

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO CHILE
Land of the Condor

15 November – 01 December 2006



Leaders: Richard Coomber and Enrique Couvé

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A Personal Diary

Wednesday 15 November

On a grey November afternoon I met four of the Ornitholidays' party to Chile at London's Heathrow Airport, but we had to wait until our Iberia flight reached Madrid before we met the rest of the group - Ken, Graham and Lynne, whose flight down from Manchester had arrived a few minutes earlier. Our four-hour stopover at the magnificent and spacious new airport passed remarkably quickly. It was the boarding that seemed to take the time and that delayed our departure to Santiago de Chile half an hour or more.

Thursday 16 November

It was after midnight (Spanish time) by the time we headed down the runway and into a long night and the 13-hour flight to Chile. Between London and Santiago there is just three hours time difference, yet we seem to have travelled almost halfway round the world. It was sunny in Chile and 20°C.

By the time dawn caught up with us we were over Brazil and continued to fly over the vast lowlands for four hours before we reached the snowy ramparts of the Andes. What a spectacle, but it seemed to last just a few minutes before we started to descend to the western side and straight into Santiago Airport, where we landed at 9.40am local time. It was however nearer 11am by the time we cleared the formalities, were reunited with our luggage and met Enrique, our guide and mentor for the coming tour. Once on the road we headed for the coast seeing raptors such as White-tailed Kite and Chimango Caracaras on the way to the small town of Cartegane, where at a small restaurant we enjoyed an excellent meal of freshly caught local fish. During the meal we also saw our first Rufous-collared Sparrows, Long-tailed Meadowlark, Grassland Yellow-finch and Common Diuca-Finch.

Afterwards we drove to a superb lagoon reserve, whose establishment was partly funded by our ground agents. The birding was excellent for it offered very good views of many of the region's wildfowl, including Red Shoveler, Yellow-billed Pintail, three Black-headed Duck and a family of Coscoroba Swans as well as Silvery and White-tufted Grebes, three species of coot, various gulls and shorebirds. The highlight was the Willet we found - a first for the reserve and quite uncommon this far south. Today's Franklin's Gulls were the first of the season, having just arrived back after breeding in America's mid-west.

Lagoon Perala was our next stop and before long we had simply stunning views of Many-colored Rush-tyrant, a small, but very colourful bird of the marshes. Its local name, *Siete colores*, drew attention to its seven colours. As we admired it at close range I spied the nest, tightly woven amongst the reeds. Further round the lagoon the breeding of Brown-hooded Gulls and Cattle Egrets was in full swing. We watched a male Black-headed Duck and had superb views of a Plumbeous Rail at close range, but a Wren-like Rushbird was partly obscured by the reeds.

All too soon the clock beat us, so we headed straight for the hotel, although excellent views of a Short-eared Owl on a roadside fence post was excuse enough to stop for five minutes! We reached the hotel at Quintero just before 8pm and about half an hour later we were sitting down to dinner.

Friday, 17 November

Mainly overcast with sunny periods, especially in late afternoon. 18°C.

Breakfast at 5.30am might have seemed a little early, but it gave us a great start to what turned out to be a terrific pelagic trip, in fact the best ever one-day pelagic I have ever experienced. Soon after 6am we were down in the harbour and boarding a small fishing vessel just as dawn was breaking. By the time we cleared the port complex Sooty Shearwaters were streaming by in their thousands. With them were a few Inca Terns and Franklin's Gulls. Peruvian Diving-Petrels skimmed over the waves on whirling wings, looking just like tiny auks, not tubenoses.

Before long we began adding more and more species. Who would have thought we would have seen so many seabird species? The greatest variety of tubenoses came when the deckhands tossed handfuls of chopped sardines overboard - chumming as it is called. It was often hard to know where to look next with so many birds in sight, but the huge albatrosses stole the show. Although Black-browed was the first of four species, Salvin's was the most numerous, being almost always in view. We were delighted to have good views of Northern Royal Albatrosses and a particularly obliging Buller's Albatross stayed around for most of the time during the chumming sessions. Later Ken and I saw what might have been a lone Chatham Albatross, but it didn't stay long enough. The mainly inshore Sooty Shearwaters were replaced further out by the larger and pale-bellied Pink-footed Shearwaters. Almost shearwater-like were two large and all dark petrels - White-chinned (that sometimes had no white chin) and Westland that had a black tip to the bill. Then there were also two quite similar *Pterodroma* petrels - Masatierra (De Fillipi's) and Stejneger's, but neither these or the Westland joined in the chumming melee. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were the only storm-petrels seen.

A second chumming session even further out at 26 miles was also productive, but not quite as frenetic as earlier. Photos showed that with the morning's Southern Giant Petrels, there was at least one Northern with a red, not green, tip to the bill. Also seen were Southern Fulmar and Cape Petrel or Pintado. In all we saw 16 species of tubenoses, cormorants, boobies, pelicans, Chilean and Brown Skuas, an immature Sabine's Gull and several small flocks of Grey Phalaropes. Even without chumming birds were in sight all the time on the return to port, but without doubt the highlight of the return was the pod of eight to ten Orcas that stayed close to us for some time and included an adult male and at least one quite small calf.

Back in the harbour area we were again amongst concentrations of Sooty Shearwaters and passing groups of Peruvian Boobies. Guanay Cormorants were an addition to the list and as we circled a super tanker moored to a discharging buoy we saw several hundred Inca Terns, many of which were juveniles or sub-adults. Also seen were a number of Southern Sea Lions. Once ashore there was a slight delay leaving the quay as one of the security guards had gone to lunch with the gate keys still in his pocket! Lunch was ready by the time we reached the hotel and afterwards followed a short siesta.

During the afternoon we visited a wetland close to the sulphuric acid factory at Ventanas. There were the usual species of coot and wildfowl and we added Great Grebe and White-cheeked Pintail, the latter being found by Julian showing little more than their heads! The views of Spectacled Tyrant were somewhat distant, but fortunately we were to see them better later in the tour.

Our next stop was the affluent seaside community of Cachagua, where we walked along lanes amongst houses and gardens to see singing Rufous-tailed Plantcutters and Black-chinned Siskins. Nearer the beach a pair of Fire-eyed Diucon sat on a sign and those who missed yesterday's Common Diuca-Finch were able to catch up. On the beach were large numbers of Sanderlings and over the sea Peruvian Pelicans and cormorants were coming and going from a rocky islet, which was also home to hundreds of Humboldt Penguins. Some were seen in the sea, but the majority were observed through the scopes from the footpath. Seeing a South American Sea Otter was a bonus as it hunted fish off the rocks, but with such an active creature the views tended to be all too brief. Why couldn't it have come out on to the rocks like the Orkney otters do for Simon King? Along the rocky shore, some saw the endemic Chilean Seaside Cinclodes, but when a helicopter buzzed the islet to the consternation of the seabirds (and us) the cinclodes disappeared, never to re-appear. We then returned to the hotel for dinner and the checklist.

Saturday 18th November

Hot and sunny. 27°C

We left the hotel at 6.30am after breakfast. Our first stop on the transfer back to Santiago was near the mouth of the Aconcagua River, where there were more Franklin's Gulls and Common Terns as well as our first Black Skimmer, but it didn't stay as long as we would have liked. We moved a mile or so along the coast to the outskirts of the small town of Con Con, where we began with two pairs of Chilean Seaside Cinclodes displaying on the roadside crash barrier. On the rocks below were both Surfbird and Ruddy Turnstone down from their breeding grounds for the northern winter. On a large rocky outcrop stood preening Peruvian Pelicans and at least two Red-legged Cormorants, whilst we noted the sign that indicated that the road up the hill from the shore was designated a tsunami escape route. It would have been pleasant to linger longer, but there was a fair amount of ground to cover today. As we left the area we passed a pair of Burrowing Owls as they sat on bushes in the early morning sunshine.

La Campana National Park, in the coastal mountain range, was where we spent the remainder of the morning. We left the bus near the entrance gate and began walking up the wooded slopes along a rough track that was only suitable for 4x4s and hikers. Enrique's use of playback to attract tapaculos met with mixed success. White-throated Tapaculo and Moustached Turca were heard and it was a fluke when a Dusky Tapaculo crossed the path while we waited for one of the other two. We had several glimpses enabling those new to tapaculos to see that it looked rather like a small and very dark wren. Also seen during the walk were Red-backed Hawk, Giant Hummingbird, White-crested Elaenia and Tufted Tit-Tyrant.

Lunch was in a restaurant in the small town, finishing our meal as wedding guests were beginning to assemble for their celebrations. We went to church as well, but only to see a colony of Monk Parakeets that had recently become established in the area.

Our next stop was on the eastern slopes of the coastal range near Til Til and overlooking the Central Valley with the snowy-capped Andes standing above a band of air pollution. We enjoyed a very productive walk along a track beneath craggy summits, where one of the commonest birds was Crag Chilia, not only an endemic species, but an endemic genus as well. There were four or five pairs of this passerine breeding in holes in the banks above the track. We had brilliant views of a Moustached Turca that was spotted by Graham when it responded to playback and nearby excellent views of Giant Hummingbird on its nest in the fork of a *Puya* plant, which just happens to be one of the flowers it favours. There were raptors along the crags above with our first two Andean Condors passing over and a hunting Red-backed Hawk. The Peregrine that flew over would have been a wintering bird from North America. Also seen were Plain-mantled Tit-Spintail, Gray-hooded and Band-tailed Sierra Finches and as we were driving away from the area a Chilean Tinamou walked along a sidetrack.

