

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS

NORTHERN ARGENTINA

22nd October - 8th November 2011

TOUR REPORT

LEADERS: Chris Doughty and Hector Slongo.

On this exciting and very interesting tour to Northern Argentina, we birding in a wide variety of habitats, which included Andean cloudforest, subtropical rainforest, desert scrub, arid chaco thorn woodland, puna steppe and a few wetlands. The main aim of the tour was to find all the Argentine endemics and a good number of other more range-restricted species. The varied itinerary produced many highlights, which included no less than five species of tinamous, the very uncommon Fasciated Tiger-Heron, a family party of spectacular Torrent Ducks, a beautiful adult King Vulture, spectacular Swallow-tailed Kites, a couple of Broad-winged Hawks, which are very scarce visitors to Argentina, the very uncommon Spot-winged Falconet, the range restricted Red-faced Guan, the decidedly uncommon Black-legged Seriema, the seldom seen Ash-coloured Cuckoo, the range restricted Hoy's Screech-Owl, the beautiful Slender-tailed Woodstar, the stunning Amazonian Motmot, the range restricted Spot-backed Puffbird, the seldom seen Black-bodied Woodpecker, the almost unknown Olrog's Cinclodes, the equally little known Steinbach's Canastero, the uncommon Black-capped Antwren, the incredibly skulking White-throated Antpitta, the unobtrusive Olive-crowned Crescentchest, both Crested and Sandy Gallitos, both White-browed and Zimmer's Tapaculos, the rare Dinellis Doradito, the extremely range restricted Salinas Monjita, the uncommon White-naped Xenopsaris, the equally uncommon Tucuman Mountain-Finch and the rarely observed Black-crested Finch, were just some of the many highlights of the tour.

Following a long and tiring flight from Australia, we arrived at Buenos Aires in the late morning, the capital city of Argentina, in the province of Buenos Aires. Following lunch we spent a very productive afternoon in the Costanera Sur Ecological Reserve in down-town Buenos Aires. It was hard to believe that we were birding along the edge of a burgeoning city of 13 million people. Just like Australia, Argentina has experienced drought conditions during the last 4 years and unfortunately the reserve was completely devoid of water. Even so, the birding was very good. The two main target birds of the area, Freckle-breasted Thornbird and the Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch, were both seen very well. We also saw a great many other birds which included Olivaceous Cormorant, Great Egret, Maguari Stork, Southern Caracara, Kelp and Brown-hooded Gulls, Feral and Picazuro Pigeons, Eared Dove, Black-hooded and Monk Parakeets, Guira Cuckoo, Glittering-bellied Emerald, Chequered and Green-barred Woodpeckers, Rufous Hornero, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, White-crested Tyrannulet, Small-billed Elaenia, Yellow-browed Tyrant, Great Kiskadee, Brown-chested Martin, White-rumped Swallow, Southern House Wren, Rufous-bellied and Creamy-bellied Thrushes, Chalk-browed Mockingbird, Masked Gnatcatcher, Southern Yellowthroat, Sayaca Tanager, Golden-billed Saltator, Saffron Finch, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Shiny and Bay-winged Cowbirds, Variable Oriole, Orange-backed Troupial, Hooded Siskin, House

Sparrow, Common Starling and best of all, super close looks at the very uncommon and seldom-seen, Ash-colored Cuckoo.

