

Trip Report – five days birding trip in Central Chile (with Birdwatching Chile), 13th to 17th February 2023

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Outline

In February – March 2023 I went on a once in a lifetime 3-week long Hurtigruten expedition cruise from Punta Arenas in southern Chile to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula with my best (non-birding) friend. This is the subject of a separate trip report.

However, it involved convening with those travelling on the same expedition cruise at a hotel in central Santiago, the day before then flying to Punta Arenas. Whilst the expedition cruise was in its self incredibly expensive, I recognised that being in Santiago / Chile before the trip commenced (or afterwards....), presented me with the opportunity of some birding in Chile. As, in 1998, I had worked on a project in Lima, in Peru, for some six weeks before the project had folded, before then going travelling in Peru for three weeks, with very mixed experiences, birding in Peru had proved to be something of a tale of what might have been.

So, although Chile is no Peru ornithologically, I saw the opportunity to do some birding in Central Chile as some sort of 'redemption' after my Peru experiences.

Therefore, 25 years older than I had been when I was in Peru, and maybe a little wiser, I was keen to do some birding, but not as a solo traveller.

After some difficulties doing my research, or at least finding a suitable option as a guide, I eventually contacted Birdwatching Chile, and successfully arranged for five days birding with owner and main bird guide, Rodrigo Reyes. Suffice to say, the company arranged all of the necessary, including accommodation, *etc.* Most importantly, Rodrigo proved to be my dedicated guide (although, once the itinerary had been fixed and the deposit had been paid, with my blessing Birdwatching Chile advertised the trip (which would have shared the not insignificant costs involved), but there were no other takers, apart from the day which entailed the pelagic which attracted some ten others.

My intended purpose (and what Birdwatching Chile offered) was to spend five or so days in Central Chile seeing as many bird species, and as much of the country, as possible. The flights arranged for me by Dial-a-Flight took me from Edinburgh via London Heathrow direct to Santiago a week in advance of the scheduled Hurtigruten rendezvous time and date, and as such, I had skilfully factored in a five-day opportunity to do some birding in Central Chile.

So, some good birding in Central Chile was definitely on.

I arrived in Santiago on the morning of Sunday the 12th February, and with some trouble (the hotel courtesy airport bus system was maddingly chaotic) I eventually arrived at the perfectly adequate La Quinta by Wyndham Hotel (an anonymous, modern big city airport type hotel).

My plan was to rest up, before doing some birding locally in what appeared (from aerial imagery) to be half-decent habitat nearby. Good idea in principle, not such a good idea in practice; the hotel was on the edge of a vast distribution warehouse sprawl, beyond which there was abandoned further such incomplete development, before the habitat turned out to be an upmarket golf course, which, although I easily accessed it, had less bird interest than the abandoned development wasteland. Still, I got in some birding including Chimango Caracara, Chilean Mockingbird, Long-tailed Meadowlark and Austral Blackbird which were new for my non-existent world list.

The following morning, I met Rodrigo, and his driver, Carlos. Rodrigo and I (and Carlos and I) really hit it off, I think. Rodrigo was an excellent bird guide, and, even more importantly perhaps, excellent company (with good English). And Carlos was an excellent driver, who was also excellent company (with good enough English!).

In what was a full on five days, we managed some 129 bird species, plus a good support cast of mammals, *etc.*, at a wide range of sites, with some very definite highlights. I'll save any further explanation of these for later rather than summarising them here.

Central Chile

Santiago, the capital of Chile, is located in the country's central valley and is the centre of the Santiago Metropolitan Region, which has a population of seven million people, representing 40% of Chile's total population. It, and the other urban areas in Central Chile totally dominant the country; the area is very developed and European feeling, with all the benefits (and problems) that modern western life provides and creates.

This said, fantastic wild places and spaces are relatively easily accessible from these urban areas.

As the heart of Chile, central Chile is relatively racially and culturally diverse, which, amongst other things makes for reasonable variety of cuisine, including traditional Chilean, Indian, Chinese, *etc.* it has to be said though, Chilean food and drink are very much in the shadow of the neighbours to the north, Peru, in particular.

We visited a range of sites within a few hours of Santiago and / or our base for one night in the Maipo valley in the Andes or the place where I stayed for three nights (and where Rodrigo and Carlos both live) in Vinar del Mar for three nights.

These varied from a valley system high in the Andes, to various reserves and other sites on the coast to the Pacific. I'll not attempt to describe the geography of the Central Chile area, but the habitats visited ranged from wetlands associated with upland river systems in the Andes, to 'heathland' type habitats on the coastal plain, to various coastal wetlands associated with rivers and estuaries, as well as pelagic waters off the Chilean coast.

Neither will I attempt to describe the geology and biogeography, or indeed the avifauna. Suffice to say, (a bit like Trinidad and Tobago does for South America) birding around Santiago / in Central Chile provides a fantastic introduction to birding in Pacific coastal and Andean southern South America.

The scope for good birding in Central Chile is excellent. Rodrigo Reyes provides his birding trip services throughout South America, but this was more than enough to keep me interested. 130 bird species in five days may not seem many to some, but by way of an introduction to birding in Central Chile proper it was more than enough for me. I'm not sure we missed, but I suspect not much really. Rodrigo provided an indicative list for each day and for birding in Central Chile and we got most of our targets, I think. The Chilean avifauna is some 565 bird species (for the entire country as opposed to the Central Chile region), and there are 12 endemics. Given the length of the country, it is, to me anyway, remarkable that we saw six of these. I'm not a world-lister, so it is perhaps a case of, 'So what?' but namely these were Chilean Tinamou, Juan Fernandez Petrel, Moustached Turca (the logo of Birdwatching Chile), Dusky Tapuculo, Crag Chila and (Chilean) Seaside Cinclodes.

