

# Ultimate Patagonia: Pumas, Glaciers, Birds & More Species List | November 5 – 19, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by host Julie Fannon with local guide Xavier Munoz. Our clients included Peggy, Kathy, Rebecca, Barb, Meg, Ron, and John.**

Summary: A fun and long-range covering two-and-a-half week Patagonian adventure. We began in Buenos Aires, Argentina, flew to Trelew, explored Peninsula Valdes, flew to Ushuaia, explored Tierra del Fuego, flew to El Calafate, crossed over into Chile, then, explored from Cerro Castillo and south from Punta Norte to Puerto Arenas. Wildlife was impressive, from elegant seabirds and massive Southern Elephant Seals to flashy Magellanic Woodpecker, Andean Condor, three species of penguins, and many beautiful songbirds.

BIRDS: 157 species were recorded of which 1 was heard only and 3 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/291006>

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

## **Family or Species Common Name: Scientific Name**

### **RHEAS: Rheidae (1)**

**Lesser Rhea** *Rhea pennata* (5)—Seen five days of the trip, our second had a few chicks with him. First few birds of the trip were skittish, while the birds we saw deeper into the trip were less wary of vehicles and allowed us good looks.

### **TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (1)**

**Elegant Crested-Tinamou** *Eudromia elegans* (11)—Our first few were seen at the Punta Tombo Penguin Colony right at the start of the boardwalk. Many more were seen on our remaining days on Peninsula Valdes.

### **SCREAMERS: Anhimidae (1)**

**Southern Screamer** *Chauna torquata* (HO) (1)—Heard only on our first day at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (20)**

**White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* (2)—Seen on our first day at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Black-necked Swan** *Cygnus melancoryphus* (70)—Dozens of pairs and cygnets were seen just off the beach enduring the whitecaps as we drove into and out of Puerto Natales.

**Coscoroba Swan** *Coscoroba coscoroba* (12)—Seen five days of the trip, often on distant shorelines.

**Upland Goose** *Chloephaga picta* (118)—We saw hundreds of these beautiful geese, starting with our cruise on the Beagle Channel and then throughout the rest of the trip. We loved seeing the striking difference of the males and females.

**Kelp Goose** *Chloephaga hybrida* (102)—Seen a few days of the trip, but most extensively on the Beagle Channel.

**Ashy-headed Goose** *Chloephaga poliocephala* (11)—Seen intermixed with Upland Geese, we got our first looks at our lunch break after our morning in Tierra del Fuego National Park. It was nice to see them side by side with the Uplands to get a good comparison.

**Ruddy-headed Goose** *Chloephaga rubidiceps* (4)—Seen once at the stop en route to Fuerte Bulnes (right in between the protection area signs), and then again we saw one perched on top of one of a building at the fort, giving us good looks as we walked right under it!

**Flying Steamer-Duck** *Tachyeres patachonicus* (13)—We saw many of these, and they were fun to see working their way in and out of the water. Also fun to see them pretty consistently paired up with their mate.

**Flightless Steamer-Duck** *Tachyeres pteneres* (2)—Only seen in Ushuaia, and it was interesting to try to tell the flightless from the flying from afar.

**White-headed Steamer-Duck** *Tachyeres leucocephala* (3)—Seen early in the trip, they were quite pretty. Our first sighting was at Playa Isla Escondida where we watched the Southern Elephant Seals up close. We saw a pair moving in and out of the water, then saw a few more pairs as we walked back to the van.

**Crested Duck** *Lophonetta specularioides* (36)—Seen throughout the trip, but we got our best demonstration of WHY they're called "crested" ducks at the park in Ushuaia where the males were causing a ruckus and putting on a show, their normally basic grey head puffed out behind them.

**Spectacled Duck** *Specularnas specularis* (5)—Seen once on a final drizzly stop in Torres del Paine, Xavier worked hard to find us a few, and success, we saw their pretty eye patch, and their even prettier bright pink wing patch.

**Brazilian Teal** *Amazonetta brasiliensis* (3)—We had a look at this duck on our first day at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* (1)—We tried a few times for this pretty duck, but only saw it once, far off at the waterfall at Torres del Paine. A lone female sat on a rock and we saw her through the scope but didn't get a lot of detail.

**Silver Teal** *Spatula versicolor* (2)—Seen once at Torres del Paine.

**Red Shoveler** *Spatula platalea* (41)—We saw this fun and distinctive duck a few times during the trip. One of our final days, we got to see it alongside several other species of ducks at a roadside pond for good comparisons.