The following morning we left the sprawling capital of Buenos Aires and flew to Cordoba, the capital city of Cordoba province, situated in the very centre of Argentina. From Cordoba we drove to the town of Capilla del Monte, where we stayed at a superb resort, which was surrounded by undisturbed sierran chaco, an upland version of the dry chaco. We enjoyed two full days exploring this wonderful habitat, where almost every plant and tree is covered in long, lethal looking thorns. The birding was very rewarding and new birds were plentiful. We scoped Spotted Tinamou, saw several Great Grebes, Whistling Heron, Snowy Egret, Yellow-billed Teal, Black and Turkey Vultures, Chimango Caracara, American Kestrel, Aplomado Falcon, Southern Lapwing, Spot-winged Pigeon, Picui Ground-Dove, White tipped Dove, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Blue-tufted Starthroat, Ringed Kingfisher, Spot-backed Puffbird, White-barred Piculet, Field Flicker, Chaco Earthcreeper, Brown Cacholote, Sooty-fronted and Stripe-crowned Spinetails, Short-billed Canastero, Lark-like Brushrunner, Firewood-gatherer, Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, Variable Antshrike, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Greater Wagtail-Tyrant, White-bellied Tyrannulet, Bran-colored and Cliff Flycatchers, White and Black-crowned Monjitas, Cattle Tyrant, Tropical Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Southern Martin, Tawny-headed Swallow, Chiguanco Thrush, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Black-capped Warbling-Finch, Stripe-capped Sparrow, Many-colored Chaco-Finch and Long-tailed Meadowlark. We also saw our first mammals today, the Common Cavy and the introduced Brown Hare.

The following morning we birded in the sierran chaco surrounding the resort, which quickly produced a whole new set of birds which included the majestic Andean Condor, a rather obliging Striped Cuckoo, we scoped a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, were thrilled to find the very scarce Black-bodied Woodpecker, played hide-and-see with a Pale-breasted Spinetail, a Tufted Tit-Spinetail popped into view, the normally skulking Olive-crowned Crescentchest perched out in the open for all to see and a Crested Gallito was observed very well as it scurried along a track through the chaco. A Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant showed well, a stunning male Vermilion Flycatcher, was greatly admired, as were a couple of Crowned Slaty Flycatchers, a beautiful White-naped Xenopsaris was a surprise find, we enjoyed watching the very attractive White-tipped Plantcutter, Blue-and-yellow Tanagers were plentiful, a male Ultramarine Grosbeak took our breath away, a pair of Band-tailed Seedeaters was much appreciated and we also found a few Screaming Cowbirds.

Following a very fine lunch at a restaurant in Villa Carlos Paz, we stopped to go birding at the very large Lago San Roque, which proved very rewarding, as the lake was literally teeming with birds. New birds came thick and fast and included a few Pied-billed Grebes, several White-necked Herons, good numbers of White-faced Ibis, large flocks of White-faced Whistling-Ducks, smaller flocks of White-cheeked Pintails, several stunning Cinnamon Teal, a few uncommon Brazilian Ducks, huge numbers of White-winged Coots, a couple of dozen White-backed Stilts, a single Greater Yellowlegs, a small flock of Baird's Sandpipers and a single Stilt Sandpiper, half a dozen or so Wilson's Phalaropes and a small number of Blue-and-white Swallows were observed flying overhead.

The high Andes beckoned today and we drove high into the breathtaking Andes mountains, known as the Sierras Grandis, where we found clear blue skies and crisp mountain air. This morning we were to look for two species of very specialised, high altitude Argentine endemics. We soon located them feeding alongside a mountain stream and we enjoyed prolonged looks at both the Cordoba and the lesser known Orlog's Cinclodes. We also enjoyed a supporting cast of Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Red-backed Hawk, Andean Swift, Rufous-banded Miner, White-winged

Cinclodes, Puna Canastero, Spectacled Tyrant, Grass Wren, Hellmayr's Pipit and Plumbeous and Ash-breasted Sierra-Finches. We added another mammal here, the Common Yellow-toothed Cavy.

The rest of the morning was taken up by a long drive northwards to Dean Funes, where we would overnight. As we neared the town we enjoyed good looks at a Greater Rhea and also saw a couple of Elegant Crested Tinamous feeding along the roadside. In the afternoon we visited the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, a large expanse of salt flats, surrounding a huge saline lake. Our main target species here was the highly localised and endemic Salinas Monjita. It proved difficult to find; as we searched the salt bush we added Burrowing Owl and the attractive White-banded Mockingbird, but the light failed before we found our main target bird. A little spotlighting on the way back to our hotel produced a very obliging Tropical Screech-Owl and very close looks at both Little and Scissor-tailed Nightjars.