All this in a very developed (the most developed South American country). Unlike my experiences in Malaysia, I wasn't horrified by the scale or damage caused by 'development' although the central valley of Chile did feel very much like the Central Valley of California, and the coastal sprawl of second home and coastal recreational development was somewhat shocking.

Logistics – (Getting There, Costs, Health and Safety, Weather, Literature and Resources, Clothing and Equipment, Guide, etc.)

As suggested, this 'trip' was really the percussor to 3-weeks of birding and sightseeing in the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula as part of a Hurtigruten expedition cruise. This meant I had to get to Santiago, where those on the trip were required to convene. I therefore had to arrange my long-haul flights to Chile from London (and also my flight from Edinburgh to London Heathrow) which I did with Dial-a-Flight.

I booked my flights months and months in advance, and in doing so, ultimately benefited from savings due to the subsequent fuel price hikes; it cost £975 for my return flights from Edinburgh to Santiago via Heathrow Terminal 5, meaning once I'd got to Edinburgh Airport and checked it in, I didn't see my big bag again until it appeared on the baggage carousel at (the very good) Santiago (Benitez) Airport.

I paid \$2,300 to Birdwatching Chile, which initially seemed like a lot of money (although it was quite a lot less than what I was quoted by other 'name' Chilean bird tour operators, whether or not what was being offered was directly comparable).

However, I quickly reconciled myself with this cost, on the basis that you get what you pay for and it was part of a once in a lifetime trip, and also as this covered everything, including my very knowledgeable bird guide, complete with site knowledge I just could never have assembled, driver and vehicle (no way would I have wanted to hire a car and drive!), accommodation, meals, *etc.*, *etc.*

Further, Rodrigo was very generous, and supplied me with water and snacks during the day, plus meals when we stopped somewhere for breakfast and lunch. Evening meals were 'all-in' as part of our / my accommodation, and both at the Cascada de las Animas lodge complex on the banks of the Maipo and at the wacky but fantastic Hotel Cap Ducal on the seafront in Vina del Mar I / we ate very well (and even the very good bottle of red wine from the hotelier's vineyard I imbibed one night was covered as part of my paid for bill). I should note though, arranging to make the necessary payments to Birdwatching Chile was a complete faff. There must be easier ways, but I had to arrange for transfers using Western Union, which was, to put it mildly, clunky and scary.

I needed no additional inoculations or medications for my trip (for neither Chile or the Falkland Islands, South Georgia or the Antarctic Peninsula). I experienced nothing in the way in terms of 'dodgy tummy' or similar; although I wasn't inordinately careful with tap water, I almost solely drank bottled water (which Rodrigo provided). Although I was mainly in the company of Rodrigo and Carlos, Central Chile felt entirely safe; only when driving on the enormous big roads in

urban areas did I even feel remotely 'imperilled' (and this was nothing to do with Carlo's excellent driving!). That said, but the road culture was fairly sensible.

Although I had insect repellent with me, we were untroubled by mosquitoes and other insects.

The weather I experienced in Chile was predictably hot (see what I did there?). It was generally sunny (although could be cloudier on the coast due to Pacific fog-banks), and it was dry throughout (Chile was experiencing an extended period of drought). This restricted the additional gear I needed to a cap; conditions underfoot were sometimes a tad wettish at some sites, but normal walking shoes sufficed.

Central Chile has a Mediterranean type climate, certainly nearly the coast. It lies at around 33°S and it was high summer but it never got unbearably hot; temperatures in the low 30°Cs were the norm. Further, it was a dry heat, which helped, and obviously temperatures in the mountains, or on the coast, or at night, were less than this. At the time of year involved, dawn was at around 07:00; by 07:30 there was plenty of light and dusk was at around 20:00; by 20:30 it was definitely night.

I used the more than adequate for my purpose 'Birds of Chile' authored by Alvaro Jarmillo (which, very handily, also covered the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula). Rodrigo had an App or similar on his mobile phone with which he tape-lured key species.

I was appropriately kitted out with what was standard birding gear for the birding in a hot, dry location, including lightweight trousers and long-sleeved shirts, walking shoes and miscellaneous hats, sunglasses, *etc.* In addition to binoculars, I had my camera, and Rodrigo had his telescope (meaning I didn't need to have one).

As indicated, Rodrigo was an excellent bird guide and more. He was also very affable and unflappable! Best of all, we each shared a sense of humour which meant that besides visiting some of the best birding sites and seeing lots of excellent birds, we had a good laugh! Birdwatching Chile has its own vehicle, which was more than adequate, all the more so because Carlos was an excellent driver.

Rodrigo Reyes uses WhatsApp and his number is +56 9 9718 6970, or alternatively his e-mail address is birdwatchingchile@gmail.com.

Day 1 – Monday 13th February

Birding all day with Rodrigo – Santiago – Yeso Valley and Maipo Valley – Maipo Valley

This was the first day of my 5-day tour with Birdwatching Chile, and so I was meeting my guide and our driver, and going into the Andes, before staying overnight in the Maipo Valley.

As such, I was up bright(?) and early and soon showered, packed, *etc.*, and vacated the room, before making my way down to the airport hotel restaurant for a quick continental breakfast.

I had no sooner consumed this and returned my room key card and settled the bill for breakfast than Rodrigo, my guide, and our driver, Carlos, arrived.

We quickly introduced ourselves and loaded up the pick-up, and then we departed, skirting Santiago, on its south western side, before heading up the Maipo Valley and then into Yeso Valley, via a not very successful pitstop (the toilets at the chosen service station were closed as they were being refurbished) and various stops for birds, some more successful than others.

However, we scored quickly at the first real stop with Crag Chilia (and an Andean Akodont...), but thereafter, once in good habitat upstream of the Embalse El Yeso we really laboured for our key target, Diameded Sandpiper-Plover, and other goodies.

All the same, I really enjoyed the birding, in good company and in incredible scenery. Amongst other things, I saw glaciers and a peak, Cerro Pasten, straddling the Chile / Argentina border.

