scattered sightings although to be honest I wasn't looking that hard for them.

Magellanic Plover - *Pluvianellus socialis* – Three pairs seen: One pair at Laguna Seca outside Rio Grande, one pair at Estancia los Flamencos, and one pair along the road between the two.

Black-necked Stilt - *Himantopus mexicanus* – Many at San Clemente del Tuyú harbor and more at Estancia el Palenque.

American Oystercatcher - *Haematopus palliatus* – A few at San Clemente del Tuyú harbor.

Magellanic Oystercatcher - *Haematopus leucopodus* – A few at Laguna del los Patos and a couple at the Misión Candelaria outside Rio Grande

Blackish Oystercatcher - *Haematopus ater* – Just one distant bird at Bahia Lapatia in TdF National Park.

American Golden-Plover - *Pluvialis dominica* – A few at San Clemente del Tuyú harbor and a few more at Estancia el Palenque.

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis* – Common in wet grassy areas in Punta Rasa and around Rio Grande.

Tawny-throated Dotterel - *Oreopholus ruficollis* – A pair along Ruta C between Rio Grande and Estancia los Flamingsos.



Two-banded Plover - *Charadrius falklandicus* – One with young at Punta Popper in Rio Grande and another couple along Ruta C between Rio Grande and Estancia los Flamingsos.

Semipalmated Plover - *Charadrius semipalmatus* – A couple at Tapera de Lopez in Punta Rasa

Rufous-chested Dotterel - *Charadrius modestus* – A pair, likely with a nest at the undeveloped development outside Rio Grande.

Least Seedsnipe - *Thinocorus rumicivorus* – A pair at Punta Popper, another at Laguna Seca, and a third along Ruta C.

Hudsonian Godwit - *Limosa haemastica* – A few at San Clemente del Tuyú harbor.

Ruddy Turnstone - *Arenaria interpres* – A couple at Tapera de Lopez.

Baird's Sandpiper - *Calidris bairdii* – Common winter visitor in the grasslands of Tierra del Fuego.

White-rumped Sandpiper - *Calidris fuscicollis* – Fairly common in Punta Rasa and a few seen along Ruta C in Tierra del Fuego.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - *Calidris subruficollis* – Two or three seen at Estancia el Palenque near General Lavalle.

Pectoral Sandpiper - *Calidris melanotos* – A few seen at Estancia el Palenque near General Lavalle.

Magellanic Snipe - *Gallinago magellanica* – An adult with young at Laguna de los Patos in Rio Grande.

Wilson's Phalarope - *Phalaropus tricolor* – One at Laguna de las Sorpresas outside Ushuaia and another at the Misión Candelaria near Rio Grande.

Spotted Sandpiper - *Actitis macularius* – One at Tapera de Lopez.

Greater Yellowlegs -
Tringa melanoleuca –
Scattered sightings in
the Punta Rasa area.

Lesser Yellowlegs -
Tringa flavipes –
Scattered sightings in
the Punta Rasa area.

Brown-hooded Gull -
Chroicocephalus
maculipennis – A few
along Avenida 1 in San
Clemente and some at
Estancia el Palenque.

Gray-hooded Gull -
Chroicocephalus
cirrocephalus – A few in Tapera de Lopez, General Lavalle, and Estancia el Palenque.



Dolphin Gull - *Leucophaeus scoresbii* – Common in Ushuaia.

Olog's Gull - *Larus atlanticus* – Flocks of immatures at Tapera de Lopez.

Kelp Gull - *Larus dominicanus* – Common at all locations near the ocean.

Gull-billed Tern - *Gelochelidon nilotica* – A couple fly-bys at Tapera de Lopez.

Common Tern - *Sterna hirundo* – One in General Lavalle.

Snowy-crowned Tern - *Sterna trudeaui* – Many at Tapera de Lopez and Estancia el Palenque

Black Skimmer - *Rynchops niger* – Large flocks at Tapera de Lopez and on the river in General Lavalle.

Chilean Skua - *Stercorarius chilensis* – A few at Laguna de Las Sorpresas outside Ushuaia

Maguari Stork - *Ciconia maguari* – Scattered sightings in the Punta Rasa area.