A wetland stop at Lampe, nearer Santiago, might have produced a South American Painted-Snipe, but today the only new bird was South American Snipe. In the reeds below the road we saw another Many-colored Rush-Tyrant incubating. For those who followed Enrique into the damper areas there were good views of White-backed Stilt and Southern Lapwing, whilst Wren-like Rushbirds were busy carrying food to young in unseen nests. We reached our hotel in Santiago at 7.30pm.

Sunday 19 November

Hot and cloudless, cooler in the mountains. 28°C

Following breakfast we made an early start to beat any traffic congestion in the city as we headed for Embalse El Yeso - a lake in a valley below towering Andean peaks south-east of Santiago. Once clear of the suburbs the road wound up a valley through which a muddy river flowed carrying sediment that was a result of mining activities along one tributary further upstream. When we turned off the 'main' road towards El Yeso, the river we followed was white and turbulent and rich in oxygen. Just the conditions for Torrent Duck, so we checked the boulders and islands in the stream and before long we found a pair resting on an island of boulders in full sunlight in mid-stream.

Carrying on, we passed fields with feeding California Quail (introduced) and Black-winged Ground-Dove, a larger species than the Picui Ground-Dove we had been seeing and with a peculiar hump-backed stance. As we gained height we began seeing Greater Yellow Finches, Bar-winged Cinclodes and Rufous-banded Miner along with the ubiquitous Rufous-collared Sparrow, that species much beloved by tour leaders. All the time we were climbing, the mountain air giving an amazing clarity to the views that just got better and better. The road became narrower as we hugged the slopes beneath mountains, cliffs and scree slopes and in one place we had to disembark as Eduardo carefully negotiated a boulder about the size of a 4x4 that took up more than its fair share of the road!

A few yards further on Mike asked for a photo stop where snowy mountains were reflected in the waters of a reservoir. A very fortuitous stop for we found three Grey Phalaropes spinning and dipping along the water's edge. Nearby sang a Rufous-banded Miner and around some large rocks fed a female Plumbeous Sierra-Finch. As we neared the top end of the lake a number of Crested Ducks and a couple of Speckled Teal were resting on silt banks and an Andean Gull, unusual here, fed nearer the shore.

We had a target bird here - Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, one of the world's most enigmatic waders. The main area lay in a *bofedale* (marsh) across the two rivers that fed the reservoir. Before exploring in that direction we checked likely areas on our side of the river, but without success. Compensation took the form of a male Gray-breasted Seedsnipe drinking from a small stream. Crossing the main river was easy as there was a bridge, but on checking the ford where

we were to have crossed the second river, Eduardo decided the stones were too small and that the bus may become stuck, just as a large 4x4 had just become a kilometre or so downstream. It did raise a problem - wet feet or no sandpiper-plover and over our picnic lunch we decided what to do. Graham and Julian chose to go for the bird, the rest decided to relax dry-shod and perhaps sort out ground-tyrants.

The small expedition eventually found somewhere to cross the ice-cold river. On reaching the *bofedale* we stopped to look at a pair of Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, the male of which was calling from the top of a small boulder. Julian didn't see it initially and when I tried to get him on to the bird we both looked at the wrong boulder and in unison we both called "*There it is!*" as simultaneously we spotted a sandpiper-plover about 100-150 yards away! In fact there was a pair and as they became used to our presence the female returned to settle down to brood her family - wonderful and well-worth the effort of the freezing water and the now sodden boots, socks and trouser legs. Because of the chick, we turned away satisfied with our telescope views of a cracking bird. On a nearby pool two Baird's Sandpipers fed. Of course we had to retrace our route back, but somehow the water seemed not to be so cold - maybe we were walking on air!

While we had been away Eduardo had turned the bus and before long we were bouncing our way back towards Santiago, birding distractions permitting. There were five phalaropes at the lake this time and during a walk near a disused army base, we found another Gray-breasted Seedsnipe and added Lesser Canastero to the list. Further on Graham called the day's first Andean Condor, which was followed moments later by a second. When a third dark bird appeared in the same area of skyline it wasn't another condor, but an immature Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle being mobbed by a Red-backed Hawk. From then on it was downhill all the way and in spite of heavy traffic returning to Santiago we reached the hotel just before 6pm.

Monday 20 November

Fine and sunny with some high cirrus clouds over the mountains. 27°C

It was not quite such an early breakfast this morning and afterwards we loaded the luggage aboard Eduardo's bus and headed for the ski resort of Farellones to the east of Santiago. We climbed up seemingly endless hairpins before reaching the top where towering modern hotels seemed out of place. On the way we had passed a pair of California Quail and a Moustached Turca that scurried for cover.

As we disembarked a black and white Mountain Caracara flew over the car park, but in the rarefied atmosphere of 3,250m above sea level we took it slowly as we watched Greater Yellow-Finch and Rufous-banded Miner around the buildings. It was amazing to see a hummingbird up there, but a male White-sided Hillstar buzzed us as it headed even higher in what was a flowerless habitat for the tiny fellow. It seemed extraordinary, but as we scanned from a vantage point beyond the hotels dark-coloured lizards basked in the warm sunshine. It was windless and the only sounds were of distant waterfalls and the singing of miners and yellow-finches. On the earthen slopes below us a small dark guinea pig-like rodent was excavating its burrow.

We had been hoping for a close fly-by Andean Condor, but it seemed in vain until, as we were about to board the bus, I spotted a distant white speck against the far mountainside. It circled closer and closer until, almost unbelievably, we had an adult female condor circling overhead. Of all the directions it could have gone, it chose to come our way! So we were certainly on a high in more ways than one as we descended to do some small bird birding on the grassier and rock-strewn slopes further down.

At the next stop a shepherd's hut had been built at the base of an enormous boulder that at one time had fallen from the cliffs way above us. It was at the top of those cliffs that Graham spotted two roosting Andean Condors and nearby sat a relatively diminutive Mountain Caracara. Around the shepherd's hut a male Mourning Sierra-Finch held territory and Enrique used playback to bring in an obliging Scale-throated Earthcreeper. At the next stop a photographic shoot for a mountain bike brochure was taking place, but nevertheless we found Lesser Canastero there as well.

That was the morning's birding for the next stop was the airport, where we bade farewell to Eduardo and, after checking-in for our flight north to Arica, we took lunch. The early afternoon flight to Arica via Iquique took about three and a half hours and passed along the inhospitable coastline of the Atacama Desert. On landing at Arica, close to the border with Peru, we met the next in the team of drivers, Cristian, who took us to our hotel in the Azapa Valley via a splendid stretch of rocky shoreline, where thousands of gulls and terns were assembling to roost. The gulls were mainly Gray, the localised species that breeds in the wastes of the Atacama, and the terns were Elegant, down for the

winter from Raza Island in Mexico's Sea of Cortez. As we watched Enrique met up with some other birders, who were watching a Gray-hooded Gull, which occurs widely in sub-Saharan Africa (as Grey-headed Gull) and to the east of the Andes in South America. This was one of the first to be seen in Chile and, very conveniently, Alvaro Jaramillo, the author of the field guide *The Birds of Chile*, was one of the other birders, so there's an excuse for a second edition! Consequently, we were later reaching the hotel than anticipated and therefore late for dinner!

Tuesday 21 November

Hot and sunny with cooling breeze on coast. 30°C

First thing after breakfast we drove down to the coast where, on a long sandy beach, we walked to the mouth of the Lluta River. American Oystercatchers, Whimbrel and Sanderlings we had seen before and it was good to have closer views of Snowy Plover than a few days ago. Semipalmated Plover was an addition to the list, being a wintering species from the north, but without doubt the star performers along the beach section was a pair of Peruvian Thick-knees that just stood and looked back at us, trusting in their own camouflage. Whilst we were in the area a small, but steady movement of Barn Swallows headed south.

Here and there groups of Turkey Vultures gathered around a washed up corpse, which was usually either a Southern Sea Lion or Peruvian Pelican. At sea we had a small, perhaps only two, pod of toothed whales pass south just beyond the breakers, but the views were too brief and too infrequent to make a positive i.d. Meanwhile there was a constant stream of Grey and Franklin's Gulls and Elegant Terns flying north. Dave and I fell behind at one time when we stood sea-watching through our scopes, being rewarded with a Wilson's Storm-Petrel just beyond the breaking waves and a Pomarine Skua harrying terns further out.