Later, we decided to call it a day (rather than driving to another potential Diameded Sandpiper-Plover site much further up the valley) and instead returned back down the valley and enjoyed a very late lunch at a roadside restaurant – a superb empanada.

We continued back to the Maipo Valley and the impressive Cascada de las Animas lodge complex on the banks of the Maipo, where we were eventually shown to our lodges. Once settled in I chilled out, adding some additional birds including Green-backed Firecrown and White-crested or Chilean Elaenia.

Later, at 19:00, we dined together, again overlooking the Maipo from our restaurant table.

Afterwards, Rodrigo and I completed the log using my extended Chile checklist, which was a real boon.

Later, I stayed behind in the restaurant to utilise the Wi-Fi, and when I did walk back from the restaurant I was invited to join a magic show by a very enticing woman but

I then struggled to find the right lodge.... .

Afterwards, I sort of slumbered.

Birds seen were Andean Goose, Upland Goose, Crested Duck, Yellow-billed or Speckled Teal, California Quail, Green-backed Firecrown, Feral Pigeon, Black-winged Ground Dove, Eared Dove, Southern Lapwing, Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, Magellanic Snipe, Harris's Hawk, Black-chested Buzzard Eagle, American Kestrel, Rufous-banded Miner, Creamy-rumped Miner?, Crag Chilia, Scale-throated Earthcreeper, Buff-winged Cinclodes, Dark-bellied Cinclodes, White-crested / Chilean Elaenia, Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant, Blue-and-white Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chilean Mockingbird, Austral Thrush, Correndera Pipit, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Greater yellow-Finch, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch and Diuca Finch.

Tuesday 14th February

Birding all day with Rodrigo – Maipo Valley – Yeso Valley – Vina del Mar

This was the second day of my 5-day tour with Birdwatching Chile. I was up at around 06:40, before the alarm went off, determined to get ready quickly and take my own bags to the pick-up, rather than have Carlos, seven years older than me, but a damned sight fitter, take them for me, as he had the previous night.

I achieved my mission in two trips and returned for a third to rendezvous with the waiting Rodrigo and Carlos en route to the pick-up.

We loaded up and I quickly went to the restaurant area for Wi-Fi before they picked me up and we departed to the Yeso Valley once more.

This time things just 'happened', unlike on the previous day.

A Moustached Turca (endemic to Chile and the logo bird of Birdwatching Chile) ran across the road in front of us, and a pair of Dark-bellied Cinclodes feed in a stream in close proximity to the pick-up at a roadside stop.

And once we were back in the excellent habitat upstream of the Embalse El Yeso there were birds everywhere, including a fantastic fly-past and fast Aplomado Falcon, and, without anything like the effort of yesterday, a colour-ringed Diameded Sandpiper-Plover.

We breakfasted (on the breakfast provided by the restaurant the previous evening) and then explored the area towards the reservoir before departing back to the Maipo Valley and beyond.

Stops at the formerly good springs area alongside the road and at the empanada restaurant of the previous day produced little apart from a very average coffee, but another stop further down the valley produced White-sided Hillstar, Cordilleran Canastero and finally, Andean Condor, and also Silver Satyr butterflies.

Admittedly, I initially tried stringing a prominent dark rock outcrop into a perched condor (using my camera to resolve this) but we did then see another on the way down.

A further stop in the Maipo Valley produced Torrent Duck.

After this there was a long journey to the coast through the Santiago sprawl (after a fuel stop and a raspberry lolly).

Eventually, we arrived at my fantastically quirky 'ship' hotel, where, although Rodrigo helped me to check in and take my bags to my room, I was otherwise on my own.

After a faff with the Wi-Fi, I followed the Burnley v. Watford game (which involved a 95th minute equaliser for a 1-1 draw) whilst developing my balcony list.

I then retired to the bar, where I indulged in a bottle of the patron's very own 'home-made' red.

I chatted to Vanessa (his PA – he was also an important figure on the local civic body) and a new member of staff before I was shown to my solo table on Valentine's Night, for an excellent meal, the main course of which was Coruina, a local fish.

Once I retired to bed, fuelled by my full bottle of the patron's red, a night of noises in the dark followed, including oystercatcher spp., Black-crowned Night-heron and people panicking in the ancient lift, and breaking one of the handles in their panic.....

Birds seen were Torrent Duck, Andean Goose, Crested Duck, Yellow-billed or Speckled Teal, White-sided Hillstar, Feral Pigeon, Black-winged Ground Dove, Eared Dove, Red-gartered Coot, Southern Lapwing, Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, Baird's Sandpiper, Magellanic Snipe, Franklin's Gull, Kelp Gull, Neotropic Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Andean Condor, Chimango Caracara, American Kestrel, Aplomado Falcon, Rufous-banded Miner, Scale-throated Earthcreeper, Buff-winged Cinclodes, Grey-flanked Cinclodes, Dark-bellied Cinclodes, Cordilerean Canastero, Moustached Turca, Blue-and-white Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chilean Mockingbird, Austral Thrush, House Sparrow, Correndera Pipit, Yellow-rumped Siskin, Rufous-collared Sparrow and Plumbeous Sierra Finch and birds heard included Monk Parakeet and House Wren and Black-crowned Night-heron.

Wednesday 15th February

Birding all day with Rodrigo – Vina del Mar – birding along the Pacific Coast – Vina del Mar

The third day of my 5-day tour with Birdwatching Chile. As a result of wild-fire risk in the drought conditions and the forecast winds the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, La Campana National Park, we were supposed to be visiting was closed, so what was scheduled to be Day 4 on the itinerary became Day 3, and we concentrated on the coast and coastal wetlands instead, in the hope that the national park would be open tomorrow.

I was again up early and was soon waiting outside for Rodrigo and Carlos.

Once they arrived and I clambered abroad and we departed, our first stop (after a quick pit-stop for breakfast at a filling station) was north along the coast to a site within sight of my hotel.