Wood Stork - *Mycteria americana* – One at a roadside pond on the way back to Buenos Aires.

Neotropic Cormorant - *Nannopterum brasilianum* – Flocks along the river in General Lavalle and in Costanera Sur with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Magellanic Cormorant (Rock Shag) - *Leucocarbo magellanicus* – One in Ushuaia harbor.

Imperial Cormorant - *Leucocarbo atriceps* – Two swimming in Bahia Lapatia in TdF National Park.



Rufescent Tiger-Heron - *Tigrisoma lineatum* – Several at Costanera Sur

Cocoi Heron - *Ardea cocoi* – Singles at a few different locations in Punta Rasa and a couple at Costanera Sur

Great Egret - *Ardea alba* – One on the way from Buenos Aires to Punta Rasa, good numbers at Estancia el Palenque, and a few at Costanera Sur.

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula* – Many at Estancia el Palenque, and one at Costanera Sur.

Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis* – One on the way from Buenos Aires to Punta Rasa.

Black-crowned Night-Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax* – One near the Ushuaia sanitary landfill and another at the Castorera in TdF National Park.

White-faced Ibis - *Plegadis chihi* – A large flock at Estancia el Palenque.

Black-faced Ibis - *Theristicus melanopis* – Several at Misión Salesiana and a couple at TdF National Park

Roseate Spoonbill - *Platalea ajaja* – A few at San Clemente Harbor and a small flock at Estancia el Palenque.

Andean Condor -
Vultur gryphus –
Three at Estancia
Maria Behety on
the way to
Estancia los
Flamencos

White-tailed Kite
- *Elanus leucurus*
– One seen briefly
on the way from
Buenos Aires to
Punta Rasa.

Snail Kite -
Rostrhamus
sociabilis – A
couple small
flocks seen while traveling from Buenos Aires to Punta Rasa and back.



Long-winged Harrier - *Circus buffoni* – One seen while traveling from Buenos Aires to Punta Rasa and three singles seen around Punta Rasa.

Cinereous Harrier - *Circus cinereus* – One seen while traveling from Buenos Aires to Punta Rasa and one seen at Estancia el Palenque.

Roadside Hawk - *Rupornis magnirostris* – One seen while traveling from Buenos Aires to Punta Rasa and one at Costanera Sur.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle - *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* – One at Ushuaia sanitary landfill.

Checkered Woodpecker - *Dryobates mixtus* – A few at Costanera Sur.

Magellanic Woodpecker - *Campephilus magellanicus* – A pair at TdF National Park.

Campo Flicker - *Colaptes campestris* – A few at Punta Rasa and one at Estancia la Corvina.

White-throated Caracara - *Phalcoboenus albogularis* – Three at Ushuaia sanitary landfill and a fly-by at TdF National Park.

Crested Caracara - *Caracara plancus* – Fairly common in the northern Pampas, one at Ushuaia landfill (on a nest), and a few at Costanera Sur. Formerly Southern Caracara.



Chimango Caracara - *Milvago chimango*
– The most common raptor seen. Large numbers at the Ushuaia landfill.

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius* – Just one at Avenida 1 in San Clemente

Monk Parakeet - *Myiopsitta monachus* – One flock outside General Lavalle and another at Estancia el Palenque.

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet - *Brotogeris chiriri* – A flock outside Costanera Sur. Introduced species.

Austral Parakeet - *Enicognathus ferrugineus* – A couple seen at Tierra del Fuego National Park and a few heard in Ushuaia.

Nanday Parakeet - *Aratinga nenday* – A couple flocks in Costanera Sur. Introduced species.

White-eyed Parakeet - *Psittacara leucophthalmus* – A small group in Costanera Sur. Introduced species.

Common Miner - *Geositta cunicularia* – A pair on the way to Estancia los Flamencos and another at the estancia.

Short-billed Miner - *Geositta antarctica* – A pair at Punta Popper in Rio Grande.

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper - *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris* – A couple in Costanera Sur.

Rufous Hornero - *Furnarius rufus* – Abundant in Punta Rasa and Buenos Aires. A few in Costanera Sur. The National Bird of Argentina.