**Chiloe Wigeon** *Mareca sibilatrix* (12)—We saw this pretty duck many days in a row at the end of the trip.

**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica* (11)—Also seen many days in a row at the end of the trip. We saw this one in the same pond as the shoveler and with it was Yellow-billed Teal, giving us a good comparison of these two ducks that confused a few of us mostly on name alone.

**Yellow-billed Teal** *Anas flavirostris* (12)—Also seen in the roadside pond, but throughout the trip too, and it was fun to see them next to the pintail and realize how much smaller they were.

**Rosy-billed Pochard** *Netta peposaca* (4)—Seen on the first day at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires, this was a bright, fun duck to add to our list right off the bat.

### **FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)**

**Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopus chilensis* (300)—WOW! We probably saw a total of 500 flamingos at two

different stops, the first on a long walk to the salt lake and then at a smaller lake on the way out. What a treat to see small flocks take off and fly through the sky like batons with wings. They were stunning.

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae (4)**

**White-tufted Grebe** *Rollandia Rolland* (8)—Seen a few times, and the last time was with chicks on the roadside pond just out of Puerto Pratt after we saw the stunning rainbow.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus Podiceps* (1)—Seen only once during our time in Buenos Aires at Costanera Sur.

**Great Grebe** *Podiceps major* (14)—We saw this big grebe on many days of the trip, and once in Torres del Paine with babies on its back!

**Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis* (4)—Seen on our explorations around Rio Serrano, the little village just outside Torres del Paine National Park.

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (50)—Seen most days, mostly in towns and in the city.

**Picazuro Pigeon** *Patagioenas picazuro* (2)—Seen on the first few days in Buenos Aires, these are BIG pigeons and tricked us as they flew by.

**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* (6)—Seen quite a few days, they look a lot like our Mourning Doves.

#### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)**

**Guira Cuckoo** *Guira guira* (1)—Wow, Xavier was excited to see this bird at Bird Island. He heard it first, and then excitedly played some playback and it flew over us a few times, perching right then left, then right again. We all got good looks as it flew over, then again through binos and the scope each time it perched. A very cool bird!

#### **RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)**

**Plumbeous Rail** *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* (1)—Cute! This immature bird was a pretty, dark grey and watched us as we watched it for quite a long time as we drove into Fuerte Bulnes.

**Spot-flanked Gallinule** *Porphyriops melanops* (1)—Seen in the little wetland area before we drove in to see the flamingos, we thought this was a Common Gallinule, but the closer we looked, we realized it was different. Xavier got a great picture, and good thing because eBird wanted evidence!

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* (3)—Seen only on the first day at Costanera Sur, but we had good looks.

**Red-gartered Coot** *Fulica armillata* (9)—We all agreed that we actually really like coots and this one was common, often deceiving us from afar.

#### **LIMPKIN: Aramididae (1)**

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* (3)—Three were seen on the first day at Costanera Sur, staying put long enough for us to get some good looks, but also long enough to see how they blend so well into their habitat.

#### **SHEATHBILLS: Chionidae (1)**

**Snowy Sheathbill** *Chionis albus* (16)—We saw our first on the whale watching cruise in Puerto Piramides on the Sea Lion rocks, then more throughout our time on the peninsula and down into Ushuaia.

#### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* (100)—Hundreds were seen with the flamingos at both the salt lake stop and the second lake. They were stunning!

### **OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (3)**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* (14)—The first of our oystercatchers, we were keen to get “bingo” on this family. They were beautiful, and we had many, many good looks throughout the trip.

**Blackish Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ater* (7)—Very neat to see the difference between these and the American and Magellanic. We saw our first on the Sea Lion rocks at Puerto Piramides on the whale watch and then a few throughout the remainder of the trip, though they were decidedly less common than the other two species.

**Magellanic Oystercatcher** *Haematopus leucopodus* (17)—Seen much further south than we originally saw the Americans, we had a good time learning the field markings of this one compared to the American, though we may all still be confused!

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (3)**

**Tawny-throated Dotterel** *Oreopholus ruficollis* (3)—Only seen one while road birding on Peninsula Valdes at Punta Norte.

**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* (40)—Officially seen every day of the trip. They were so pretty, so it wasn't a hardship! Barb had a pair right outside her window in Ushuaia that had chicks and she got to see them shelter the chicks under their wings.

