

Northwest Argentina Species List | March 4 – 17, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide James with local guide Mario and Ricardo. Our clients included Ed, Ven, Tara, Don, Linda, Katherine, Phil, Jim, Sandra, and John.

A fantastic tour visiting the varied landscapes of Northwest Argentina. After starting in Buenos Aires, we flew out to Salta. Here we spent two days birding the Yungas Cloud Forest, the southernmost cloud forest in South America. In the cloud forest we had many looks at Yungas Guan as well as looks at Scaly-headed Parrot, Yungas Sparrow and many species of Tyrannulets. From here we went up in altitude and spent a good portion of the tour birding the higher elevations. Up high, we had numerous looks at both Vicunas and Guanacos as well as many species of the *Furnariidae* (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers). Aside from the impressive scenery caused by tectonic plates smashing together, some highlights were three species of flamingos as well as Least Seed-snipe and a few species of tinamous.

From here, we slowly descended, dropping down into the Cardones National Park with its large Cactuses, Creosote and many species of Mesquites. In this area, we got to see three gauchos while looking and finding Sandy Gallitos. After two days among the Cardones, we watched as the desert changed to a more fertile landscape, ending the main tour with a visit to a local winery while visiting some Inca ruins earlier that morning.

This concluded the main portion of the tour with a total of 268 species of birds encountered, as well as 10 species of mammals, five species of reptiles, nine species of butterflies and five other species of non-butterfly insects.

BIRDS 268 species were recorded of which 5 were heard only, and 2 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 268 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.

[Northwest Argentina | March 4-17, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS: — (10)

Mountain Viscacha *Lagidium viscacia* — This small rodent was observed only once throughout the trip, on our way to Lake Pozuelos National Monument.

European Hare *Lepus europaeus* — We only observed this large hare twice throughout the trip, once while on the hotel grounds while at eating dinner in Cachi and also a second time while driving Rt. 40.

Vicuna *Vicugna vicugna* — A very common mammal in the same family as Camels on Says 4 and 6. Multiple family groups seen as we explored the high elevation sites along the Santa Laura Mountain Pass and the Lake Pozuelos National Monument.

Guanaco *Lama guanicoe* — Another relative of Camels, we saw this mammal multiple times on Days 8 and 9 while exploring the high-altitude areas of the Puna Steppe above Los Cardones National Park.

Brown Brocket Deer *Mazama gouazoubira* — This species of deer was only observed once while birding in the Yungas Cloud

Forest in the Huaico Reserve outside of Salta.

Brush-tailed Viscacha Rat *Octodontomys gliroides* — This rarely seen rodent was observed foraging around a stone wall on one of our birding stops when heading up to the Hornocal Mountains.

Yellow-throated Cavy *Galea musteloides* — Seen once while in the higher elevations on the trip, not seen by everyone.

Highland Tucotuco *Ctenomys opimus* — This prairie dog like mammal was observed both near and just outside of their burrows while heading towards Lake Pozuelos National Monument.

Andean Red Fox *Lycalopex culpaeus* — This mammal is actual closer related to wolves and jackals than foxes. We observed this species twice, once while on the side of the road while heading from the Enchanted Valley. We also had multiple individuals while driving down Rt. 40 when heading towards the Quilmes Ruins.

Southern Mountain Cavy *Microcavia australis* — This species was only seen once while driving along Rt. 40 when heading towards the Quilmes Ruins.

REPTILES: — (5)

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu *Salvator merianae* — This large, dark Tegu was observed on the first day only, when birding the Reserva Ecologica Costanera sur Buenos Aires.

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva* — This greenish lizard was only observed by a few clients while we were birding the Hornocal Mountains.

Liolaenus Lizard sp. — This species was only observed while birding Los Cardones National Park on Day 9.

Bullfrog — This species was observed only on Day 11 while birding the Calchaqui Valley.

Butterflies: — (9)

Chirgus Fides — This small brown and white butterfly was only observed while birding the Calchaqui Valley.

Monarch *Danaus Plexippus* — This orange and black butterfly was also only observed while birding the Reserve Ecological Costanera sur Buenos Aires on the first day.

White-bar Mountain Satyr *Pedaliodes palaepolis* — This all-dark butterfly white line on each outer wing was a common sight while birding the Huaico Reserve outside Salta.

Lysimna Tigerwing *Mechanitis lysimnia* — This orange and black butterfly was very common on a flowering tree while we were exploring the Huaico Reserve while in the Yungas Cloud Forest.

Pteronymia Ozia — One of the three species of glasswing butterflies we were able to observe, a common sight on the flowering tree while exploring the Huaico Reserve in the Yungas Cloud Forest.

Pantherodes Pardalaria — A stunning yellow butterfly with blue and black circles. This was also in the horde of butterflies that were flocking to the flowering tree while in the Huaico Reserve.

Episcada hymenaea — The second species of glasswing butterfly observed, also mixed in the flock of butterflies that were attracted to the flowering tree while in the Huaico Reserve.

Confuse Tigerwing *Methona confuse* — The third species of glasswings that we observed flocking to the flowering tree while at the Huaico Reserve.

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae* — This small white butterfly with orange wing linings was seen sporadically on Day 8 on the roadsides of Juramento Canyon.

Other Insects: — (5)

Rhinoceros Beetle sp. — This species was observed only on Day 4, while on the side of the road during our lunch stop.

Red-bordered Stinkbug *Edessa rufomarginata* — This medium sized green insect was observed only while exploring the La Quinta area on day 8.

Leafcutter Ant sp. — One of three to four different species of Leaf Cutter Ants in the area, these ants take bits of leaf into their burrows to farm a fungus that they then use for food.

Walking Stick sp. — This species was observed while birding the Quilmes Ruins.

Praying Mantis sp. — This species was observed while birding the Quilmes Ruins.