Wren-like Rushbird - *Phleocryptes melanops* – One seen at Estancia el Palenque with several more heard.

Dark-bellied Cinclodes - *Cinclodes patagonicus* – One seen near the Barco Hundido in Ushuaia.

Buff-winged Cinclodes - *Cinclodes fuscus* – One seen on the way from Estancia los Flamencos.



Thorn-tailed Rayadito -
Aphrastura spinicauda – A few seen in TdF National Park.

Tufted Tit-Spinetail -
Leptasthenura platensis – A couple seen on the road to Punta Piedras.

Freckle-breasted Thornbird
- *Phacellodomus striaticollis*
– A pair seen at Tapera de Lopez.

Hudson's Canastero -
Asthenes hudsoni – A couple

heard along Avenida 1 in San Clemente. Several seen at Estancia la Corvina.

Austral Canastero - *Asthenes anthoides* – One seen on the way to Estancia los Flamencos.

Sulphur-bearded Reedhaunter - *Limnortyx sulphuriferus* – One seen at Tapera de Lopez.

Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail - *Spartonoica maluroides* – One seen at Tapera de Lopez and many others heard in the Punta Rasa area.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail - *Synallaxis frontalis* – A pair seen at Costanera Sur.

White-winged Becard -
Pachyramphus polychopterus – Three seen at Costanera Sur.

Many-colored Rush Tyrant -
Tachuris rubrigastra – One seen at Estancia el Palenque.

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet -
Phylloscartes ventralis – One at Costanera Sur.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes parulus* – A couple seen in a mixed flock in TdF National Park.



White-crested Elaenia - *Elaenia albiceps* – Seen in a mixed flock in TdF National Park.



Bearded Tachuri -
Polystictus pectoralis
– One at Estancia la
Corvina.

Warbling Doradito -
Pseudocolopteryx
flaviventris – Two at
Tapera de Lopez and
two at Costanera Sur.

Small-billed Elaenia -
Elaenia parvirostris –
Several at Costanera
Sur.

Sooty Tyrannulet -
Serpophaga nigricans
– One at Estancia el
Palenque.

White-crested Tyrannulet - *Serpophaga subcristata* – One at Tapera de Lopez (IDed by call).

Vermilion Flycatcher - *Pyrocephalus rubinus* – One at Tapera de Lopez.

Austral Negrito - *Lessonia rufa* – Fairly common in the grasslands of Tierra del Fuego.

Spectacled Tyrant - *Hymenops perspicillatus* – Common in the Punta Rasa area.

Yellow-browed Tyrant - *Satrapa icterophrys* – A couple at Estancia la Corvina,

Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola flavinucha* – A couple below Martial Glacier near Ushuaia.

Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola maclovianus* – One at Martial Glacier.

Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola capistratus* – A pair at Misión Salesiana near Rio Grande. Another seen by the others on the way from Estancia los Flamencos to Rio Grande.

Fire-eyed Diucon - *Pyrope pyrope* – A couple seen in the forests near Lago Escondido on the way to Rio Grande.

Chocolate-vented Tyrant - *Neoxolmis rufiventris* – One seen by a couple of us on the way from Estancia los Flamencos to Rio Grande.

Cattle Tyrant - *Machetornis rixosa* – A few singles in the Puta Rasa area and a small group at Costanera Sur.



Great Kiskadee -
Pitangus sulphuratus –
Fairly common in the
Pampas and B.A., but
heard more often than
seen.

Streaked Flycatcher -
Myiodynastes maculatus
– A few in Costanera Sur.

Tropical Kingbird -
Tyrannus melancholicus
– Surprisingly
uncommon. Two in the
Punta Rasa area and
another couple in
Costanera Sur.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher - *Tyrannus savana* – A few in the Punta Rasa area and a couple in Costanera Sur.

Chivi Vireo - *Vireo chivi* – Fairly common in Costanera Sur.

Blue-and-white Swallow - *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* – A few in General Lavalle and one in Costanera Sur.

Gray-breasted Martin - *Progne chalybea* – Common at Avenida 1 outside San Clemente and a few at Costanera Sur.

Brown-chested Martin - *Progne tapera* – A few at Avenida 1 and a few at Costanera Sur.