This stop produced a great variety of good coastal birds which included (Chilean) Seaside Cinclodes, Surfbird, Inca Tern and Peruvian Booby.

One of our next stops was for waterfowl, which involved looking at a partially infilled wetland through a chain-link fence next to a sprawling copper smelting plant, but far, far better was Isla Cachagua with its breeding Humboldt Penguins, *etc.*, which we viewed from the beaches and rocky headlands alongside the exclusive beachside second-home suburbs of Cachagua. We also managed a range of other good birds and other species here, including Marine Otter.

We then commenced our way back, stopping off on the way. Our first such stop was the river-mouth of the Estero de Catapilco, which was heavily developed and disturbed on either side, but still produced a good range of birds. It was also good to see school children being shown wildlife here in a formalised, organised way.

Afterwards, we had another filling station pitstop nearby, before continuing on to our last destination of the day, a visitor centre, *etc.*, providing access to the coastal habitats around the Estero Mantagua. Here Rodrigo and I enjoyed some great birding, banging in a good range of hard to see birds plus others.

We then journeyed back to the metropolitan area and all of its delights!

Rodrigo and Carlos dropped me off and I lounged around, having alleviated the travel adaptor problem by borrowing a Chilean USB charger from the helpful woman at reception.

Later, I readied myself and ventured downstairs to dine in the restaurant with Rodrigo. And very good it was too, commencing with a Pisco Sour!

It didn't help me sleep though!

Birds seen were Coscoroba Swan, Red Shoveler, Cinnamon Teal, Chiloe Wigeon, Yellow-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed or Speckled Teal, Lake Duck, Giant Hummingbird, Feral Pigeon, Eared Dove, West Peruvian Dove, Plumbeous Rail, Red-fronted Coot, Red-gartered Coot, White-winged Coot, White-tufted Grebe, Great Grebe, Blackish Oystercatcher, American Oystercatcher, White-backed / Black-necked Stilt, Southern Lapwing, Collared Plover, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Surfbird, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, Magellanic Snipe, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Black Skimmer, Brown-hooded Gull, Franklin's Gull, Kelp Gull, Elegant Tern, Inca Tern, Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, Neotropic Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Cooi Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Peruvian Pelican, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Harris's Hawk, Variable Hawk, Striped Woodpecker, Chimango Caracara, Wren-like Rushbird, Chilean Seaside Cinclodes, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Austral Negrito, Spectacled Tyrant, Fire-eyed Ducon, Great Shrike-Tyrant, Chilean Swallow, Austral Thrush, House Sparrow, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Long-tailed Meadowlark, Shiny Cowbird,

Austral Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch and Diuca Finch and birds heard included House Wren.

Thursday 16th February

Birding all day with Rodrigo – Vina del Mar – birding along the Pacific Coast – Vina del Mar

This was the fourth day of my 5-day tour with Birdwatching Chile. It commenced much like Day 3; I was up early – earlier than the alarm and was quickly ready and outside the hotel, waiting for Rodrigo and Carlos, and then going with them to the same service station and having the same breakfast.

We then journeyed north along the coast again, although we made a quick stop at another small rocky islet just offshore for Red-legged Cormorant.

Unfortunately, due to the wild-fire risk in the drought conditions and the forecast winds the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, La Campana National Park, was still closed, so Day 4 on the itinerary was again re-devised and we journeyed to the surrogate but non-UNESCO Biosphere Reserve / national park habitat we were exploring today instead.

On arrival, this reserve wasn't yet open so we returned to the industrial wetland site and added Black-headed Duck.

We then returned to the private nature reserve, waited again for it to open, and were eventually admitted.

We drove through the reserve towards the coast through scrub (heathland-like?) habitat and once at the car-park birded the same within 300 m of the car-park, and in doing so, scored with a further series of goodies, including Chilean Tinamou (a Chilean endemic).

Really good.

We then departed and journeyed back south to Concon where we enjoyed a very good take on empanadas, and I enjoyed my water melon juice.

We then birded a reserve funded by the local industrial complex, which was very relaxing, and included adding Spot-flanked Gallinule to my burgeoning (Central) Chile list 😊.

Afterwards we journeyed back to Vina del Mar and Rodrigo and Carlos dropped me off at my hotel. As with the initial part of the day the final part of the day was a repeat of the previous day.

I variously lounged around, packed, completed my notes, birdwatched from my balcony (seeing Marine Otter!), *etc.*, before getting ready and going downstairs / outside to take some photos of the hotel and meet Rodrigo for another excellent 'fish supper'

Birds seen were Chilean Tinamou, Cinnamon Teal, Chiloe Wigeon, Yellow-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed or Speckled Teal, Black-headed Duck, Lake Duck, California Quail, Green-backed Firecrown, Feral Pigeon, Picui Ground Dove, Eared Dove, West Peruvian Dove, Spot-flanked Gallinule, Red-fronted Coot, Red-gartered Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, White-tufted Grebe, Great Grebe, Blackish Oystercatcher, American Oystercatcher, White-backed / Black-necked Stilt, Southern Lapwing, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Brown-hooded Gull, Franklin's Gull, Grey Gull, Kelp Gull, Elegant Tern, Inca Tern, Peruvian Booby, Red-legged Cormorant, Neotropic Cormorant, Guanay Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Western Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Peruvian Pelican, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Chimango Caracara, Wren-like Rushbird, Chilean Seaside Cinclodes, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, Dusky-tailed Canastero, Dusky-tailed Tapaculo, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, White-crested / Chilean Elaenia, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Many-coloured Rush Tyrant, Austral Negrito, Fire-eyed Ducon, Chilean Swallow, Blue-and-white Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Chilean Mockingbird, Austral Thrush, House Sparrow, Black-chinned Siskin, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Long-tailed Meadowlark, Shiny Cowbird, Austral Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch and Diuca Finch and birds heard included Striped Woodpecker.