**Two-banded Plover** *Charadrius falklandicus* (3)—Three were seen as we watched the Southern Elephant Seals at Isla Playa Escondida.

### **JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)**

**Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana* (2)—Only seen on Day One at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires, but it was fun to see this one poke out of the foliage and use those giant feet.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (8)**

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* (25)—Seen with the many shorebirds we saw on the pond with the flamingos and stilts.

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* (4)—Also seen in the pond with the flamingos and the stilts. There was plenty of birdlife to sort through!

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* (10)—Seen five different days of the trip, our first sighting at Playa Isla Escondida as we watched the Elephant Seals

**Magellanic Snipe** *Gallinago magellanica* (5)—Luciano worked hard to find us one at the park in Ushuaia, and then another was flushed while we were road birding outside of Cerro Castillo. A final pair gave us really good looks while we were road birding in heavy rains just outside of Torres del Paine.

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* (9)—These tiny little shorebirds swam in their characteristic circles on the smaller flamingo lake.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* (1)—Seen on our final day on the stop where Lolo the birding dog escorted us to the beach.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* (6)—Seen on the smaller flamingo lake on Day Five.

### **SKUAS AND JAEGERES: Stercorariidae (1)**

**Chilean Skua** *Stercorarius chilensis* (20)—Seen first on our cruise of the Beagle Channel, we saw many and learned to identify them quickly. Then seen again on the last day from the overlooks at Fuerte Bulnes.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)**

**Brown-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus maculipennis* (2)—Our first were seen on the ponds while we were looking for Pumas.

**Dolphin Gull** *Leucophaeus scoresbii* (210)—Seen first in Puerto Piramides, these pretty grey, black, and red gulls

were a favorite.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* (100)—Seen just about every day anywhere there was water, they were big and boldly patterned.

**South American Tern** *Sterna hirundinacea* (58)—A few were seen here and there and then we had a great sighting of about 50+ as they noisily flew in a group on the coast en route to Fuerte Bulnes.

### **PENGUINS: Spheniscidae (3)**

**King Penguin** *Aptenodytes patagonicus* (1)—How special! We saw a solitary King Penguin after much searching on the last day of our trip and had a good long visit with it.

**Gentoo Penguin** *Pygoscelis papua* (50)—Cute! These little guys were seen on the “penguin island” that we cruised to on the catamaran ride on the Beagle Channel from Ushuaia.

**Magellanic Penguin** *Spheniscus magellanicus* (127)—Wow, this was certainly the most common penguin of the trip, found first at Punto Tombo at the massive colony and then a few different times along the way, including from the lookout points at Fuerte Bulnes swimming in the water just off shore.

### **ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae (1)**

**Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* (5)—Seen first in Ushuaia from the catamaran cruise in the Beagle Channel, we saw a few sitting in the water, and then had one follow the boat for quite a while. We saw more over the Strait of Magellan from the lookout points at Fuerte Bulnes.

### **PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (3)**

**Southern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus* (19)—We saw quite a few from our whale watching cruise in Puerto Piramides, probably brought in by the dead whale on the beach.

**Northern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes halli* (2)—Found many to watch as we cruised the Beagle Channel. They seemed much bigger than the Southern.

**Southern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialisoides* (3)—So pretty, and seen flying next to the boat on our Beagle Channel cruise, and then once again looking out over the Strait of Magellan from the lookout deck.

### **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* (5)—Seen only at the Costanera Sur wetland in Buenos Aires.

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (3)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (21)—Seen many days of the tour, often giving us good comparisons next to Imperial Cormorant.

**Magellanic Cormorant** *Leucocarbo bougainvillii* (8)—Only seen once on our whale watching cruise at Puerto Piramides, it was on the Sea Lion rocks mixed in with the other two species.

**Imperial Cormorant** *Leucocarbo atriceps* (639)—So bright and beautiful, this bird was seen many days of the trip. It was fun to get a close up look at one swimming just off the catamaran as we were docked in Ushuaia, then hundreds on little islands in the channel. At Punta Arenas, the old docks were covered in them.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (5)**

**Rufescent Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum* (1)—One gorgeous bird was seen at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires on the first day.

**Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi* (1)—Also seen at Costanera Sur, this really big heron flew in, perched on a far tree, and gave us good looks before it flew off.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* (4)—Many were seen at Costanera Sur on our first day, and then a very random one

flew over us at Punta Norte as we were loading up and leaving. Xavier and Ruben were shocked!