The following morning we returned to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, where we had much more time to search for the Salinas Monjita. We began by birding along the road leading to the salt fields, which was surrounded by dry chaco. Once again new birds were plentiful, we were very pleased to find the scarce Spot-winged Falconet, the uncommon White-fronted Woodpecker, Crested Hornero, Plain Inezia, Tawny-crowned Pgymy-Tyrant, Chaco Suiriri, Patagonian Mockingbird, Lowland Hepatic Tanager, Red Piliated Finch and the uncommon and range restricted Ringed Warbling-Finch, and best of all, the very attractive and uncommon Black-crested Finch. Once again we trudged through the salt fields and eventually enjoyed tremendous scope views of no less than three Salinas Monjitas. While walking back to our bus a single Great Pampa Finch was observed perching on top of one of the salt bushes. We also saw our first of many Pampas Foxes, in this area.

The afternoon entailed a very long drive to Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province, where we would stay for the next three nights. Breaking the long drive, we made a birding stop at a large pond, not far from the town of La Madrid. Our main target bird here was the extremely uncommon Dinelli's Doradito, which only breeds in a small area of Argentina. Fortunately, the bright yellow doradito performed brilliantly, hopping around in the tops of the reeds, which surrounded the small pond. We also found a surprisingly large number of other new birds here, these included Striated Heron, Savannah Hawk, a very obliging Rufous-sided Crake, an equally obliging Plumbeous Rail, Common Gallinule, Red-fronted Coot, Wren-like Rushbird, Greater Thornbird, Sooty Tyrannulet, Barn Swallow, Greyish Saltator, Grassland Yellow-Finch and Chestnut-capped Blackbird. Continuing our drive, we observed a Roadside Hawk, along the roadside! We then made a final birding stop along the Rio Los Sosa, a raging torrent, situated in the yungas cloudforest, a habitat that is unique to northwestern Argentina and southern Bolivia. New birds were also plentiful here, however, the bird that stole the show, was without doubt a family party of Torrent Ducks, mum, dad and three ducklings, which plied their way through the raging torrent, with ridiculous ease. Little wonder, that this species was named 'Bird of the Tour', by tour participants. We also saw another very special bird here, the world's scarcest species of dipper, the extremely range restricted and endemic Rufous-throated Dipper. We very much enjoyed watching a bird feeding along the edge of the river. Other new birds in the yungas cloudforest overhanging the raging torrent included flocks of Mitred Parakeets, a stunning Red-tailed Comet, Black Phoebe, Brown-capped Whitestart and Golden-rumped Euphonia.

Our first birding stop the following morning was at the nearby Angostura Reservoir. There were lots of birds around the edge of the lake and in the surrounding grassland. New birds along the edge of the lake included Coscoroba Swan, Brown Pintail, Red Shoveler, Red-gartered Coot, South American Snipe and the very attractive Andean Gull. In the grassland we found pairs of Andean

Geese, Andean Lapwing, both Short-billed and Correndera Pipits and a pair of uncommon Band-tailed Sierra-Finches.

We then spent the rest of the morning birding along the Rio Los Sosa, where we had birded briefly the previous day. We had more time to bird this area of beautiful yungas cloudforest, plus it was during the morning, this enabled us to find many new birds for the tour. We enjoyed watching a Fasciated Tiger-Heron, a bird of fast flowing mountain streams, which is a very rare species in this area. We also observed the very beautiful Swallow-tailed Kite, a Short-tailed Hawk, a very close Peregrine Falcon, the very large Dusky-legged Guan, the secretive Large-tailed Dove, noisy flocks of Scaly-headed Parrots flew overhead, as did a large flock of White-collared Swifts, White-bellied Hummingbirds were numerous, a Dot-fronted Woodpecker put in a brief appearance, we enjoyed watching a Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, White-throated Tyrannulets were conspicuous, we found three species of elaenias, Highland, White-crested and Slaty, both Cinnamon and Variegated Flycatchers, the tiny Mountain Wren, the uncommon Andean Slaty Thrush, the widespread Red-eyed Vireo, very active flocks of Common Bush-Tanagers, a few Fawn-breasted Tanagers, a superb male Black-backed Grosbeak, super close looks at the endemic Yellow-striped Brushfinch, a pair of very attractive Rusty-browed Warbling-Finches which only occurs in yungas cloudforest and a stunningly plumaged Golden-winged Cacique.

