



**Albatross Birding
Central Area of Chile
21th -22th December 2016**



Scaly-throated earthcreeper (*Upucerthia dumetaria*) Photo: Eduardo Navarro.

Guides: Eduardo Navarro

Participants: Yvonne Brown and Eric

This report cover two intense and long days traveling in the central area of Chile, with all the endemic birds for the area and some of the specialities of the high Andes.

The itinerary for our first day took in two different places, the mountains of Farellones and the Batuco wetlands. We started at 6:00 am driving up to the Farellones road. In our first stop we got the first two endemic birds: Dusky-tailed Canastero and a Moustached Turca that was running in the slopes in front of us with its characteristic singing. Plus the Chilean Mockingbird, a species near to endemic for Chile.

Then we stopped at another curve and a few meters in front of us we got awesome views of the endemic Chilean Tinamou who fed a few meters in front of us. As well, we got good views of Striped Woodpecker and Tufted Tit-tyrant.

Then we went in to the Yerba Loca Natural Reserve where we got gorgeous views of the biggest hummingbird in the world. The Giant Hummingbird was feeding within a few meters of us.

In addition we could enjoy the endemic Dusky Tapaculo singing in a tree close to us. A short walk gave us other endemic: the White-throated Tapaculo was singing and we got flickering views when he was moving to a different scrub. All of this in the middle of the day !!



Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*) Photo: Eduardo Navarro.

After the picnic, we moved a little higher in the mountain range where we could enjoy the view of Andean Condors, posing on the ground and flying a few meters from us, even being too close for the screens of our cameras!

We had a good collection of high elevation birds that included: Rufous-banded miner, Scaly-throated Earthcreeper, White-browed and Ochre-naped Ground-tyrant.

Then we needed to drive back to the valley to reach the Batuco wetlands. This is one of the most important wetlands in the metropolitan area and always has a good numbers of birds.

We reach the wetland around 6:00 pm and although we had the sun in front of us we started enjoying ourselves with a family group of Burrowing Owls.

When we approached the lagoon the Brown-hooded Gulls were flying around us and the small Baird's Sandpiper and Black-necked Stilt were feeding on the edge. We saw a good range of ducks that included : Yellow-billed Teal, Yellow-Billed pintail, Red Shoveler and the restricted range Black-headed duck.

Four different herons were sighted: Cattle and Snowy Egret, the big Cocoli Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron. We got back to the hotel late in the afternoon but happy after 15 hours of birding !!!

The second day took us to the south east of Santiago into the Yeso Valley. We started in the best way. In our first stop we got the last endemic bird for the central area of Chile: Crag Chilia was feeding between the rocks and as a bonus there was a Magellanic Horned-owl roosting in the cliff.

The road moved us up in the mountains and with spectacular landscapes we stopped to get a closer views of a Buff-wing and Grey-flanked Cinclodes and enjoyed with the colorful Yellow-rumped Siskin.

The Yeso dam with its turquoise color gave us the best scenery for our first chance to try to find the highlight for day, Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. Unluckily for us we “just” got awesome views of Grey-Breasted Seedsnipe, Crested Duck and two new Ground-tyrants: Black-fronted and Cinereous.

We decided to keep moving up in to the valley and reach the El Plomo hot spring. Birding just from the car gave us the chance to get really good pictures of some different species like: Greater Yellow-finch and Mourning Sierra-Finch.

Finally in to this natural reserve we walked to a flooded grassy area where we found a single Diademed Sandpiper-plover that fed a few meters from us giving us the opportunity to get excellent photographs.

We Drove back to Santiago with an excellent collection of birds for the first visit of Yvonne and Eric to Chile.



Diademed sandpiper-plover (*Phegornis mitchellii*) Photo: Eduardo Navarro.

Bird List

Farellones/Batuco

El Yeso Valley

21th and 22 th December 2016

English name Scientific name

TINAMOUS (Tinamidae)

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Chilean Tinamou <i>Nothoprocta perdicaria</i> | Endemic |
|---|---|---------|

DUCKS (Anatidae)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 | Crested Duck <i>Lophonetta specularioides</i> |
| 3 | Yellow-billed Teal (<i>flavirostris</i>) <i>Anas flavirostris flavirostris</i> |
| 4 | Yellow-billed Pintail <i>Anas georgica</i> |
| 5 | Red Shoveler <i>Anas platalea</i> |
| 6 | Black-headed Duck <i>Heteronetta atricapilla</i> |
| 7 | Lake Duck <i>Oxyura vittata</i> |