The river was only a few feet wide at the mouth having flowed south on a sinuous course along the back of the beach. We walked its banks until we reached the point where it flowed beneath the road. Three Greater Yellowlegs were quite obliging as was a coot that caused some debate for it looked exactly like an American Coot with a white shield and bill with white on the sides of the undertail coverts. That species is not in the book, but a white-billed form of Slate-colored or Andean is shown, but without the white under the tail. Enrique has seen this variety before, but only ever on the coast. So what is it? Back home I referred to *Handbook of Birds of the World* (Vol 3) by del Hoyo and *Rails: A Guide to Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World* (Helm) by Taylor, it seems that it *has* to be a Slate-colored (Andean) Coot, although there is no reference to it being a bird of the coast as Enrique has experienced today and in the past. However, *A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru* (Lynx Edicions) by Clements does mention that it occurs on the coasts of Peru as well as at altitude. All three books do show the white on the undertail coverts, so that's the answer - Slate-colored Coot. Perhaps down from coastal Peru?

Julian found the next good bird, when a dark-billed tern landed amongst the party of preening Franklin's Gulls and Elegant Terns - eventually we located a Sandwich Tern in their midst - another unusual bird here. When we reached the road the river flowed amongst rocks and small boulders where exposed sand and mud attracted more shorebirds - small numbers, but a great variety. Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Whimbrel, Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling and finally Baird's, Least, Semipalmated, Spotted and Western Sandpipers! Nearby was a Killdeer.

Rosie and Lynne had made their way back to the road earlier, when it had appeared that was the way we were going, but in the event we had negotiated an area of thick-stemmed reeds to continue following the river bank to the road. They had seen Peruvian Meadowlark and when the rest of us joined them Enrique put us onto a pair of Slender-billed Finches.

We spent the latter part of the morning further up in the Lluta Valley in a cultivated area. On the way we stopped to view geoglyphs - huge shapes of people, animals and birds that decorated the sandy hills on the opposite side of the valley. They are made from stones and date back many centuries. A roadside stop for Vermilion Flycatcher also produced Andean Swift, Croaking Ground-Dove and Chestnut-throated Seedeater. Further on, when we walked along lanes between fields, we saw many more Andean Swifts and with them was a lone Chimney Swift, another wintering species from North America. We found a pair of White-crested Elaenia in acacia trees. Those here are resident, unlike those we saw in the coastal ranges, which are summer visitors. Cinereous Conebills came to drink by an irrigation ditch and amongst the reeds surrounding a small reservoir we found a Common Moorhen.

Lunch was taken in a small restaurant beneath the arid hills on the road that climbs to reach the Chaca Valley to the south. It was a barren land once one left the irrigated valley floor. In the Chaca Valley we drove a small side road

before walking further in search of the endemic Tamarugo Conebill, a species first described for science in the 1970s. Eventually, after several glimpses of a “*that might have been it*” bird, we did indeed enjoy good views of a male conebill in the bushes that lined the verge. We also saw a Plain-mantled Tit-Spintail taking food to a nest hidden amongst the rocks or cliffs on the slopes above us. Further up the valley we explored a track along the perimeter of a fruit farm, where a pair of Peruvian Thick-knees had their chick and where we had excellent views of a Chilean Woodstar, a diminutive hummer, whose numbers have declined so markedly over recent decades that it now seems to be confined to this one valley. Another good visitor from North America was an American Cliff Swallow.

We returned to the coast to enjoy the spectacle of the gulls and terns. Needless to say the views of those species as well as Hudsonian Whimbrel were excellent and we also added Little Blue Herons to the growing list. Another tick was Peter Burke, one of the two artists who drew the plates for Jaramillo’s *Birds of Chile*. Would we meet David Beadle to complete the set? Not today, so it was back to the hotel to get ready for tomorrow’s departure and for dinner.

Wednesday 22 November

Fine and sunny once again. 27°C

Following a 7.30am breakfast we loaded the bus and headed along the Azapa Valley in search of the two special hummingbirds of the area. Our first stop was on a side road, where we hoped some flowering *Lantana* bushes would be the attraction. As we waited several other species such as White-crested Elaenia, Vermilion Flycatcher, Chestnut-throated Seedeater, Slender-billed Finch and a singing male Blue-black Grassquit were seen - the latter being the trip’s first. As for hummers, just a brief glimpse of a male Peruvian Sheartail was all we could manage. The next stop was much better, beginning with excellent views of an American Kestrel perched on dead palm fronds and a Burrowing Owl at eye-level just the other side of a fence. The hummingbird in this area proved to be Oasis Hummingbird, beginning with telescope views of a female and ending with a male in perfect sunshine showing his purple and violet throat only feet away from us.

On returning to the main road we found both Oasis Hummingbird and the sheartail feeding on tall red-flowered trees at a garden centre, but they were a little distant. So back at the original site we waited and waited until Mike, who had moved into some shade, pointed out a sub-adult male Peruvian Sheartail as soon as it arrived to feed on the *Lantanas* opposite him. Good views for all of us, but a shame it didn’t have the full spectacular tail streamers that give the species its name. We headed towards an early lunch at a fish restaurant at Arica, stopping at one last flowering bush and just seeing a female Peruvian Sheartail.

After a good lunch we began our journey to the high country, passing the bridge near the mouth of the Lluta River and seeing most of the shorebirds we had notched up there yesterday. Peruvian Thick-knees were seen in pairs as we drove up the valley and before long we were enjoying good views of a singing male Peruvian Meadowlark. With all these Peruvian named birds one should correctly surmise that we were very close to the Peruvian border.

The next birding stop was for a group of Groove-billed Anis in a roadside bush. Then it was onwards in earnest, as the road followed the valley before beginning a series of long hairpins up the side of the bare sandy mountains and along dry water courses beyond. There were no birds or plants for some time until coarse scrubby bushes began appearing along the dry streambeds and then some spectacular Candelabra Cacti, a Chilean endemic, appeared on the hillsides above us. By then we were at 2,316m above sea-level and climbing, the minibus making light work of the task, unlike some of the lumbering trucks that ply between the coast and landlocked Bolivia.

The first birds we saw were Greenish Yellow-Finches, but most of the stops were protracted ones, usually in dramatic scenery, to help us to acclimatise to the altitude. The stop at 3,024m overlooked a deep canyon, where Enrique pointed out some walled shelters beneath an overhang that predated the Incas. On reaching the small village of Zapahuira, we wandered around birding for half an hour or so, and very productive it was too, for apart from Mourning Sierra-Finch everything was new. Dark-winged Canasteros built their twig nests in cacti, a neat Black-hooded Sierra-Finch looked very smart with his black and ochre plumage. Meanwhile around the back of some buildings we found a confiding Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, whilst across the road a Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant flew from boulder to boulder.

The highlight of the final run to Putre (3,475m) was the Guanacos. The first was spotted by Rosie, then another by Mike and finally superb views of a herd at the roadside - absolutely stunning in perfect sunlight and quite relaxed until a car alarm behind us spooked them. The Guanacos were away as if pursued by a horde of screaming banshees!

We were soon ensconced in our hotel. Outside Graham and Lynne's room a pair of Andean Hillstar had their nest. Before dinner was the time when small herds of sheep, llamas and alpacas were brought back into the fold from a day's feeding in the surrounding countryside. All good local colour, as there was later when the locals turned up at the hotel, many in traditional dress, for 'a bit of a do'.

Thursday 23 November

Hot and sunny. 26°C

As night fell last night a blanket of cloud was settling on the mountains that surround the village of Putre. This morning at dawn the stars sparkled like diamonds on a cold and frosty morn.

Graham and Lynne were out before breakfast and had seen White-winged Cinclodes and Andean Hillstar by the time I met them near the stream just outside the hotel entrance. There we found Chiguanco Thrush and as we turned back for breakfast a flock of 50+ pigeons flew up the valley. According to the field guide Chilean Pigeon is not up here and anyway it doesn't have the large white wing patches that make this bird resemble an overgrown Pacific Dove. Enrique put us right - Spot-winged Pigeon. The race recorded from the Bolivian and Argentinean Andes has white on the wing unlike the lowland race, which doesn't. The first pair was recorded from Putre some five years ago and the population has now increased significantly. The author of the field guide omitted the bird as he considered them to be escapes, which Enrique refutes. According to *A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru* extralimital records have occurred out of range in Peru, so why shouldn't some head into Chile?

After breakfast we went to the outskirts of the village, where from a bluff we overlooked a valley with stony mountains rising on the opposite side. There were the usual sierra-finches, but the ground-doves here were mainly Bare-faced, although we did see a few Black-winged later in the morning. Andean Hillstars were conspicuous with males disputing feeding rights over bushes with small purple-flowered trumpets. Giant Hummingbird and a pair of Sparkling Violetear were also in the area. High in some tall eucalyptus trees sat an Aplomado Falcon - fabulous views through the scopes in perfect sunshine. Later we watched a food pass between male and female. Somewhere in the trees there must have been a nest.

Across the valley I spotted a small herd of the rare Peruvian or Andean Huemul (or Taruca) – a species of deer also found in the Andes from Ecuador to north-western Argentina. Through the scopes we could see there was an antlered male and that the rest were females. Rosie had opted not to go out to the bluff, but to watch from the edge of the village instead. When I took my scope across to her so that she could see the deer, she mentioned that when she tried to see a Black-throated Flower-piercer that we had tried to show her earlier, she had seen a small brown and yellow bird, but didn't know what it was and it had disappeared. There was movement in some pink flowered Mallow bushes where the flower-piercer had been, so we tried to get a good view. Not a flower-piercer - only a vagrant American Redstart, which was in fact the bird she had been looking at earlier. The rest of the group were summoned, but the bird was elusive and took another 15 minutes or so to show itself again!