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* (2)—Also only seen once on the first day in Buenos Aires at Costanera Sur.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (2)—Seen twice, once in Ushuaia as we looked for Dark-bellied Cinclodes at the old airport, and then again as we drove to Fuerte Bulnes with Lolo the birding dog.

### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)**

**Black-faced Ibis** *Theristicus melanopis* (64)—A favorite for many of us, they did seem much bigger and certainly more visually exciting than most ibises we're used to seeing. Their golden necks and little black waddles were a treat. We saw our first flock as we ate lunch under the mountains in Tierra del Fuego.

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (3)**

**Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus* (104)—What a bird! We saw our first few from the road as we left the airport in El Calafate, and they were a constant presence after that. It was a privilege to watch dozens come in to roost at Olga Teresa Estancia.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* (2)—Only a few seen, but one was easy to pick out as it was mixed with Turkey Vultures as we drove away from Bird Island.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* (12)—Seen most days at the start of the trip. Fun to see such a familiar bird so far from home.

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (5)**

**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus* (2)—Seen on Day 4 and Day 8, what a beautiful bird!

**Cinereous Harrier** *Circus cinereus* (9)—This was a beautiful raptor that we all got familiar with throughout the trip. It was fun to watch one work through the landscape as we birded outside Cerro Castillo.

**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* (1)—Seen on our first day at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma* (2)—Seen four different days, a fun raptor to add to our list. We got our best looks while we waited to pay the park fee to get onto the Peninsula Valdes, it was perched on the top of a telephone pole.

**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* (7)—A gorgeous bird we saw quite a few times toward the end of our trip, it was neat to watch them fly over as the condors perched, giving us good views of its shape and white belly. Barb called them "stout" and it was fun to explain to our Puma driver, Angelo, what the word "stout" meant.

### **OWLS: Strigidae (3)**

**Austral Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium nana* (1)—So cute! We worked hard for this bird but finally saw one getting mobbed by Austral Thrushes just by the river at Torres del Paine. We got it in the scope and got to watch it call.

**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia* (2)—Seen twice, once on a very tall pole on the peninsula, it was perched way up high, then flew down to the ground across the road to give us good looks before flying up to a fence post for even more looks. Then again seen on our walk to the salt lake for the flamingos, it was on a fence post and called over and over.

**Rufous-legged Owl** *Strix rufipes* (1)—A few of us went out with Luciano at night in Ushuaia to see this beautiful bird. We hiked through very rainy and muddy conditions into a wooded horse pasture and it was right where Luciano thought it would be. It perched for a long time and called for us before it flew. A life bird for all of us, including Xavier!

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (2)**

**Magellanic Woodpecker** *Campephilus magellanicus* (1)—We only saw this stunner once, but we got a long,



good look at her and her little feather cap, or “top knot” as John called it. She was perched on a dead tree in Tierra del Fuego National Park and we all had really good time to watch her.

**Chilean Flicker** *Colaptes pitius* (2)—Another we worked hard for but Xavier was finally able to find us a very obliging pair that flew over a few times and then perched right above us on a rock in Torres del Paine.

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (4)**

**White-throated Caracara** *Phalacrocorax albogularis* (3)—Seen only one day in Ushuaia, once on a fence post as we came out of the park, and then again at the city dump. A beautiful bird.

**Crested Caracara** *Caracara plancus* (19)—Seen many days, it was neat to watch them shelter from the rain in the sheep fields as we drove to Puerto Pratt. It was also nice to see the size comparison between these and the Chimango.

**Chimango Caracara** *Milvago chimango* (27)—Seen daily, like crows, they were everywhere! Our best look was at the coffee truck at Fuerte Bulnes where we had a habituated one that came very close looking for scraps. It was good to be able to really study such a pretty bird up close.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* (2)—Seen a few days at the beginning of the trip on the peninsula and throughout our road birding.

#### **PARROTS: Psittacidae (5)**

**Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus* (2)—Seen flying over in little groups at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Austral Parakeet** *Enicognathus ferrugineus* (83)—Seen twice on the trip, but by far our best views were on the last day where we had a huge flock of over 100 next to the road. They were close and didn't shy away as we all walked close enough to really study them and see their behavior.

**Burrowing Parakeet** *Cyanoliseus patagonus* (10)—Only seen once, near the turn for Puerto Madryn right before we crossed onto the peninsula. We did a quick u-turn to see them from the road. We all managed to get out of the van and get a good look.