NEW WORLD QUAIL (Odontophoridae)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 8 | California Quail <i>Callipepla californica</i> |
|---|--|

HERONS (Ardeidae)

- | | |
|----|--|
| 9 | Black-crowned Night-Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |
| 10 | Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> |
| 11 | Cocoi Heron <i>Ardea cocoi</i> |
| 12 | Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i> |

IBISES (Threskiornithidae)

- | | |
|----|--|
| 13 | White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i> |
|----|--|

NEW WORLD VULTURES (Cathartidae)

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 14 | Andean Condor <i>Vultur gryphus</i> |
|----|-------------------------------------|

HAWKS (Accipitridae)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 15 | Harris's Hawk <i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i> |
| 16 | Variable Hawk <i>Geranoaetus polyosoma</i> |
| 17 | Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle <i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i> |

RAILS (Rallidae)

- 18 Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*
- 19 Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons*

PLOVERS (Charadriidae)

- 20 Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*
- 21 Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
- 22 Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*
- 23 Diademed Sandpiper-Plover *Phegornis mitchellii*

AVOCETS and STILTS (Recurvirostridae)

- 24 White-backed (Black-necked) Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*

SANDPIPERS (Scolopacidae)

- 25 Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
- 26 Magellanic (South American) Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiae magellanica*

SEEDSNIPES (Thinocoridae)

- 27 Gray-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus*

GULLS (Laridae)

- 28 Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*
- 29 Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*
- 30 Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

PIGEONS (Columbidae)

- 31 Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*
- 32 Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*
- 33 Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui*
- 34 Black-winged Ground Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera*

OWLS (Strigidae)

- 35 Magellanic (Great) Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus magellanicus*
- 36 Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

HUMMINGBIRDS (Trochilidae)

- 37 White-sided Hillstar *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus*
- 38 Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas gigas*

WOODPECKERS (Picidae)

- 39 Striped Woodpecker *Veniliornis lignarius*
- 40 Chilean Flicker *Colaptes pitius*
- 41 Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus*

FALCONS (Falconidae)

- 42 Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*

- 43 Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*
- 44 American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
- 45 Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

PARROTS (Psittacidae)

- 46 Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

TAPACULOS (Rhinocryptidae)

- 47 Moustached Turca *Pterotochos megapodius* Endemic
- 48 White-throated Tapaculo *Scelorchilus albicollis* Endemic
- 49 Dusky Tapaculo *Scytalopus fuscus* Endemic

OVENBIRDS (Furnariidae)

- 50 Rufous-banded Miner *Geositta rufipennis*
- 51 Crag Chilia *Ochetorhynchus melanurus*
- 52 Scale-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia dumetaria*
- 53 Buff-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*
- 54 Gray-flanked (Oustalet's) Cinclodes *Cinclodes oustaleti*
- 55 Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail (Central Chile) *Leptasthenura a. aegithaloides*
- 56 Cordilleran Canastero *Asthenes modesta*
- 57 Sharp-billed Canastero *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*
- 58 Dusky-tailed Canastero *Pseudasthenes humicola* Endemic

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (Tyrannidae)

- 59 Chilean (White-crested) Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps chilensis*
- 60 Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*
- 61 Many-colored Rush Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra*
- 62 Cinereous Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola cinereus*
- 63 Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola flavinucha*
- 64 Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*
- 65 Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola frontalis*
- 66 Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*
- 67 Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope*

COTINGAS (Cotingidae)

- 68 Rufous-tailed Plantcutter *Phytotoma rara*

SWALLOWS (Hirundinidae)

- 69 Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*
- 70 Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeri*

WRENS (Troglodytidae)

- 71 House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

THRUSHES (Turdidae)

- 72 Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii*

MOCKINGBIRDS (Mimidae)

73 Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus thenca*

Near to
Endemic

PIPITS (Motacillidae)

74 Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*

TANAGERS (Thraupidae)

75 Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi*

76 Mourning Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti*

77 Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus unicolor*

78 Band-tailed Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus*

79 Common Diuca-Finch *Diuca diuca*

80 Greater Yellow-Finch *Sicalis auriventris*

SPARROWS (Emberizidae)

81 Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

BLACKBIRDS (Icteridae)

82 Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaeus*

83 Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

84 Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca*

FINCHES (Fringillidae)

85 Yellow-rumped Siskin *Spinus uropygialis*

86 Black-chinned Siskin *Spinus barbatus*

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (Passeridae)

87 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Leader: Eduardo Navarro

Participants: Yvone Brown and Erick