For most of us the rest of the morning was spent walking down the valley to join Lynne and Rosie at the minibus waiting at a bridge lower down. We started well with Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch, Andean Swallow and Canyon Canastero. In the valley the vegetation was very thick in places and apart from the commoner species there was little about until we broke out into more open ground beyond the edge of the village. There we could overlook the bushes we had been struggling through. Blue and Yellow Tanagers were soon seen and then we found both Band-tailed Seedeater and the sought-after Golden-billed Saltator feeding in the same bush. When we reached the bridge they had seen Puna Hawk overhead and Bar-winged and White-winged Cinclodes along the river. Puna Hawk has had a checkered taxonomic history over recent years, being lumped with Red-backed Hawk to form Variable Hawk, and then re-split again soon after. Such is the state of flux in the scientific birding world at the moment.

A siesta followed lunch and during that time some relaxed and others explored locally, with Dave going along into the village where, by finding a Blue-and-White Swallow, he showed that not all hirundines here were Andean Swallows as one might assume!

We began the afternoon excursion birding in cultivated fields looking in vain for earthcreepers and tinamous, but we did see an Aplomado Falcon and the rest of the group caught-up with Puna Hawk. In the corner of one field, and in the

adjacent trees, were some 70+ Spot-winged Pigeons, the highest number Enrique had ever seen in the area. How long will its range within Chile just be confined to the Putre area?

We drove across to the main road and up to 3,962m before turning off to return to the town by way of the, now little used, old gravel road back to Putre. A short walk into a formerly cultivated area soon produced Puna Ground-Tyrant, Cordilleran Canastero and the first earthcreepers. Over the next 20 minutes or so we had excellent views of both Plain-breasted and Straight-billed Earthcreepers. A little further down the hill Rosie spotted the first Ornate Tinamou from the bus as it fed amongst tufts of grass some way from the road. Soon after we moved on three more were watched at close range on the verge right beside the bus.

We returned to the hotel soon after 6pm, and we tried to have dinner at 7.30pm, but it was gone 8pm before we did so.

Friday 24 November

Fine and sunny with increasing cloud to the east in early afternoon. Cool up on the altiplano 20°C, much warmer at Arica.

Today was looked forward to with anticipation and perhaps a certain amount of apprehension. The reality was one of the most wonderful of days! Since coming to altitude the 'orders' had been do everything slowly, eat small meals and keep off alcohol - we did and it worked like a dream, so this was one of the few Chilean tours not to have anyone suffering from altitude sickness to any degree. The result enabled us enjoy the altiplano birds, animals and scenery to the full, yet I'm sure we were still relieved to get down to sea-level at the end of the day with no ill-effects!

We climbed higher into the mountains than yesterday afternoon and with little traffic we were able to stop more or less wherever we needed. The first was to watch a small herd of the Andean Huemul, the same species of deer we had seen in the distance yesterday morning. Those today were much closer and consisted of females and immatures. The next stop was to look along a frosty valley for Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, the largest of this uniquely South American family. Without leaving the road Enrique spotted a pair feeding out on the closely cropped grass beyond a small stream. The reason for the cropping soon became apparent for not far away grazed a small herd of Vicuña, the most elegant of the South American camelids. Soon after another group came over the skyline, pausing briefly as silhouettes before descending to feed on the valley floor.

Another grazing species was the Mountain Viscacha, a large, long-tailed, almost rabbit-like, rodent with deep fur. In some ways it resembled a heavyweight African Springhare for it too sometimes sat up on its haunches. Previously I had only seen them sheltering in the deep shade of overhanging rocks, today they were grazing out in the open and were quite confiding.

During the morning we made a number of stops on the way through to Lauca National Park seeing many more Vicuñas, sometimes in quite large groups. And of course there were the birds - Puna *this* and Andean *that*, reflecting the special nature of the area. Puna Ground-Tyrants and Puna Miner were the commonest passerines. Pairs of Andean Geese fed in most green areas, with quite large flocks of up to 20 in some places. We also saw a lone Puna Rhea, formerly Lesser Rhea, until split from the other race down in Patagonia, which become Darwin's Rhea after Charles Darwin.

When the landscape opened out it became dominated by snow-capped mountains and volcanoes. The two nearest ones are known as the Payachatas – *The Brothers*. The nearer and seemingly the larger of the two being Volcán Chungara, a perfect snow-capped cone, that stands beyond Lago Chungara. Across verdant pastures Llamas and Alpacas, the two domesticated camelids that no longer occur as wild species, grazed on the coarse grass. Coots dotted blue ponds and lakes and on close inspection we could see they were Giant Coot, the largest species - their nests were so large that they formed islands! The pink of adult Andean and Chilean Flamingos just finished off a truly Andean Landscape. At one point we took a side road for a couple of kilometres in the hope of seeing Puna Tinamou, but not today unfortunately. Instead we watched a smart male Black Siskin.

Some of the closest sightings from the bus were along the narrow track to the old village of Parinacota with amazing views of a pair of Gray-breasted Seedsnipe only feet away from us and Puna Ibis and Crested Ducks equally so. Near the village we found displaying White-fronted Ground-Tyrants and also had very good views of Andean Flicker, a woodpecker that drills its nest holes into rocks for at this altitude there are no trees! They used to nest in the stone and cob walls of the old church in the village, but apparently no longer. The church itself dates back to the first Spanish

settlement in 17th. Century. Unfortunately we didn't have time to seek out the caretaker for the key, for inside the Stations of the Cross that adorn the walls of Catholic churches show soldiers wearing the helmets of Spanish conquistadors and not the Roman centurions that attended Christ's crucifixion!

The morning was passing all too quickly, so we headed for a picnic site overlooking Lago Chungará with Volcán Chungara standing proudly behind. Away in the distance the huge cone of Sajama (21463 ft/ 6,542 m), across the border in Bolivia, was one of the world's highest volcanoes. Further east the summits of a chain of more mountains marked the border with land-locked Bolivia. Whilst Cristian and Enrique prepared an excellent picnic, we wandered down to the lake-edge to see Slate-colored (or Andean) Coot amongst the hundreds of Giant Coot and Silvery Grebes that dotted its surface. A new duck along this stretch was Puna Teal, some attending broods of small ducklings. It seemed an unlikely place, but Black-crowned Night-Herons stalked small fry in the shallows. As we made our way back for lunch Julian found our first Andean Negritos as a small herd of Vicuñas came to graze on the coarse grass.

Lunch was a spread of meats, cheese, salad and rolls, but far too much for those trying to resist the temptation of eating too much at altitude! Andean Gulls, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch and a small mouse *Phyllotis sp* turned up for titbits. Nearby Graham found a very smart male Black-hooded Sierra-Finch and Enrique turned up a pair of White-throated Earthcreepers - our fourth species of this sometimes elusive family.

Following lunch we were allowed to pass through the Chilean customs post to bird in an area nearer the Bolivian border - highlights here included Andean Avocet, Andean Duck and Puna Plover. A pair of Aplomado Falcons chased one another over grasslands and we had our best views of Mountain Caracara. Along a gravel track we searched again unsuccessfully for Puna Tinamou. It wasn't the end of the world, for we had all enjoyed a fabulous day in magnificent surroundings and at 3.15pm we began retracing our way back to Arica and sea level. The drive back was uneventful, except to mention Cristian's impeccable driving and patience when following lumbering trucks and trailers for miles down the mountains at barely 10 mph until a safe overtaking opportunity arose.

Down into the Lluta Valley again and our first Turkey Vultures, Pacific Doves and Peruvian Meadowlarks since we climbed up into the Andes three days ago. Was it only three days ago? We had seen so much. At 7.15pm we were back at the same hotel and for some, the same rooms as well. After a refreshing bath or shower one was ready for dinner, and of course a drink!

Saturday 25 November

Overcast in Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta. Hot and sunny in Santiago. Warm and sunny at Temuco.

Today was basically a travelling day, for after an early breakfast we left for the airport to catch the 7.55am flight to Santiago, with intermediate stops at Iquique and Antofagasta en route. Eventually reaching Santiago ahead of schedule just before noon. We had just over three hours before our connecting flight to Temuco, which allowed plenty of time for an excellent pizza lunch, the opportunity to buy, write and even post postcards, for there was a post office back out through security for stamps and a mail box near our departure gate. Thus time passed pleasantly and by 3.30pm we were aboard the aircraft and away.

Temuco was only about an hour's flying time to the south of Santiago, a route that took us past the Andes to the east, but the further south we flew the fewer high peaks could be seen, so therefore less snow. On arrival we were soon reunited with our luggage and were being driven to our hotel. Once the rooms were allocated we met up for a late afternoon birdwalk on the forested hill, Cerro Ñielol, behind the hotel.