**Nanday Parakeet** *Aratinga nenday* (4)—Seen in little groups at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires. It was hard to tell them apart from the Monks and the White-eyes since they all flew so fast.

**White-eyed Parakeet** *Psittacara leucophthalmus* (2)—Again, we saw these at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires. They always made a racket as they flew over.

#### **TAPACULOS Rhinocryptidae (1)**

**Magellanic Tapaculo** *Scytalopus magellanicus* (2)—Rebecca's bird! This was such a fun bird to find right on a walk from our hotel in Torres del Paine. It called right on the edge of the grass and the wet scrub area; Xavier called it back in and it literally bounced between branches and right on top of the speaker!

#### **OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (13)**

**Common Miner** *Geositta cunicularia* (2)—Seen on the road as we drove to Puerto Piramides.

**Narrow-billed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris* (2)—We crossed the street from the malecon at Costanera Sur on the first day and found this bird doing what it does, creeping up the trees in the park.

**White-throated Treerunner** *Pygarrhichas albogularis* (5)—Seen twice, once in Tierra del Fuego and we worked hard for it, then again at Fuerte Bulnes, we got really good looks in good sunlight.

**Band-tailed Earthcreeper** *Ochetorhynchus phoenicurus* (5)—Seen a few times throughout the trip, driving on the Valdes Peninsula, and then again in Tierra del Fuego.

**Rufous Hornero** *Furnarius rufus* (2)—Only seen on the first day, we got good looks at it in the park across the street from the malecon at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Wren-like Rushbird** *Phleocryptes melanops* (2)—Seen as we birded near the flamingos outside of Trelew.

**Scale-throated Earthcreeper** *Upucerthia dumetaria* (6)—Seen a few times, first on the road to Puerto Piramides, then again near Torres del Paine, this bird has an impressively long, curved bill.

**Buff-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes fuscus* (2)—It was tricky to sort out the different cinclodes, but it was fun! This one was seen on Day 11 near the hotel outside Torres del Paine.

**Blackish Cinclodes** *Cinclodes antarcticus* (3)—A few were seen as we cruised the Beagle Channel, including one that flew right to the boat deck and let us get really great views right by our feet!

**Gray-flanked Cinclodes** *Cinclodes oustaleti* (5)—Seen near Torres del Paine, we saw a few as we walked from our hotel.

**Dark-bellied Cinclodes** *Cinclodes patagonicus* (4)—Seen once in Ushuaia and again outside Torres del Paine.

**Thorn-tailed Rayadito** *Aphrastura spinicauda* (14)—Noisy and prevalent, especially at Tierra del Fuego and then again at Torres del Paine.

**Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura aegithaloides* (2)—We worked hard for this one after we watched the rainbow. We finally called it on the road out of Puerto Pratt. It was a tricky one to get eyes on but it did perch for a bit right in front of us.

### **COTINGAS: Cotingidae (1)**

**Rufous-tailed Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rara* (2)—Right from Torres del Paine NP, we looked for a while for the bright and pretty bird, and then, ta-da! It showed up behind us, perched on a snag and gave us all good long looks and good photo opportunities.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (14)**

**Tufted Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes parulus* (2)—Cute! Kathy really wanted this bird and we saw it a few times. What a great little curl on the top of its head.

**White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps* (19)— Very prevalent and it was fun to be able to learn this pretty little bird by sight and a few of us by call.

**Austral Negrito** *Lessonia rufa* (26)—Seen almost every day, these were pretty birds and occasionally we got to see the male and female together.

**Spectacled Tyrant** *Hymenops perspicillatus* (2)—A very cool bird, it was good to finally get eyes on it at the small wetlands before the flamingos. The eye rings and white underwings were very distinctive.

**Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola flavinucha* (2)—Seen two different days at Torres del Paine, this bird was pretty and sleek.

**Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maclovianus* (4)—A very pretty bird, seen two different days near Torres del Paine.

**Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola capistratus* (3)—Only seen one day near Torres del Paine.

**Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maculirostris* (1)—Seen on our last day.

**Fire-eyed Diucon** *Pyrope pyrope* (14)—Seen many days, the red eye of this bird was distinctive! It was easy to spot in the field.

**Lesser Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis murinus* (1)—Seen from the road on Day Four on the peninsula.

