

Chilean Fjords Cruise Bird & Wildlife Species List

April 1 - 13, 2019 | With Greg Smith & Karen Worcester



Birds (98 species recorded):

Anatidae: Ducks, Geese and Swans (10)

Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melancoryphus* – Fairly common along the shore of Puerto Natales with other waterfowl

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba* – Always seemed to have a few pairs mixed in with Black-necked Swans

Upland Goose *Chloephaga picta* – In the few areas of the trip with open pasture we always found small groups

Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida* – Seemingly always seen as a pair along rocky intertidal areas of the coast

Flying Steamer-duck *Tachyeres patachonicus* – Seen well in a number of locations, but not as common as the flightless

Magellanic Flightless Steamer-duck *Tachyeres pteneres* – We would always see them hurriedly moving away from the ship on the surface

Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides* – Very common in the Ushuaia and Puerto Natales areas

Spectacled Duck *Specularias specularis* – A few of these birds were seen along the front of Bruggen Glacier

Chiloe Wigeon *Mareca sibilatrix* – Best looks were at a mixed flock in the waters off of Puerto Natales

Yellow-billed Speckled Teal *Anas flavirostris* – A small group were tightly packed along the shore near Bruggen Glacier



Phoenicopteridae: Flamingos (1)

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* – Only one was seen and that was adjacent to a pasture in the open water of Puerto Natales

Podicipedidae: Grebes (2)

Great Grebe *Podiceps major* – Seen a number of times, all in areas of saltwater post-nesting

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis* – Only seen once, and that was during our landing at Castro on Chiloe Island

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (2)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (1) – A city bird that seemed to be in every large town we stopped at on the trip

Chilean Pigeon *Patagioenas araucana* – Only one bird seen and that was in a small patch of forest in Niebla

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (1)

Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephaniodes* – Given the cool temps and the season, this hummingbird was surprisingly common

Rallidae: Swamphens & Coots (2)

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata* – Both this species and the next were in a mixed flock in Puerto Natales

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera* – Seen mixed in with a group of Red-gartered in Puerto Natales

Charadriidae: Lapwings and Plovers (3)

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* – Very common in pastured areas, as well as along certain sections of coast

Rufous-chested Dotterel *Charadrius modestus* – Two flocks of six juvenile birds were found foraging along gravel shore

Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus* – Only one was seen, and that was with a group of six dotterels at Bruggen Glacier

Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (3)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* – Seen further north along the coast, and always associated with sandy beaches or mudflats

Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater* – Seen near the end of the trip in the Niebla Bay area

Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus* – The common one of the three, mostly seen to the very south along the rocky coast



Scolopacidae: Sandpiper and Allies (4)

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* – A number of flocks were seen foraging in the mudflats of Castro on Chiloe

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* – A solo individual was seen on the mudflats near Necron Church in Castro

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae* -

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* – Again, another solo individual working pools of the mudflats near Necron Church

Stercorariidae: Jaegers and Skuas (2)

Chilean Skua *Stercorarius chilensis* – Seen almost daily through the fjords and over open ocean waters

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* – Seen in open ocean on our first full day at sea after the fjords

Laridae: Gulls and Terns (4)

Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis* – Seen most every day in small numbers/flocks, especially in the fjords

Dolphin Gull *Leucophaeus scoresbii* – Best and longest looks were in the Straits of Magellan and around the Ushuaia area

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* – Seen every day of the trip, certainly the most common of the gulls

South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea* - Seen only once in the fjords, but on every day in the open sea

Spheniscidae: Penguins (1)

Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus* – Seen twice, once in the Straits of Magellan and then in front of the Bruggen Glacier

Diomedae: Albatrosses (6)

S. Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* – The more common of the two Royals seen in open ocean

N. Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi* – Seen only in open ocean waters during the last few days of the voyage with a total of two birds

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* – We saw six different birds on the first morning of our open ocean cruise, but none after that period

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* - Common throughout the fjords where there was a nexus with open ocean

Gray-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma* – Seen only once on day four when we made a brief pass through open ocean

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* – Not common but a few were seen on each of the last four days after Chiloe Island



Oceanitidae: Southern Storm-Petrels (1)

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* – A few were seen every day we had access to ocean waters

Procellariidae: Petrels and Shearwaters (12)

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* – The “common” giant-petrel on the trip. Mostly first year birds

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli* – Only one of this red-tipped bill species was seen

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialisoides* – Seen on the southern part of our voyage, gradually getting scarcer as we moved north

Cape Petrel *Daption capense* – Not common, and only in open waters outside the fjords, stunning nonetheless

Masatierra Petrel *Pterodroma defilippiana* – The more common of the *Pterodroma* seen on the trip

Juan Fernández Petrel *Pterodroma externa* – Only one was seen on the trip as we were at the very south end of range

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* – Seen every day outside of the fjords and fairly common

Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* – We only saw one definite and that was photographed

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna griseus* – Seen only sporadically in ocean waters except for one day near Niebla where we had a stream of birds moving across the horizon

Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus* – The common pelagic in the bay near Niebla