Birding wasn't easy on the walk, although we were off to a flying start with Striped Woodpecker and White-throated Treerunner, but after that it was simply hard work. We heard three species of tapaculo - Black-throated Huet Huet and Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, but a Magellanic Tapaculo landed beside Enrique's MP3 player for an instant and disappeared back into the forest even faster, never to reappear! When we reached a bamboo thicket Des Mur's Wiretail was heard and it soon responded to playback, but as always with this species it was very difficult to see. A shape in the undergrowth or flitting across the road was as good as it got. Also in the area were Chilean Pigeon, American Black Vulture, White-crested Elaenia and Slender-billed Parakeet, although the last two were only heard.

We returned to the hotel, meeting in the bar before dinner.

Sunday 26 November

Fine and sunny, with overcast increasing thunderclouds over the mountains in the afternoon. 22°C

A pre-breakfast walk up the hill at back of hotel produced good views of Slender-billed Parakeet and Black-throated Huet Huet, but not of the Des Mur's Wiretail we had found last night, which was as furtive as ever.

After breakfast we left the hotel for the village of Melipeuco, seeing Black-faced Ibis, Slender-billed Parakeet and Spectacled Tyrant on the way. On reaching the village we swapped our mini-coach for a mini-bus that would carry us along the narrow and dusty tracks of Conguillio Los Paraguas National Park.

Once again we were in an area of dramatic scenery dominated in places by the snow-capped cone of Llaima and the black lava flows from the 1950 eruption that had cut through the forests of Southern Beech *Nothofagus* and Monkey Puzzle trees *Araucaria* on its slopes. Landscape photographers like Mike were in heaven. On a sheltered lake we found Pied-billed Grebe, Speckled Teal and Yellow-billed Pintail. A White-throated Hawk sailed over and Ken put us on to two distant Andean Condors. A pair of Ashy-headed Geese was a welcome find grazing on the grassy banks of a small stream.

We parked near Lago Conguillio and headed into the surrounding forests, where tall Southern Beeches and Monkey Puzzle trees towered over an under storey that included bamboo. Fallen branches and rotting tree trunks lay here and there, some showing signs of woodpecker activity, for it was a woodpecker that we were hoping to see – a very large woodpecker amongst very tall trees. Eventually, and thanks to Enrique's playback, we heard a Magellanic Woodpecker, which belongs to the same genus as the fabled Ivory-billed. Suddenly, with a distinctive dipping flight, a scarlet-headed male came towards us, followed in quick succession by a black-headed female and then two more males. The female remained elusive, but the males showed themselves boldly in the trees just above us – amazing! Other birds in the forest included Patagonian Tyrant and the ever-present White-crested Elaenia, here belonging to the migratory race, unlike those resident birds seen around Arica in the north. Thorn-tailed Rayadito was also seen, but so high in the trees that the unsatisfactory views were not worthy for inclusion on the checklist.

It was practically lunchtime by the time we returned to the bus and while Enrique and the driver sorted out the picnic some of the party went across to the shore of Lago Conguillio while they waited. Along the water's edge fed the black and chestnut Austral Negrito, whilst offshore bobbed a pair of Flying Steamerduck. The heavier-built Flightless Steamerduck is only found on saltwater and we were a long way inland.

We tried to explore further around the lake towards a distant waterfall, but the last snowdrifts of winter restricted the width of the track, so the minibus could proceed no further. Life was not without its compensations, for very conveniently soon after we disembarked the forest resonated with the hooting call of the Chucao Tapaculo. Before long Enrique was getting a response to playback and then Ken spotted the richly coloured bird singing in bamboo beyond a fallen tree trunk. We waited quietly and patiently and eventually we had absolutely Rolls-Royce views when it perched up on the tree trunk challenging the interloper. Nearby we also had quite good, but brief views of the smaller Magellanic Tapaculo.

As clouds built-up ominously we stopped to view a turbulent waterfall before we returned to Melipeuco to be reunited with Ruben and our coach. The return to Temuco was relatively uneventful and provided the opportunity to doze, so that when the only Cinereous Harrier of the tour crossed the road in front of the bus no-one else saw it. By the time we had done a U-ey and back-tracked it had disappeared into an area of rolling fields and sunken marshes.

Back at the hotel the checklist after dinner was delayed briefly as Ken waded through his second dessert – well, he did spot two Andean Condors earlier in the day, didn't he!

Tuesday 27 November

Overcast with drizzle for a while during the morning, becoming mainly sunny later. 26°C.

Following breakfast we head north to Angol and then up into the wooded hills and mountains of Nehuelbuta National Park. On the way we tried for Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, which responded vocally to playback. However, it remained within the cover of roadside bushes most of the time, only crossing an open gap a couple of times when we could see that it was another small, dark tapaculo, but as for its ochre flanks - not a chance!

The verges were full of flowers, but many were introduced from Europe, perhaps initially in animal fodder in the early days of European settlement. Species such as foxglove, mullein, flax, chicory, wild rose and viper's bugloss were familiar, but some like a lily with scarlet trumpets, the yellow-flowered violas, a small yellow stonecrop with fine leaves and a tall yellow *Calceolaria* were most likely to have been native.

Birding was not easy today in the mixed woodland that contained both Monkey Puzzle and Southern Beech. At the park's entrance we soon found Thorn-tailed Rayadito and White-throated Treerunner. A Magellanic Woodpecker called in the distance and several times during the day we saw signs of their excavations around the bases of trees. Enrique used playback, especially that of Austral Pygmy Owl with varying degrees of success. Patagonian Sierra-Finch was one of the highlights at lunch, Southern Caracara being another.

We spent much of the afternoon walking the dusty tracks, with Enrique 'trawling' with the owl call. At last we saw a stationary Green-backed Fire-crown, a hummingbird that feeds on the orange pin-cushion-like flowers of a straggly bush we saw from time to time. The most frequent species to respond to playback were White-crested Elaenia and Fire-eyed Diucon.

Throughout our time in the park we had been seeing a metallic blue parasitic wasp, but it wasn't until the afternoon walk that we saw the host - tarantulas. The first was crossing the road, later others were found along the verges, but never did we see any interaction between wasp and host. Towards the end of the walks we saw Red-backed Hawks, another Southern Caracara and a flight of Slender-billed Parakeets going to roost.

In late afternoon we returned back down to Angol, where we checked into our overnight hotel just after 7pm and went into dinner an hour later.

Tuesday 28 November

Overcast during the morning, improving to give a sunny crossing to Chiloé and a fine evening. 16°C.

On leaving the hotel after breakfast we headed east towards the motorway where we turned south towards Puerto Montt. On the way a number of the birds characteristic of this part of rural Chile were noted, such as Black-faced Ibis, White-tailed Kite, Chimango Caracara, Southern Lapwing, Chilean Mockingbird, Common Diuca Finch, Black-chinned Siskin and Long-tailed Meadowlark. Elevenses were actually at 11am, or pretty close, when we stopped at a service station about halfway to Puerto Montt. In eucalyptus nearby Black-faced Ibis were displaying and Dave found some parakeets that turned out to be Slender-billed in spite of there being no monkey puzzle trees in the area. Graham went to film some Southern Lapwing behind the buildings and disturbed a female from a nest, causing her to give a good display of injury feigning to his video camera.

By lunchtime we reached the bustling town of Osorno and had our meal in a restaurant known to Enrique, where both the service and food were excellent. Just before 2.30pm we were back on the bus and wending our way out of town towards the ferry port of Pargua, where we found ourselves at the tail end of a long line of waiting trucks. Ruben knew a trick or two and in fact we managed to fill the last space on the roll-on roll-off ferry that was waiting to make the crossing to Chiloé Island.

It was breezy up on deck for those birding, but we saw a number of Magellanic Penguins, Imperial Shags and South American Terns to add to the list as well as passing Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, Peruvian Pelicans and a few Franklin's Gull. Rosie watching from inside the bus saw much the same plus Magellanic Diving-Petrel and Silvery Grebe. Once ashore we took a scenic coastal route to Ancud, passing large numbers of Black-necked Swans feeding in the shallows, more Silvery Grebes and both Flying and Flightless Steamerducks. Shorebirds included American Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, our first Hudsonian Godwits, Baird's Sandpipers and perhaps a thousand Sanderlings. Good views of some 50+ Black Skimmers certainly made up for the species poor showing at Con Con earlier on the tour. On crossing a river we stopped to admire Chiloé Wigeon on Chiloé Island and to observe a Gray-flanked Cinclodes both feeding and bathing on the water's edge.

At 7.15pm we reached our hotel, going to dinner an hour later.

Wednesday, 29 November

A dull start improving in early afternoon to give a fine and clear evening. 20°C.

Following breakfast we loaded the bus and drove to an area of marsh on the outskirts of Ancud. With the help of playback we enjoyed excellent views of a Sedge Wren singing from the top of a gorse bush, soon to be followed by a Correndera Pipit on an adjacent fence post. On a brackish lagoon were Red Shoveler and White-tufted Grebe. In the surrounding grass Mike found a South American Snipe that froze until, on realising it had been seen, scurried for cover. Soon after two or three others were seen feeding out in the open on mudflats.