White-rumped Swallow - *Tachycineta leucorrhoa* – Common at Costanera Sur.

Chilean Swallow - *Tachycineta leucopyga* – A small flock in TdF National Park.

Bank Swallow - *Riparia riparia* – One at Estancia el Palenque.

Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica* – Common in the Punta Rasa area. A few at the Misión Salesiana near Rio Grande.

Masked Gnatcatcher - *Poliophtila dumicola* – Several at Costanera Sur.

House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon* – Common.

Grass Wren - *Cistothorus platensis* – Scattered sightings / hearings of the “Pampas” type in the Punta Rasa area.

European Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris* – Numerous in the Buenos Aires area.

Chalk-browed

Mockingbird - *Mimus saturninus* – One or two in the Punta Rasa area and Costanera Sur.

White-banded

Mockingbird - *Mimus triurus* – One in Costanera Sur.

Austral Thrush - *Turdus falcklandii* – Common in Tierra del Fuego.

Creamy-bellied Thrush - *Turdus amaurochalinus* – A few in Costanera Sur.



House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus* – Common in urban areas.

Correndera Pipit - *Anthus correndera* – The common pipit in both the northern Pampas and Tierra del Fuego grasslands.

Hellmayr's Pipit - *Anthus hellmayri* – One seen at Estancia la Corvina.



European Goldfinch - *Carduelis carduelis* – A few at Punta Rasa.

Hooded Siskin - *Spinus magellanicus* – A flock at Estancia la Corvina. Common at Costanera Sur.

Black-chinned Siskin - *Spinus barbatus* – Common in wooded areas in Tierra del Fuego.

Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis* – Common.

White-browed Meadowlark - *Leistes superciliaris* – A few at Estancia la Corvina.

Long-tailed Meadowlark - *Leistes loyca* – Several sightings in the Rio Grande area.

Variable Oriole - *Icterus pyrrhopterus* – A pair in Costanera Sur.

Screaming Cowbird - *Molothrus rufoaxillaris* – A couple fly-bys at Tapera de Lopez and a few at Costanera Sur.



Shiny Cowbird - *Molothrus bonariensis* – Flocks of 10-15 in San Clemente, at Estancia la Corvina, and in Costanera Sur.

Scarlet-headed Blackbird - *Amblyramphus holosericeus* – A couple at Estancia el Palenque.

Grayish Baywing - *Agelaioides badius* – Common at Costanera Sur.

Yellow-winged Blackbird - *Agelasticus thilius* – A few in the Punta Rasa area.

Brown-and-yellow Marshbird - *Pseudoleistes virescens* – Flocks of 5-10 at several Punta Rasa sites.

Tropical Parula - *Setophaga pitiaiyumi* – Several at Costanera Sur.

Golden-crowned Warbler - *Basileuterus culicivorus* – A pair at Costanera Sur.

Ultramarine Grosbeak - *Cyanoloxia brissonii* – One at Costanera Sur.

Red-crested Cardinal - *Paroaria coronata* – A small flock on the road to Punta Piedras and another at Costanera Sur.

Yellow-billed Cardinal - *Paroaria capitata* – One at Costanera Sur.

White-lined Tanager - *Tachyphonus rufus* – A few at Costanera Sur.

Sayaca Tanager - *Thraupis sayaca* – One at Costanera Sur.

Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch - *Poospiza nigrorufa* – One at Tapera de Lopez (Punta Rasa) and a few at Costanera Sur.

Patagonian Sierra Finch - *Phrygilus patagonicus* – Several at Tierra del Fuego National Park.

Patagonian Yellow-Finch - *Sicalis lebruni* – A few along the road from Rio Grande to Estancia Los Flamings.

Saffron Finch - *Sicalis flaveola* – Fairly common at Costanera Sur.

Grassland Yellow-Finch - *Sicalis luteola* – Several in the Punta Rasa area.

Great Pampa-Finch - *Embernagra platensis* – One at Tapera de Lopez (Punta Rasa).

Double-collared Seedeater - *Sporophila caerulescens* – One female at Costanera Sur.

Golden-billed Saltator - *Saltator aurantirostris* – A few at Costanera Sur.

THE END
(of the road)