Peruvian Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides garnotti* – Seen only on our last day just south of Valparaiso

Magellanic Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides magellani* – We got to see this nerf-sized species on two days during our trip, both during very flat seas

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (4)

Red-legged Cormorant *Phalacrocorax gaimardi* – Stunning bird that was very common in the bay near Niebla

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – Sporadic at best, but more common as we moved north

Magellanic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax magellanicus* – The Rock Shag wasn't common, but if there were cormorants around, there would always be a few mixed in the flocks

Imperial Cormorant *Phalacrocorax atriceps* – Seen most days, and the most abundant of the shags we viewed

Pelicanidae: Pelicans (1)

Peruvian pelican *Pelecanus thagus* – Only seen along the coast near Niebla, but probably also around Vaparaiso

Aradeide: Herons & Egrets (5)

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Best looks were of juveniles at our landing in Puerto Eden



Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* – One down near the Bruggen Glacier was very far to the south of its range and way to the west of its expected range

Great Egret *Ardea alba* – Seen on a couple of different days, but probably less common than expected because of the season

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* – Seen only once, and that was in the estuarine mudflats surrounding Castro on Chiloe Island

Cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis* – We had a few land on the ship during overcast mornings

Threskiornithidae: Ibises & Spoonbills (1)

Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis* – Seen only once and that was on the grounds of the fortress overlooking the bay at Niebla

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (3)

Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* – Seen only once, but probably more abundant than this sighting because of clouds

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* – Common near communities on the northern half of the trip

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* – Not common, but seen from Ushuaia all the way north to Valparaiso

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites and Eagles (2)

Variable hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma* – Seen on two occasions, and both times we were neat converted landscapes

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* – Seen near Ushuaia and Castro

Strigidae: Owls (1)

Austral Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium nanum* – A very cooperative, but somewhat wet bird, gave us very long looks in Puerto Eden

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)

Ringed kingfisher *Megaceryle torquatus* – The only kingfisher on the trip and usually seen near the confluence of a stream and ocean waters

Falconidae: Falcons (2)

Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus* – A good-looking bird seen on a number of days with one very cooperative individual at Asia Glacier

Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango* – The “crow” of South America seen most everyday

Psittacidae: Parrots (2)



Austral Parakeet *Enicognathus ferrugineus* – Seen in Ushuaia and that was the only appearance

Slender-billed Parakeet *Enicognathus leptorhynchus* (E) – This endangered species was seen in the outskirts of Castro in small flocks

Furnaridae: Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers (4)

Gray-flanked Cinclodes *Cinclodes oustaleti* – The smaller of the two cinclodes, and always at the edge of water after having moved down slope after nesting

Dark-bellied Cinclodes *Cinclodes patagonicus* – The bird we would expect to see, especially near the water's edge in harbors

Thorn-tailed Rayadito *Aphrastura spinicauda* – One on the ship and a few on land of this confiding species

Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides* – Only seen during our stop in Niebla

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (4)

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps* – We did see this species on land, but our best looks were at individuals on the ship after a sunny evening the previous day and an overcast day the following morning

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus* – Seen on a couple of our landings when we had some fairly flat landing habitat

Dark-faced ground-tyrant *Muscisaxicola maclovianus* – Scattered in the flats near glaciers that had broad deltas

Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope* – Best looks were certainly in the area around Cabo San Isidro, very confiding

Troglodytidae: Wrens (1)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* – Seen only once and that was during our stop at Niebla

Turdidae: Thrushes (1)

Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii* – Individuals around communities, but also migrating flocks heading north

Mimidae: Mockingbirds (1)

Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus triurus* – Se very well around the fortress at Niebla

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – Only seen at Niebla and Valparaiso, yay

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (2)

Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaeus* - Seen in groups around communities and single birds out in the wilds

Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca* – Only seen near some open fields in the Niebla area

Fringillidae: Finches (6)

Black-chinned Siskin *Spinus barbata* – A few were seen on the ship in the early mornings and more were seen while on land in Puerto Eden

Thraupidae: Tanagers & Allies (2)

Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola* – We had a flock of seven birds on the ship for a day after another migration fall out

Patagonian Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus* – Good looks at an individual during our landing at Cabo San Isidro and once on the ship

Mammals (9 species recorded):

Marine Otter *Lontra felina* – There was some debate about whether this sighting was a Southern River Otter or a marine otter, but the later seemed to be the more obvious choice

South American Fur Seal *Arctocephalus australis* – Seen on a number of days, both in the fjords and along the Pacific coast

South American Sea Lion *Otaria flavescens* – We would get our best looks at this species when in the zodiacs

Blue Whale *Balaenoptera musculus* - Seen on a few days when we were up around Chiloe Island

Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus* – Seen only once on our second to last open ocean day, a small group associating with a pod of long-finned pilot whales

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* – A few were seen in the Fjord part of our trip

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* – Seen on only one day doing acrobatics near the ship

Peale's Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis* – The common dolphin of the trip seen on at least 50% of the days

Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melas* – A small pod in the open ocean were associated with our fin whale sighting