During the morning we crossed to the more exposed western side of the island, stopping to watch wildfowl. Most species had broods of ducklings, and shorebirds included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs roosted side by side. Ringed Kingfisher was also seen. The west coast mixed sandy beaches with rocky headlands and islets. Kelp Gulls were common especially where fishing activities provided easy pickings. At one beach a flight of Kelp Gulls included two smaller Dolphin Gulls, quite a rarity this far north.

By late morning we reached a small bay, Bahia where good numbers of Magellanic Penguins were breeding on two offshore islets, with a few Humboldt Penguins thrown in for good measure. Through the scope we had good views of smart breeding Red-legged Cormorant and eventually a lone Rock Cormorant was found. On seaweed covered rock a few yards offshore sat a drake Flightless Steamerduck showing well his stubby little wings. Kelp Gulls also bred on the islets with the penguins and cormorants, although many more fed from the skeletal remains of crabs and fish cast onto the beach by the local fishermen.

We had lunch in a fish restaurant overlooking the beach before returning to the other side of Chiloé, where the vast shallow bay offered perfect feeding conditions for a thousand or more Hudsonian Godwits, and although they were very distant, even more Sanderlings. There were small numbers of Red Knot with the godwits and Baird's Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones associated with those Sanderlings that fed closer to us. When we first arrived a Snowy-crowned Tern was fishing close in, but it moved away around the bay as the tide receded. Black Skimmers from the large flock to our right sometimes patrolled offshore, scything the placid waters for fish. There was quite a bit of human activity too, as locals harvested a particular species of seaweed for export to Japan. Certainly when one saw it actually drying on the road we drove along, it didn't look particularly appetising! Along the top of the beach fed a Dark-bellied Cinclodes, the second of the day.

All too soon it was time to head for the ferry, knowing we couldn't expect yesterday's good fortune in turning up and getting on, but we did! The crossing was smoother than previously with a few more Sooty Shearwaters than before and a few Common Terns with the South American. The highlight of the crossing was the two Chilean Dolphins seen just before we docked.

What lay ahead was something of a surprise, for our hotel was some 60 kilometres away on the shore of Lago Languihué, facing the beautiful snow-capped cone of Volcán Osorno. A fantastic setting for what was one of the most luxurious hotels I've stayed in on any tour. No shortcuts in the fixtures and fittings, but surprisingly no TV! Second thoughts it was probably better not to know about the cricket!

Thursday 30 November

Mainly overcast with low cloud before we reached a sunny Santiago.

Ansel Adams, the American photographer once observed that "*Opportunity favoured the prepared mind*". Those who didn't photograph the volcano last night were disappointed to find it shrouded in clouds this morning.

A pre-breakfast birdwalk produced Slender-billed Parakeets and a farewell from our old friend, the Rufous-collared Sparrow. With the baggage loaded for the last time after breakfast we drove up to view the spectacular waterfalls on the Rio Petrehué. It was a perfect setting for a Torrent Duck, but we had to settle for Dark-bellied Cinclodes instead. Luckily we had the place to ourselves, only meeting two or three bus loads of Brazilian tourists as we were on our way back.

The Torrent Duck was sitting on a rock further upstream; a lone male for there seemed not to be any sign of his female. Before we reached Lago Todos Los Santos, Dave and Graham saw the Southern Caracara that the rest of us saw on the way back. From the upper car park there would have been superb views of the volcano had the clouds lifted, but as the sun broke through we had just tantalising views of its snowy slopes before the clouds closed in again and we had to leave.

The journey back to Puerto Montt seemed much shorter than coming over yesterday evening, so that by 11.30am we had checked in and were settling down to an early lunch with Enrique. He should have been catching a flight to his home in Puente Arenas that left an hour or so after ours, but LAN moved him on to an earlier flight and so he actually left first.

Our flight to Santiago was a mere formality, likewise the check-in for our international flight to Madrid, which was a code-shared flight between Iberia and LAN - tonight we would be flying with LAN. Just before scheduled departure time our Airbus A340 rolled back from the gate and we were on our way, circling the central valley and the coastal ranges to gain height in order to cross over the Andes glowing pink with the setting sun.

Friday 01 December

After a smooth flight we landed in Madrid just after 1.30pm and for those London-bound there was just over two hours to pass through immigration, go up and down a number of escalators, hop on a train and get to the gate. Graham, Lynne and Ken had a longer wait before their direct flight to Manchester. The London flight left about half an hour late, arriving at Heathrow soon after 4.30pm. As we waited at the luggage carousel we said our farewells and left on the final legs of our journeys home. I wondered if those heading home from Manchester made it before I did for I eventually reached home in the care of the AA just before midnight, but that's another story!

Acknowledgments

We had a superb tour to a fascinating country and admirably led and guided by Enrique Couvé – he was fantastico! He was a mine of information, not only about the birds, but about many aspects of his country as well.

We had three excellent bus drivers and a superb skipper on the pelagic trip, which was the best I have ever experienced.

Thanks to you all for coming and being such good company. The group jelled almost immediately and remained so through out the tour, so thank you for coming, for your company and good humour. I hope all the pictures and video come out and that it won't be too long before we meet up again on another Ornitholidays' holiday to another exotic part of the world. There are plenty to choose from in the brochure and I look forward to travelling with you again.

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January 2007

Itinerary and weather

- 15 November Depart London and Manchester for Madrid
- 16 November Depart Madrid for Santiago arriving in morning. Transfer to Quintero via Cartegane, lunch and birding, and Lagoon Perala.
Fine and sunny. 20°C
- 17 November Pelagic during morning. Afternoon birding at Ventanas and Cachagua.
Mainly overcast in morning, sunny periods in afternoon. 18°C
- 18 November Transfer to Santiago, birding at Aconcagua River, Con Con, La Campana, near Til Til and Lampe en route.
Hot and sunny. 27°C
- 19 November Day excursion to El Yeso.
Hot and cloudless. 28°C
- 20 November Morning visit to Farellones. Afternoon flight to Arica via Iquique.
Fine and sunny with some high cirrus clouds over the mountains. 27°C
- 21 November Morning birding around mouth of Lluta River, further up valley before lunch. Afternoon to Chaca Valley.
Hot and sunny with cooling breeze on coast. 30°C
- 22 November Morning birding in Azapa Valley and after early lunch, transfer inland to Putre with acclimatisation stops en route.
Fine and sunny once again 27°C
- 23 November Birding around Putre during the day.
Hot and sunny. 26°C
- 24 November Morning and early afternoon visit to the altiplano around Parinacota and nearer the Bolivian border. Fine and sunny with increasing cloud to the east in early afternoon. Cool up on altiplano 20°C, warmer at Arica.
- 25 November Day flights to Temuco via Santiago. Late afternoon walk on Cerro Ñielol.
- 26 November Day excursion to Conguillio Los Paraguas National Park.
Fine and sunny, with overcast increasing thunderclouds over the mountains in the afternoon. 22°C
- 27 November Day excursion to Nehuelbuta National Park.
Overcast with drizzle for a while during the morning, becoming mainly sunny later. 26°C.
- 28 November Transfer to Chiloé Island by road and ferry. Lunch at Osorno en route. Birding along coast of Chiloé on way to hotel at Ancud. 16°C
- 29 November Birding in northern part of Chiloé Island with lunch at Bahía Puñihuil on west coast. Return to mainland by ferry in late afternoon and transfer to hotel on shore of Lago Languihué.
A dull start improving in early afternoon to give a fine and clear evening. 20°C.
- 30 November After breakfast visit to Rio Petrehué area before transfer to Puerto Montt airport for afternoon flight to Santiago and overnight flight to Madrid.
Overcast in south, sunny in Santiago.
- 01 December Early afternoon arrival in Madrid to connect with onward flights to London and Manchester

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded

1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days

Location

C = Central Chile from coast to coastal ranges
 S = Santiago and Andes
 A = Arica and valleys
 P = Putre and the altiplano around Parinacota
 T = Forests and lakes around Temuco, Angol and Lago Languihué.
 I = Chiloé Island

Abundance Scale

1 = <5 seen
 2 = 5-9 seen
 3 = 10-99 seen
 4 = 100-999 seen
 5 = 1,000-9,999
 6 = 10,000-999,999