Friday 17th February

Birding all day with Rodrigo – Vina del Mar – pelagic birding in the Pacific off Quintero – Santiago

This was the fifth and final day of my 5-day tour with Birdwatching Chile. It commenced much like Days 3 and 4; I was up early – earlier than the alarm and was quickly ready and outside the hotel, waiting for Rodrigo and Carlos. In fact, I was up even earlier – at a very dark 05:30 – and having readied myself, I carted everything downstairs to reception, and then, once the front door had been opened, waited outside for my compatriots.

Shortly after 06:00 and our intended rendezvous time there was the second loud crash of the past 20 minutes. With my binoculars I could see the Birdwatching Chile pick-up was next in line behind a vehicle that had seemingly hit something.

Eventually the pick-up reversed and Rodrigo started running towards me. I gathered up my bags and crossed the road towards him.

Carlos met us further along and it was explained that the car in front of them had hit a lamp standard lying across the road.....

Anyway, after the excitement of this the journey to Quintero passed off uneventfully, although we collected Julian Mendiola, a friend of Rodrigo's, and the pick-up demolished a Brown Hare. An eventful morning.

However, get to Quintero we did, and once there we parked up, assembled our gear and assembled at the harbourside with some seven or eight other Chilean birders / togggers.

Our rather antiquated fishing boat was readied and we clambered aboard, were issued with life-jackets and then departed, through the heaving swell against the coastline, and out into the Pacific.

The whole pelagic experience was excellent – different culture, different standard of boat, very different bird species.

Highlights were Fuegan (Wilson's) Petrel, Peruvian Diving-Petrel, Salvin's Albatross, Chilean Skua, Masked Booby, South American Tern, Juan Fernandez Petrel, plus Sooty, Pink-footed, Westland and White-chinned Petrels.

We travelled out to deeper waters where we chummed and circled and drifted about a good few times, before we returned into the bank of coastal fog.

A bull South American Sealion was impressive as we reached the harbour, as was the memorial to Sir Francis Drake on a headland as we approached Quintero.

Once we had moored and disembarked, we said our goodbyes, before Rodrigo, Julian and I crossed the road for lunch where we were joined by Carlos. I had ceviche, and a lunch-time beer.

Afterwards, we departed, dropping Julian off en route and then continued on to Santiago and the same airport hotel where we had convened before our excellent five days, stopping for a Chilean Palm photo-opportunity on the way there. The lunch-time beer consumption caused zonkage, but this sorted me out.

We eventually arrived back at the La Quinta by Wyndham (via the road I crossed under on my walk six days earlier). We said our fond farewells, and I then checked in and moseyed around in the room waiting for my friend Gary to arrive.

After significant flight delay and much airport transfer trauma a la mine he duly arrived. We circumvented his check-in so that he could shower first having travelled for '24 hours' as I told the woman at reception when she 'phoned to request Gary do so.

Anyway, we later repaired to the restaurant bar for a couple of beers and a meal, before we retired to bed.

Birds seen were Feral Pigeon, Blackish Oystercatcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Surfbird, Franklin's Gull, Grey Gull, Kelp Gull, Elegant Tern, Inca Tern, Chilean Skua, Fuegan Storm-Petrel, Salvin's Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Juan Fernandez Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Westland Petrel, Sooty Shearwater, Pink-footed Shearwater, Peruvian Diving-Petrel, Magellanic Diving-Petrel, Peruvian Booby, Masked Booby, Neotropic Cormorant, Guanay Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Great Shrike-Tyrant and House Wren.

Annotated species checklist

1. **Chilean Tinamou** *Nothoprocta perdicaria* One and then two(?) were heard and seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February. Endemic.
2. **Coscoroba Swan** *Coscoroba coscoroba* A couple of birds were roosting on the island in the Estero Catapilco on the 15th February.
3. **Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* A male was seen on the Maipo River near El Ingenio on the 14th February.
4. **Andean Goose** *Chloephaga melanoptera* A few birds were seen in a wetland area alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley downstream of the area we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on both the 13th and 14th February.
5. **Upland Goose** *Chloephaga picta* A few birds were seen in a wetland area alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley downstream of the area we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th February.