**Cattle Tyrant** *Machetornis rixosa* (2)—Seen on our first day in Buenos Aires at Costanera Sur, we got good views when it perched up on the rail between the malecon and the water.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* (4)—Seen from the malecon at Buenos Aires at Costanera Sur, then again, surprisingly at the wetland right before we saw the flamingos.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* (1)—Also seen at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires as we walked the malecon.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* (4)—Good views on a wire of this pretty bird after we left Bird Island.



### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (7)**

**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* (3)—Only seen one day while we were on the peninsula.

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* (2)—Seen on the first day at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Southern Martin** *Progne elegans* (12)—Seen from the van while we waited to pay our entrance fee to the park on Peninsula Valdes, and then again while we were on the peninsula.

**Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera* (1)—Only seen on the first day at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**White-rumped Swallow** *Tachycineta leucorrhoa* (4)—Again, seen on Day One at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires, there was quite a mix of swallows and martins!

**Chilean Swallow** *Tachycineta leucopyga* (49)—Seen every day! These little birds were ever-present and easy to spot with their cottonball-like rump.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (10)—Seen on the first day at Costanera Sur, and then again throughout our time on Peninsula Valdes.

### **WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* (31)—Seen nearly every day of the trip, their pretty song was present often as we searched for key species.

### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (7)—Impressively, we only saw this bird on one day of the trip, in Buenos Aires.

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)**

**Patagonian Mockingbird** *Mimus patagonicus* (15)—Very pretty, seen throughout Peninsula Valdes, and often tricking us by song or by size.

**Chalk-browed Mockingbird** *Mimus saturninus* (3)—Only seen in the park across from the malecon at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (4)**

**Rufous-bellied Thrush** *Turdus rufiventris* (2)—Only seen on the first day across the street from the malecon, this bird looks a lot like our American Robin.

**Austral Thrush** *Turdus falcklandii* (25)—Ever-present on the second half of the trip, they were easy to spot, and nice to watch.

**Creamy-bellied Thrush** *Turdus amaurochalinus* (2)—Also seen across the street from the malecon in the park near Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Chiguanco Thrush** *Turdus chiguanco* (2)—Seen on Days Four and Five on Peninsula Valdes.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (12)—Ever-present!

### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (1)**

**Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera* (2)—We got the best looks at this bird from the van just outside of Puerto Pratt. We thought we saw it, Xavier called it in, and it was so intrigued by the call that it landed in the grass just next to the van and we seriously thought it might try to land on the open window.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (1)**

**Black-chinned Siskin** *Spinus barbatus* (27)—Very pretty and looked a lot like our American Goldfinch, they were good to identify because they consistently few in groups and perched nicely for us to get good looks at their pretty colors.

#### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (1)**

**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* (79)—Every day of the trip! They were pretty, easily recognizable, and many of us started to learn the song.

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)**

**Long-tailed Meadowlark** *Leistes loyca* (19)—Looks just like our meadowlark from the back, but WOW, when you saw its front, it was so, so beautifully bright red. We saw these many days of the trip, often in pairs.

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* (3)—Only seen on the first day in the park across from the malecon.

**Austral Blackbird** *Curaeus curaues* (6)—Very distinctive, we saw it many times on the second half of the trip.

**Yellow-winged Blackbird** *Agelasticus thilius* (3)—Seen at the little wetland before we went to the flamingo lake, it looked a lot like our Red-winged Blackbird.

#### **TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (7)**

**Sayaca Tanager** *Thraupis sayaca* (2)—Only seen high in the trees for fleeting glimpses in the park across from the Costanera Sur malecon.

**Gray-hooded Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus gayi*—Very pretty, and much brighter compared to the Patagonia Sierra Finch.

**Patagonian Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus patagonicus* (10)—Seen many days, very bright and beautiful.

**Diuca Finch** *Diuca diuca* (12)—Seen often on Peninsula Valdes.

**Mourning Sierra Finch** *Rhopospina fruticet* (7)—So pretty with its dark bib, we saw this bird quite a few times over two days on the peninsula.

**Carbonated Sierra Finch** *Rhopospina carbonaria* (3)—Seen from the road leaving Bird Island, they were much darker than the Mourning Sierra Finch and we enjoyed watching their displays, putting on a really great show right from the van.

**Grassland Yellow-Finch** *Sicalis luteola*—Very pretty with a distinctive, thick bill, seen twice going to and leaving the peninsula.