SPECIES	No.of days recorded	Locations		Abundance Scale		SCIENTIFIC NAME		
Puna Rhea	1		P	1		<i>Rhea (pennata) tarapacensis</i>		
Ornate Tinamou	1		P	1		<i>Nothoprocta ornata</i>		
Chilean Tinamou	1	C		1		<i>Nothoprocta perdicaria</i>		
Humboldt Penguin	2	C		I	4	<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>		
Magellanic Penguin	2			I	4	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>		
Pied-billed Grebe	2			T	I	1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	
White-tufted Grebe	4	C	S	P	I	2	<i>Rollandia rolland</i>	
Great Grebe	1	C				1	<i>Podiceps major</i>	
Silvery Grebe	4	C		P	I	5	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>	
Northern Royal Albatross	1	C				2	<i>Diomedea (epomophora) sanfordi</i>	
Black-browed Albatross	1	C				3	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	
Buller's Albatross	1	C				1	<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	
Salvin's Albatross	1	C				3	<i>Thalassarche (cauta) salvini</i>	
Antarctic (Southern) Giant Petrel	1	C				3	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	
Hall's (Northern) Giant Petrel	1	C				1	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	
Southern Fulmar	1	C				1	<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>	
Cape Petrel	1	C				2	<i>Daption capense</i>	
Defilippe's Petrel	1	C				3	<i>Pterodroma defilippiana</i>	
Stejneger's Petrel	1	C				1	<i>Pterodroma longirostris</i>	
White-chinned Petrel	1	C				3	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	
Westland Petrel	1	C				2	<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	
Pink-footed Shearwater	3	C			I	4	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	
Sooty Shearwater	3	C			I	5	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	2	C	A			3	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	
Peruvian Diving-Petrel	1	C				2	<i>Pelecanoides garnotii</i>	
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	1				I	2	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>	
Peruvian Pelican	7	C	A		I	4	<i>Pelecanus thagus</i>	
Peruvian Booby	4	C	A			5	<i>Sula variegata</i>	
Neotropic Cormorant	10	C	A	P	T	I	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Rock Shag	1					I	1	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>
Guanay Cormorant	1	C					3	<i>Phalacrocorax bougainvillii</i>
Imperial Shag	2					I	3	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>
Red-legged Cormorant	2	C				I	3	<i>Phalacrocorax gaimardi</i>
Great Egret	7	C	S	A	T	I	2	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Little Blue Heron	1			A			1	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Snowy Egret	5	C		A		I	2	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Cattle Egret	4	C			T		3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	7	C		A	P	T	3	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Stripe-backed Bittern	1		S				1	<i>Ixobrychus involucris</i>
Black-faced Ibis	4				T	I	3	<i>Theristicus melanopis</i>
Puna Ibis	1				P		4	<i>Plegadis ridgwayi</i>
Chilean Flamingo	1				P		4	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>
Andean Flamingo	1				P		3	<i>Phoenicopterus andinus</i>
Black-necked Swan	3	C				I	4	<i>Cygnus melanocorypha</i>
Coscoroba Swan	1	C					1	<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>
Andean Goose	1				P		4	<i>Chloephaga melanoptera</i>
Ashy-headed Goose	1				T		1	<i>Chloephaga poliocephala</i>
Kelp Goose	1					I	2	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>

Flightless Steamerduck	2					I	2	<i>Tachyeres pteneres</i>
Flying Steamerduck	2					T I	2	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>
Torrent Duck	2	C				T	1	<i>Merganetta armata</i>
Chiloe Wigeon	5	C				I	3	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>
Speckled Teal	6	C	S		P	T I	3	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
Crested Duck	2		S		P		3	<i>Anas specularioides</i>
Yellow-billed Pintail	7	C	S		P	T I	3	<i>Anas georgica</i>
White-cheeked Pintail	1	C					1	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
Puna Teal	1				P		4	<i>Anas puna</i>
Cinnamon Teal	2	C	S				1	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Red Shoveler	4	C	S			I	3	<i>Anas platalea</i>
Black-headed Duck	2	C					2	<i>Heteronetta atricapilla</i>
Andean Duck	1				P		2	<i>Oxyura ferruginea</i>
Lake Duck	2	C					3	<i>Oxyura vittata</i>
Black Vulture	7	C				T I	3	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	9	C		A		I	4	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Andean Condor	4	C	S			T	1	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>
White-tailed Kite	2	C				T	1	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
Harris' Hawk	1		S				1	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	1		S				1	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>
White-throated Hawk	1					T	1	<i>Buteo albigula</i>
Red-backed Hawk	5	C	S			T	3	<i>Buteo polyosoma</i>
Puna Hawk	2				P		1	<i>Buteo poecilochrous</i>
Mountain Caracara	2		S		P		1	<i>Phalcoboenus megalopterus</i>
Southern Crested Caracara	2					T	1	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
Chimango Caracara	10	C	S			T I	4	<i>Milvago chimango</i>
American Kestrel	11	C		A		T	3	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Aplomado Falcon	2				P		1	<i>Falco femoralis</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	C					1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
California Quail (I)	4		S			T	3	<i>Callipepla californica</i>
Plumbeous Rail	2	C				I	1	<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>
Common Moorhen	1			A			1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Spot-flanked Gallinule	2	C					1	<i>Gallinula melanops</i>
White-winged Coot	4	C			P	I	3	<i>Fulica leucoptera</i>
Slate-colored Coot	2			A	P		3	<i>Fulica ardesiaca</i>
Red-gartered Coot	4	C	S			I	3	<i>Fulica armillata</i>
Red-fronted Coot	3	C					2	<i>Fulica rufifrons</i>
Giant Coot	1				P		4	<i>Fulica gigantea</i>
Blackish Oystercatcher	4	C		A		I	2	<i>Haematopus ater</i>
American Oystercatcher	7	C		A		I	3	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>
White-backed Stilt	4	C	S			T	3	<i>Himantopus melanurus</i>
Andean Avocet	1				P		2	<i>Recurvirostra andina</i>
Peruvian Thick-knee	2			A			2	<i>Burhinus superciliaris</i>
Southern Lapwing	11	C	S			T I	4	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Andean Lapwing	1				P		1	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>
Black-bellied Plover	1			A			2	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Semipalmated Plover	2			A			3	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Killdeer	2			A			1	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Snowy Plover	2	C		A			2	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Puna Plover	1				P		1	<i>Charadrius alticola</i>
Diademed Sandpiper-Plover	1		S				1	<i>Phegornis mitchellii</i>
South American Snipe	1		S			I	1	<i>Gallinago paraguaiae</i>
Hudsonian Godwit	2					I	5	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>
(Hudsonian) Whimbrel	8	C		A		I	4	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	6	C		A		I	3	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	C				I	1	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	1			A			1	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Willet	3	C		A			4	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	4	C		A		I	3	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Surfbird	3	C		A			3	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>
Red Knot	1					I	3	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Sanderling	5	C		A		I	5	<i>Calidris alba</i>

Least Sandpiper	2			A				1	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2			A				1	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	
Western Sandpiper	1			A				1	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	
Baird's Sandpiper	6		S	A	P		I	3	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	
Red (Grey) Phalarope	2	C	S					3	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	
Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe	1					P		1	<i>Attagis gayi</i>	
Gray-breasted Seedsnipe	2		S			P		2	<i>Thinocorus orbignyianus</i>	
Chilean Skua	1	C						1	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	
Brown Skua	1	C						1	<i>Stercorarius antarctica lonnbergi</i>	
Pomarine Jaeger	1			A				1	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	
Band-tailed Gull	3			A				3	<i>Larus belcheri</i>	
Dolphin Gull	1						I	1	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	
Kelp Gull	5	C	S				I	4	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	
Brown-hooded Gull	7	C				T	I	4	<i>Larus maculipennis</i>	
Gray Gull	5	C		A				4	<i>Larus modestus</i>	
Gray-hooded Gull	1			A				1	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	
Andean Gull	2		S		P			3	<i>Larus serranus</i>	
Franklin's Gull	7	C		A				4	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	
Sabine's Gull	1	C						1	<i>Xema sabini</i>	
Elegant Tern	6	C		A				5	<i>Sterna elegans</i>	
Sandwich Tern	1			A				1	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	
South American Tern	2						I	4	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	
Common Tern	4	C		A			I	4	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
Snowy-crowned Tern	1						I	1	<i>Sterna trudeaui</i>	
Inca Tern	2	C		A				4	<i>Larosterna inca</i>	
Black Skimmer	3	C					I	3	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	
Rock Dove (introduced)	12	C	S	A		T	I	4	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Chilean Pigeon	4	C					T	3	<i>Columba araucana</i>	
Spot-winged Pigeon	2					P		3	<i>Columba maculosa albipennis</i>	
Eared Dove	12	C		A	P	T		3	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	
Pacific Dove	3			A				3	<i>Zenaida meloda</i>	
Picui Ground-Dove	2	C						3	<i>Columbina picui</i>	
Croaking Ground-Dove	2			A				1	<i>Columbina cruziana</i>	
Bare-faced Ground-Dove	1					P		3	<i>Metriopelia ceciliae</i>	
Black-winged Ground-Dove	3		S			P		3	<i>Metriopelia melanoptera</i>	
Slender-billed Parakeet (E)	4	1h					T	I	3	<i>Enicognathus leptorhynchus</i>
Monk Parakeet	1	C						1	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	
Groove-billed Ani	1			A				1	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	
Burrowing Owl	2	C		A				1	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	
Short-eared Owl	1	C						1	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
Chimney Swift	1			A				1	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	
Andean Swift	1			A				3	<i>Aeronautes andecolus</i>	
Sparkling Violet-ear	1					P		1	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>	
Andean Hillstar	2					P		3	<i>Oreotrochilus estella</i>	
Giant Hummingbird	2	C						1	<i>Patagona gigas</i>	
Green-backed Firecrown	2						T	I	2	<i>Sephanoides sephaniodes</i>
Oasis Hummingbird	1			A				2	<i>Rhodopsis vesper</i>	
Peruvian Sheartail	1			A				1	<i>Thaumastura cora</i>	
Chilean Woodstar	1			A				1	<i>Eulidia yarrellii</i>	
Ringed Kingfisher	2						T	I	1	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>
Striped Woodpecker	1						T		1	<i>Picoides lignarius</i>
Chilean Flicker	4	C					T	I	1	<i>Colaptes pitius</i>
Andean Flicker	1					P		2	<i>Colaptes rupicola</i>	
Magellanic Woodpecker	1	1h					T		1	<i>Campephilus magellanicus</i>
Puna Miner	1					P		3	<i>Geositta punensis</i>	
Rufous-banded Miner	2		S					1	<i>Geositta rufipennis</i>	
Scale-throated Earthcreeper	1		S					1	<i>Upucerthia dumetaria</i>	
Plain-breasted Earthcreeper	1					P		5	<i>Upucerthia jelskii</i>	
White-throated Earthcreeper	1					P		1	<i>Upucerthia albigula</i>	
Straight-billed Earthcreeper	1					P		1	<i>Upucerthia ruficauda</i>	
Crag Chilia (E)	1	C						2	<i>Chilia melanura</i>	
Chilean Seaside Cinclodes (E)	2	C						1	<i>Cinclodes nigrofumosus</i>	