6. **Crested Duck** *Lophonetta specularioides* 13th and 14th February. A few birds were seen in a wetland area alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley downstream of the area we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on both the 13th and 14th February.
7. **Red Shoveler** *Anas platalea* Birds were seen at the wetland area associated with the Humedal Los Maltenes adjacent to the sprawling Las Ventanas copper smelting plant near Ventanas on the 15th February.
8. **Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera* Birds were seen at the wetland area associated with the Humedal Los Maltenes adjacent to the sprawling Las Ventanas copper smelting plant near Ventanas on the 15th February and the 16th February.
9. **Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix* A good number were seen loafing seen on mudflat areas associated with the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and (I think!) the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
10. **Yellow-billed or South Georgia Pintail** *Anas georgica* A few were seen loafing seen on mudflat areas associated with the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and (I think!) the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
11. **Yellow-billed or Speckled Teal** *Anas flavirostris* A few birds were seen in a wetland areas alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley downstream of the area we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th February and 14th February and a few were seen loafing seen on mudflat areas associated with the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and (I think!) the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
12. **Black-headed Duck** *Heteronetta atricapilla* At least one bird was seen at the wetland area associated with the Humedal Los Maltenes adjacent to the sprawling Las Ventanas copper smelting plant near Ventanas on the 16th February.
13. **Lake Duck** *Oxyura vittate* Birds were seen at the wetland area associated with the Humedal Los Maltenes adjacent to the sprawling Las Ventanas copper smelting plant near Ventanas on both the 15th and 16th February.
14. **California Quail** *Callipepla californica* Birds were seen in the lower Yeso Valley on the 13th February and in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
15. **Green-backed Firecrown** *Sephanoides sephanioides* One or two birds were seen from my lodge at the Cascada de las Animas lodge complex on the banks of the Maipo on the 13th February and others were seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
16. **White-sided Hillstar** *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus* One or two birds were seen at a roadside stop in the Lower Yeso Valley on the journey back on the 14th February.
17. **Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas* Birds were seen in and around the up-market second-home resort near Zapallar and whilst driving nearby on the 15th February.
18. **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* Predictably seen in and around urban area each day, often from vehicles whilst driving.
19. **Picui Ground Dove** *Columbina picui* One or two were heard in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
20. **Black-winged Ground Dove** *Metriopelia melanoptera* Various birds were seen in the Yeso Valley on both the 13th and 14th February.
21. **Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* Seen everyday between the 12th (one of the first birds seen on arrival) and the 16th February.
22. **West Peruvian Dove** *Zenaida meloda* Various birds were seen on the coastal plain on both the 15th and 16th February, often from the vehicle.
23. **Plumbeous Rail** *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* One was well seen in the wetlands on the edge of the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February.
24. **Spot-flanked Gallinule** *Porphyriops melanops* One was seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
25. **Red-fronted Coot** *Fulica rufifrons* As well as other instances, including birds seen from the vehicle whilst we were driving, birds were seen on the river-mouth of the Estero de Catapilco on the 15th February and at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
26. **Red-gartered Coot** *Fulica armillata* As well as other instances, including birds seen from the vehicle whilst we were driving, birds were seen on the Embalse del Yeso on the 14th February, the river-mouth of the Estero de Catapilco on the 15th February and at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
27. **White-winged Coot** *Fulica leucoptera* One or two birds were seen amongst other coots on the Estero Catapilco on the 15th February.
28. **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* One was seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
29. **White-tufted Grebe** *Rollandia rolland* Birds were seen at the wetland area associated with the Humedal Los Maltenes adjacent to the sprawling Las Ventanas copper smelting plant near Ventanas on the 15th February and a few were seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.

30. **Great Grebe** *Podiceps major* Birds were seen at either or both at the wetland area associated with the Humedal Los Maltenes adjacent to the sprawling Las Ventanas copper smelting plant near Ventanas and the the Estero Catapilco on the 15th February and one or two were seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
31. **Blackish Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ater* Birds were seen from the hotel in Vina del Mar and / or at various stops on the coast on the 15th and 16th February and 1 was seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
32. **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* Birds were seen from the hotel in Vina del Mar and / or at various stops on the coast on the 15th and 16th February.
33. **White-backed / Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* Birds were seen at the wetland area associated with the Humedal Los Maltenes adjacent to the sprawling Las Ventanas copper smelting plant near Ventanas on the 15th February and the 16th February.
34. **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* Seen everyday between the 12th (one of the first birds seen on arrival) and the 16th February; often seen from the vehicle in semi-derelict agricultural areas, etc..
35. **Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris* One (or more?) was seen on mudflat areas associated with the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February.
36. **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover** *Phegornis mitchellii* After unsuccessfully searching similar wetland areas in the valley Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso the previous day, a single colour-ringed individual was reasonably readily seen on the 14th February.
37. **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe** *Attagis gayi* One was seen in a wetland area alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley as we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th February.
38. **Grey-breasted Seedsnipe** *Thinocorus orbignyianus* A few were seen in wetland areas alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley in the areas we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on both the 13th and 14th February.
39. **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Limosa haemastica* A good number of birds were roosting on the island in the Estero Catapilco on the 15th February.
40. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Birds were seen at a stop near a marine research station along the main coastal road on the way out of Pinar del Mar on the morning of the 15th February and 55 in Quintero on the 17th February.
41. **Surfbird** *Calidris virgata* Birds were seen at a stop near a marine research station along the main coastal road on the way out of Pinar del Mar on the morning of the 15th February and 8 in Quintero on the 17th February.
42. **Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Birds were seen on the beach off the up-market second-home resort near Zapallar near the Humboldt penguin colony on Isla Cachagua on the 15th February.
43. **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* One was seen in a wetland area alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley downstream of the area we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 14th February and also seen at one of the coastal wetland areas visited on the 15th February.
44. **Magellanic Snipe** *Gallinago magellanicus* A few were seen in wetland areas alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley in the areas we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on both the 13th and 14th February and others were seen wetlands of near the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February, including a very obliging bird.
45. **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* One or two were seen on mudflat areas associated with the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and (I think!) the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
46. **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* One (or more?) was seen on mudflat areas associated with the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and (I think!) the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
47. **Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* 15th February. A good number of birds were roosting on the island in the Estero Catapilco on the 15th February.
48. **Brown-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus maculipennis* Birds were seen from the hotel in Vina del Mar and / or at various stops on the coast on the 15th and 16th February.
49. **Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan* Seen once we reached the coast at Vina del Mar, not least from my hotel there. 40 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
50. **Grey Gull** *Leucophaeus modestus* Birds were seen from the hotel in Vina del Mar and / or at various stops on the coast on the 15th and 16th February and 1 was seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
51. **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* Predictably, not seen until we neared the coast on the 14th February, but then seen every day we were on or near the coast, not least from my hotel in Vina del Mar. 25 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
52. **Elegant Tern** *Thalasseus elegans* Birds were seen roosting on the island in the Estero Catapilco on the 15th February and from the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February. 6 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
53. **Inca Tern** *Larosterna inca* Breeding birds were seen at a stop near a marine research station along the main coastal road on the way out of Pinar del Mar on the morning of the 15th February, and feeding birds were seen from my hotel on the evening of the 16th February. 15 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.