#### **MAMMALS (19)**

**Large Hairy Armadillo** *Chaetophractus villosus*—We saw our first during lunch at Caleta Valdes, and then again in the parking lot.

**European Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*—Massive and prevalent, they were fascinating to watch.

**Brown Hare** *Lepus europaeus*—Seen a few times throughout the trip.

**Brazilian Rabbit** *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*—Seen as we left Bird Island, leaving Peninsula Valdes.

**Domestic Rabbit**—A little black rabbit, seen on our last day on our drive to Fuerte Bules.

**Molina's Hog-nosed Skunk** *Conepatus chinga*—We saw a glimpse of one on the road after we landed in Trelew, and then had really good looks at one as we road birded from Cerro Castillo.

**South American Sea Lion** *Otaris byronia*—Seen on our whale watch at Puerto Piramides, and a few other locations, capped off by a solitary one from the platform at Fuerte Bulnes.

**Southern Elephant Seal** *Mirounga leonina*—Wow, what good looks at Playa Isla Escondida, as well as on the peninsula at Punta Norte. These were incredible (and the males were impossibly huge).

**Chilla** *Lycalopex griseus*—The South American Grey Fox, we had a few looks, the best was probably at the Puma ranch where one was in the bushes below a herd of Guanaco, who were very worked up by it. We got to watch

the fox sprint away at full speed, very quick!

**Culpeo** *Lycalopex culpaeus*—The red fox, much bigger than the Gray Fox we saw, and we got really good view through the windshield as one ran in front of us in Torres del Paine after a very rainy birding stop.

**Mountain Lion** *Puma concolor*—We lucked out and saw three Pumas, though technically, one of the females had two cubs with her, hidden in the bushes. The first of our sightings was closer and we got good looks through the scope. Everyone had smiles on their faces!

**Guanaco** *Lama guanicoe*—Ever present, they were very fun to see, even through the end of the trip.

**Dusky Dolphin** *Sagmatias obscurus*—Seen on our last day en route to Fuerte Bulnes.

**Orca** *Orcinus orca*—We caught very far off glimpses of them at Punta Norte, and they were putting on a show, leaping fully out of the water!

**Southern Right Whale** *Eubalaena australis*—We saw two mothers and calves on our whale watch from Puerto Piramides. It was interesting to see their movements in the water, quite different from Humpbacks.

**Mara** *Dolichotis patagonum*—What a cool animal! Endemic to Argentina, this interesting mammal looks like a cross between a kangaroo and a capybara. They were so fun to watch, though skittish.

**Cuis** *Microcavia australis*—Seen first at Punta Tombo, they looked like mini guinea pigs.

**Feral Horse** *Equus caballus*—There were many at Tierra del Fuego and at Torres del Paine, as well as at the Puma ranch.

**Lolo the Birding Dog**—Our friend that did the whole stop with us en route to Fuerte Bulnes. He showed us his beach and seemed quite pleased to escort us.

## **REPTILES (2)**

**Turtle**—Big, unknown species of turtle were seen at Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires.

**Rawson Lizard**—Seen a few days of the trip on Peninsula Valdes, some of which sported extremely bright, neon green and blue colors and were doing pushups to intimidate other males.

## **INSECTS (1)**

**Darkling Beetle** *Nyctelia circumundata*—We saw our first of many as we returned our life jackets after the whale watch in Puerto Piramides.

**Day 1:** Buenos Aires, Costanera Sur

**Day 2:** Isla Playa Escondida, Punto Tombo Penguin Colony, Highway to Puerto Piramides

**Day 3:** Puerto Piramides Whale Watch, Punta Norte

**Day 4:** Caleta Valdes, all day road birding

**Day 5:** Isla de Pajaros (Bird Island), Trelew, Laguna Encadenada for flamingos

**Day 6:** Ushuaia, Beagle Channel Cruise

**Day 7:** Tierra del Fuego National Park

**Day 8:** Travel Day from Ushuaia to Cerro Castillo, crossing into Chile

**Day 9:** Estancia Leona Amarga

**Day 10:** Bahia de Bote, Paine River and Laguna Azul in Torres del Paine

**Day 11:** Rio Serrano, Torres del Paine National Park

**Day 12:** Rio Serrano Park, Gray Glacier, Puerto Natales

**Day 13:** Puerto Pratt, Olga Teresa Estancia

**Day 14:** Fuerte Bulnes, Road to and from Fuerte Bulnes

**Day 15:** Departures