Dark-bellied Cinclodes	1					T	I	2	<i>Cinclodes patagonicus</i>	
Gray-flanked Cinclodes	2						I	1	<i>Cinclodes oustaleti</i>	
Bar-winged Cinclodes	5		S		P	T		3	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>	
White-winged Cinclodes	1				P			1	<i>Cinclodes atacamensis</i>	
Des Murs' Wiretail	2					T		1	<i>Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii</i>	
Thorn-tailed Rayadito	1	2h				T		3	<i>Aphrastura spinicauda</i>	
Streaked Tit-Spinetail	1				P			1	<i>Leptasthenura striata</i>	
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail	3		C		A		I	1	<i>Leptasthenura aegithaloides</i>	
Wren-like Rushbird	3		C	S				1	<i>Phleocryptes melanops</i>	
Dark-winged Canastero	2				P			2	<i>Asthenes arequipae</i>	
Sharp-billed (Lesser) Canastero	1			S				1	<i>Asthenes pyrrholeuca</i>	
Dusky-tailed Canastero (E)	1		C					1	<i>Asthenes humicola</i>	
Cordilleran Canastero	3				P			2	<i>Asthenes modesta</i>	
Canyon Canastero	1				P			1	<i>Asthenes pudibunda</i>	
White-throated Treerunner	3					T		1	<i>Pygarrhichas albogularis</i>	
Black-throated Huet-huet	1	1h				T		1	<i>Pteroptochos tarnii</i>	
Moustached Turca (E)	2		C	S				1	<i>Pteroptochos megapodius</i>	
White-throated Tapaculo (E)	-	1h	C					h	<i>Scelorchilus albicollis</i>	
Chucazo Tapaculo	1	2h				T		1	<i>Scelorchilus rubecula</i>	
Ochre-flanked Tapaculo	1	1h				T		1	<i>Eugralla paradoxa</i>	
Magellanic Tapaculo	2					T		1	<i>Scytalopus magellanicus</i>	
Dusky Tapaculo (E)	1		C					1	<i>Scytalopus fuscus</i>	
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter	3		C				I	3	<i>Phytotoma rara</i>	
White-crested Elaenia	8		C			T	I	3	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>	
Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant	2				P			2	<i>Anairetes flavirostris</i>	
Tufted Tit-Tyrant	1		C					1	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>	
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant	2		C	S				1	<i>Tachuris rubrigastra</i>	
Vermilion Flycatcher	2				A			2	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	
Patagonian Tyrant	1	1h				T		1	<i>Colorhamphus parvirostris</i>	
Fire-eyed Diucon	4		C	S		T		3	<i>Xolmis pyrope</i>	
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	2				P			1	<i>Agriornis montana</i>	
Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant	3				P	T		1	<i>Muscisaxicola rufivertex</i>	
Puna Ground-Tyrant	2				P			3	<i>Muscisaxicola juninensis</i>	
White-browed Ground-Tyrant	2			S				3	<i>Muscisaxicola albilora</i>	
White-fronted Ground-Tyrant	1				P			2	<i>Muscisaxicola albifrons</i>	
Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant	2			S				1	<i>Muscisaxicola frontalis</i>	
Andean Negrito	1				P			3	<i>Lessonia oreas</i>	
Austral Negrito	6		C			T	I	3	<i>Lessonia rufa</i>	
Spectacled Tyrant	3		C			T	I	3	<i>Hymenops perspicillatus</i>	
Chilean Swallow	9		C			T	I	3	<i>Tachycineta meyeri</i>	
Blue-and-white Swallow	14		C		A	P	T	I	3	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
Andean Swallow	2				P			3	<i>Stelgidopteryx andecola</i>	
Barn Swallow	3				A		I	3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
American Cliff Swallow	1				A			1	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	
Correndera Pipit	1						I	1	<i>Anthus correndera</i>	
Southern House Wren	7		C	S	A	T	I	2	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	
Sedge Wren	1						I	2	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	
Chilean Mockingbird (E)	7		C			T		3	<i>Mimus thenca</i>	
Chiguanco Thrush	1				P			3	<i>Turdus chiguanco</i>	
Austral Thrush	11		C			T	I	3	<i>Turdus falcklandii</i>	
House Sparrow (I)	13		C	S	A	P	T	I	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Hooded Siskin	2				P			3	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>	
Black-chinned Siskin	5		C			T	I	3	<i>Carduelis barbata</i>	
Black Siskin	1				P			1	<i>Carduelis atrata</i>	
Yellow-rumped Siskin	1			S				3	<i>Carduelis uropygialis</i>	
Cinereous Conebill	2				A			2	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>	
Tamarugo Conebill	1				A			1	<i>Conirostrum tamarugense</i>	
Blue-and-yellow Tanager	1				P			2	<i>Thraupis bonariensis</i>	
Golden-billed Saltator	1				P			1	<i>Saltator aurantirostris</i>	
Black-hooded Sierra-Finch	3				P			2	<i>Phrygilus atriceps</i>	
Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch	3		C	S				3	<i>Phrygilus gayi</i>	
Patagonian Sierra-Finch	1					T	I	1	<i>Phrygilus patagonicus</i>	
Mourning Sierra-Finch	4				P			4	<i>Phrygilus fruticeti</i>	

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch	2		S		P			2	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>
White-throated Sierra-Finch	1				P			1	<i>Phrygilus erythronotus</i>
Band-tailed Sierra-Finch	3	C						2	<i>Phrygilus alaudinus</i>
Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch	2				P			2	<i>Phrygilus plebejus</i>
White-winged Diuca-Finch	1				P			1	<i>Diuca speculifera</i>
Common Diuca-Finch	7	C	S			T	I	3	<i>Diuca diuca</i>
Slender-billed Finch	2			A				2	<i>Xenospingus concolor</i>
Chestnut-throated Seedeater	2			A				1	<i>Sporophila telasco</i>
Band-tailed Seedeater	1				P			3	<i>Catamenia analis</i>
Black-throated Flowerpiercer	1				P			3	<i>Diglossa brunneiventris</i>
Grassland Yellow-Finch	4	C				T	I	3	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>
Saffron Finch	1					T		1	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch	1				P			1	<i>Sicalis uropygialis</i>
Greater Yellow-Finch	2		S					3	<i>Sicalis auriventris</i>
Greenish Yellow-Finch	2				P			2	<i>Sicalis olivascens</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	14	C	S	A	P	T	I	1	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Yellow-winged Blackbird	4	C				T		3	<i>Agelaius thilius</i>
Peruvian Meadowlark	3			A				2	<i>Sturnella bellicosa</i>
Long-tailed Meadowlark	9	C	S			T	I	3	<i>Sturnella loyca</i>
Shiny Cowbird	11	C				T	I	2	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Austral Blackbird	7	C	S	A		T	I	3	<i>Curaeus curaeus</i>
MAMMALS									
Old World Rabbit	4	C				T		√	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Mountain Viscacha	1			A				3	<i>Lagidium viscacia</i>
Nutria	2	C						√	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>
Chilean Dolphin	1						I	1	<i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i>
Orca	1	C						3	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
South American Otter	1	C						1	<i>Lutra felina</i>
Southern Sea Lion	4	C		A			I	√	<i>Otaria byronia</i>
Guanaco	2				P			3	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>
Llama	1				P			√	<i>Lama glama</i>
Alpaca	1				P			√	<i>Lama pacos</i>
Vicuña	1				P			4	<i>Vicugna vicugna</i>
Peruvian Huemul	2				P			2	<i>Hippocamelus antisensis</i>

Also several small rodents, tarantulas, various lizards, butterflies and moths were recorded.

This list represents those birds and animals as seen by party members of this tour.



Salvin's Albatross during pelagic off Quintero



Giant Coot



Magellanic Woodpecker - male



Sedge (Grass) Wren

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Silvery Grebes



Many-colored Rush-Tyrant



Andean Condor



Peruvian Thick-knee



Gray-breasted Seedsnipe



Chuca Tapaculo

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