54. **Chilean Skua** *Stercorarius chilensis* Two or three birds were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
55. **Humboldt Penguin** *Spheniscus humboldti* Birds were seen at the colony on Isla Cachagua off the up-market second-home resort near Zapallar on the 15th February.
56. **(Fuegan Storm-Petrel)** *Oceanites (oceanicus) chilensis* Some 25 of these enigmatic potential future split from Wilson's Storm-Petrel were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
57. **Salvin's Albatross** *Thalassarche salvini* 10 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
58. **Northern Giant Petrel** *Macronectes halli* 2 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
59. **Juan Fernandez Petrel** *Pterodroma externa* 2 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
60. **White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis* 15 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
61. **Westland Petrel** *Procellaria westlandica* 20 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
62. **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea* 700 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
63. **Pink-footed Shearwater** *Ardenna creatopus* 65 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
64. **Peruvian Diving-Petrel** *Pelecanoides garnotii* 17 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 19th February.
65. **Peruvian Booby** *Sula variegata* Birds were seen from the hotel in Vina del Mar and / or at various stops on the coast on the 15th and 16th February and 30 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
66. **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* One was seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
67. **Red-legged Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax gaimardi* Breeding birds were seen on a small rocky islet viewable during a stop along the main coastal road on the way out of Pinar del Mar on the morning of the 16th February.
68. **Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Birds were seen from the hotel in Vina del Mar and / or at various stops on the coast on the 14th, 15th and 16th February and 15 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
69. **Guanay Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii* Large flocks were seen flying south from the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February and 50 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
70. **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* One was heard at night from my hotel in Vina del Mar on the night of the 14th / 15th February and (presumably!) others were seen at some of the coastal wetland sites visited on the 15th and 16th February.
71. **Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* One was seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
72. **Cocio Heron** *Ardea cocoi* One was seen in the pine wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February.
73. **Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Seen at some of the coastal wetland sites visited on the 15th and 16th February.
74. **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Seen at some of the coastal wetland sites visited on the 15th and 16th February.
75. **Peruvian Pelican** *Pelecanus thagus* Birds were seen from the hotel in Vina del Mar and / or at various stops on the coast on the 14th, 15th and 16th February and 6 were seen during the pelagic from Quintero on the 17th February.
76. **Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus* One or two birds were seen distantly over the Lower Yeso Valley on the journey back on the 14th February.
77. **Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* Birds were seen on the coastal plain during drives and at other times, on the 15th and 16th February.
78. **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Birds were seen on the coastal plain during drives and at other times, including from the hotel, on the 15th and 16th February.
79. **Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* On our two birds were seen (distantly) from the vehicle during drives on the 13th and 15th February.
80. **Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma* One was seen (and heard) over the woodlands near the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February.
81. **Black-chested Buzzard Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* 13th February.
82. **Striped Woodpecker** *Veniliornis lignarius* One was seen (and heard) in the pine woodlands near the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and one was heard in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
83. **Chimango Caracara** *Milvago chimango* First seen near the airport hotel on the 12th February, and also seen on the 14th, 15th and 16th February.
84. **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* First seen near the airport hotel on the 12th February, birds were also seen in the Yeso Valley on the 13th and 14th February.
85. **Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* A single bird smashed past the Birdwatching Chile vehicle as we were arriving at the wetland areas in the Yeso Valley we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 14th February.
86. **Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus* Heard in central Vina del Mar on the 14th February.

87. **Rufous-banded Miner** *Geositta rufipennis* A few birds were seen in the Yeso Valley on the 13th and 14th February.
88. **Creamy-rumped Miner** *Geositta isabellina* A single bird was seen very briefly and poorly at the former wetland area on the way up the Yeso Valley on the 13th February.
89. **Crag Chila** *Ochetorhynchus melanurus* One seen (and others were heard) on cliffs, etc., in the lower Yeso Valley on the journey to wetland areas alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso on the 13th February.
90. **Wren-like Rushbird** *Phleocryptes melanops* One or two were seen (and heard) in the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and one or two were seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
91. **Scale-throated Earthcreeper** *Upucerthia dumetaria* A few birds were seen in the Yeso Valley on the 13th and 14th February.
92. **Buff-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes fuscus* A few were seen in wetland areas alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley in the areas we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on both the 13th and 14th February.
93. **Grey-flanked Cinclodes** *Cinclodes oustaleti* A few were seen in wetland areas alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso in the Yeso Valley in the areas we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on both the 13th and 14th February.
94. **Dark-bellied Cinclodes** *Cinclodes patagonicus* Two were seen in a roadside stream in the lower Yeso Valley on the journey to wetland areas alongside the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso on the 14th February.
95. **Chilean Seaside Cinclodes** *Cinclodes nigrofumosus* One or two were seen at a stop near a marine research station along the main coastal road on the way out of Pinar del Mar on the morning of the 15th February and one was seen near my hotel on the evening of the 16th February.
96. **Thorn-tailed Rayadito** *Aphrastura spinicauda* One or two were seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
97. **Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura aegithaloides* A few were seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
98. **Cordilleran Canastero** *Asthenes modesta* One or two birds were seen at a roadside stop in the Lower Yeso Valley on the journey back on the 14th February.
99. **Dusky-tailed Canastero** *Pseudasthenes humicola* One or two were seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
100. **Moustached Turca** *Pterotochos megapodius* One obligingly ran across the road in front of the vehicle as we travelled up the Yeso Valley on the 14th February.
101. **Dusky Tapaculo** *Scytalopus fuscus* One was eventually seen well when it responded to a tape-lure in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
102. **Rufous-tailed Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rara* One or two were seen on the margins of the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and one was seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
103. **White-crested / Chilean Elaenia** *Elaenia chilensis* One was seen from my lodge at Cascada de las Animas on the early evening of the 13th February and one or two were seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
104. **Tufted Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes parulus* 16th February. One or two were seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
105. **Many-coloured Rush Tyrant** *Tachuris rubrigastra* One was seen (and heard) in the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February.
106. **Dark-faced Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maclovianus* Seen (as far as I recall in terms of the location), at a roadside stop on the journey up the Yeso Valley on the 13th February.
107. **Austral Negrigo** *Lessonia rufa* One or two were seen in the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and one or two were seen at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
108. **Spectacled Tyrant** *Hymenops perspicillatus* One or two were seen in the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February.
109. **Fire-eyed Ducon** *Xolmis pyrope* A few were seen both on the margins of the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and the margins of those at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
110. **Great Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis lividus* One or two were seen both on the margins of the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and one was seen near a site for Chilean Palm on the drive from Quintero to Santiago on the 17th February.
111. **Chilean Swallow** *Tachycineta meyeni* Seen whilst on the coastal plain on both the 15th and 16th February, for example, a small flock feeding in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!).
112. **Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* A few were seen feeding over the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso on the 13th and 14th February and also seen whilst on the coastal plain on the 16th February.

113. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* One or two were seen with Blue-and-white Swallows feeding over the Rio Yeso upstream of the Embalse del Yeso on the 13th and 14th February and also seen whilst on the coastal plain on the 16th February.
114. **House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Without being able to provide any site details, this species was heard on the 14th and 15th February and seen on the 16th and 17th February.
115. **Chilean Mockingbird** *Mimus thenca* Seen on the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th February.
116. **Austral Thrush** *Turdus falcklandii* First seen on the 13th February, this species was also seen on the 14th, 15th and 16th February.
117. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Obviously an introduced species; seen on the 12th, 14th, 15th and 16th February.
118. **Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera* A few were seen, usually in flight, when they were flushed from the wetland areas in the Yeso Valley we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th and 14th February.
119. **Black-chinned Siskin** *Spinus barbatus* One or two were seen in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the 16th February.
120. **Yellow-rumped Siskin** *Spinus uropygialis* One (or two?) were well seen near the wetland area in the Yeso Valley where we located a Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 14th February.
121. **Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* Birds were seen in varied scrubland habitats including in the Upper Yeso Valley on the 13th and 14th February, and those near the coast on the 15th and 16th February.
122. **Long-tailed Meadowlark** *Sturnella loyca* One of the first birds seen on arrival on the 12th February, this species was also seen on the 15th and 16th February, for example, in the scrubland habitat accessible from the track and car-park accessing the Playa Luna nudist beach(!) on the latter date.
123. **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* Seen (from the vehicle and / or at some of the coastland wetland sites?) on the 15th and 16th February.
124. **Austral Blackbird** *Curaeus curaeus* One of the first birds seen on arrival on the 12th February, this species was also seen on the 15th and the 16th February, although at which sites eludes me.
125. **Yellow-winged Blackbird** *Agelasticus thilius* A few were seen both at the wetlands associated with the Humedal Cantagua accessed from the Posada del Parque reserve on the 15th February and those at the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.
126. **Greater Yellow-Finch** *Sicalis auriventris* A few were seen near the wetland areas in the Yeso Valley we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th February.
127. **Grey-hooded Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus gayi* A few were seen near the wetland areas in the Yeso Valley we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th February 13th, and also on the coastal plain on the 15th and the 16th February.
128. **Plumbeous Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus unicolor* A few were seen near the wetland areas in the Yeso Valley we searched for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th February.
129. **Diuca Finch** *Diuca diuca* Seen on various occasions in various habitats, including in the Yeso Valley on the 13th, near the beach in the up-market second-home resort near Zapallar on the 15th February and and (I think!) the Parque Ecologico la Isla Concon, near Concon on the 16th February.

Other non-bird species

In addition to birds detailed on the checklist I also saw:

Andean Akodont (a rodent) – seen in the Lower Yeso Valley on the 13th February.

Cururo (an endemic rodent) – seen in the Upper Yeso Valley – burrowing near the area staked out for Diademed Sandpiper-Plover on the 13th February.

European Rabbit – at Cascada de las Animas on the evening of the 13th February.

European Hare (or Patagonian Hare) – seen in the Upper Yeso Valley on the 13th February and on the drive to Quintero (as a road casualty) on the early morning of the 17th February.

Marine Otter – several individuals in several places on several dates when on the coast.

South American Sealion – several individuals in several places on several dates when on the coast.

Dragonflies – an aeshna spp., and various other types of dragonfly were seen, but not identified.

Butterflies – various 'lookalikes' including a Clouded Yellow type, various whites, yellows, blues, *etc.*, a big white spp. and a Red Admiral type were seen, but not identified. But in particular, the various examples of Silver Satyr (*Argyrothorus argenteus*) seen in the Lower Yeso valley on the 14th February was of interest.

A couple of examples of spider wasp – specialising in parasitising tarantulas – were seen in the Yeso Valley on the 13th and 14th February.



Plate 1, Crag Chilia, Yeso Valley, 13th February 2023



Plate 2, Least Seedsnipe, Yeso Valley, 13th February 2023



Plate 3, The seriously be-jewelled Diameded Sandpiper-Plover, Yeso Valley, 14th February 2023



Plate 1, Male Torrent Duck, Maipo Valley, 14th February 2023



Plate 5, Chilean Seaside Cinclodes, Vina del Mar, 15th February 2023



Plate 6, Humboldt Penguin colony, Isla Cachagua, near Zapallar, 15th February 2023



Plate 7, Humboldt Penguins, Isla Cachagua, near Zapallar, 15th February 2023



Plate 8, Duica Finches, near Zapallar, 15th February 2023



Plate 9, Red-gartered Coot at Estero de Catapilco, 15th February 2023



Plate 10, South American Snipe at Humedal Cantagua, 15th February 2023



Plate 11, Plumbeous Rail at Humedal Cantagua, 15th February 2023



Plate 12, Salvin's Albatross during the pelagic from Quintero, 17th February 2023



Plate 13, Andean Ankodat, Yeso Valley, 13th February 2023



Plate 14, Upper Yeso Valley with sandpiper-plover habitat in mid-distance, 13th February 2023



Plate 15, The fantastically quirky hotel I stayed in for three nights on the seafront in Vina del Mar.



Plate 16, Our pelagic vessel, Quintero, 17th February 2023



Plate 17, Rather impressive bull South American Sealion, Quintero, 17th February 2023