In the afternoon we made a visit to El Infiernillo Pass, alias *Little Hell Pass*, which incidentally is no exaggeration when the weather closes in. Fortunately the weather was glorious with a wonderful view of the valley below as we explored the pre-puna grasslands well above 3,000 metres. We flushed an Andean Tinamou at point blank range, enjoyed great looks at both Bare-eyed and Black-winged Ground-Doves, we found a flock of Grey-hooded Parakeets, had good looks at an Andean Flicker, a ground frequenting species of woodpecker, a Buff-breasted Earthcreeper showed well, saw our first of many Buff-winged Cinclodes, taped in the endemic White-browed Tapaculo, we enjoyed really close looks at the beautiful White-browed Chat-Tyrant, we found a pair of Plain-coloured Seedeaters, which are actually rather pretty, we enjoyed the Argentine endemic and extremely range restricted Tucuman Mountain-Finch and a small flock of Black Siskins were simply stunning. We also observed a Montane Cavy in this area.

The following day we spent the whole morning birding the gullies and hillsides along the west slope of Aconquija, not far from Tafi del Valle. New birds were plentiful and in no time at all, we were watching our first Ornate Tinamou along the side of the road. We also stopped to admire a beautiful Bay-winged Hawk which was perched in a nearby tree. We found several large flocks of macaw-like and macaw-sized Burrowing Parrots, an aptly named Giant Hummingbird was feeding on a flowering cactus, a Scale-throated Earthcreeper was observed feeding on the ground and both Plain-mantled and Brown-capped Tit-Spinetails were also observed very well. Streak-fronted Thornbird, Tufted and Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrants were all seen very well. Next, a Grey-bellied Shrike-Tyrant was admired before we had rather distant views of a solitary Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant. We enjoyed watching a male White-winged Black-Tyrant sat on a fence post and a Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch which hopped up in a nearby tree. The very sparsely clad puna grasslands were teeming with Mourning Sierra and Grey-hooded Sierra-Finches and large numbers of Greenish Yellow-Finches.

In the afternoon we visited an area close to Quilmes, where we were to look for two of Argentina's special gems, both of which, normally take some time to find. The first bird we searched for was the very unusual Sandy Gallito, which was eventually coaxed into view, and what a fine looking bird it is. Our next target bird was the very uncommon and particularly shy Black-legged Seriema. It took a little time before one came into the tape, but it did show very well in the end and we were

all very pleased to find this very uncommon species. While searching for the Sandy Gallito, Michael Alderman observed a small mouse appear out of a hole in the ground. It took cover under a small bush, where we were all able to enjoy a really good look at the seldom seen Highland Gerbil-Mouse.

The following morning we left the major tourist route and drove into the badlands of the Calchaquies, a little to the north, in the province of Salta. Our main target bird here was the little-known Steinbach's Canastero. After weaving our way through a labyrinth of colourful sandstone pinnacles, columns and giant sandstone castles, we walked down a dry creek bed in search of our quarry. In no time at all, we all enjoyed great looks at the Steinbach's Canastero, an extremely range restricted species. In nearby scrub-land we also encountered the attractive White-throated Cacholote and the Southern Scrub Flycatcher. As we drove towards Coronel Moldes, a small Andean village, where we would spend the next two nights, we made a short birding stop at the San Carlos Reservoir. Here we enjoyed scope views of three new species of birds, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Andean Duck and American Coot.

In the afternoon we visited Cabra Corral, a very large reservoir, just outside Coronel Moldes. Along the edge of the lake new birds included White-tufted Grebe, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Silver Teal and the very uncommon Ringed Teal. On the grassland beside the lake we found a couple of Yellowish Pipits and flying overhead, we saw our first Southern Rough-winged Swallows of the tour. On higher ground above the lake a small patch of woodland produced Great Antshrike and Red-crested Cardinal, a stunningly attractive bird, which had only been glimpsed previously on the tour.

We spent the whole of the following day birding the Cuesta del Obispo Road, a road which climbs high up into the Andes Mountains. The incredibly arid, lunar-like valleys and hills were literally alive with birds, including such desirable new birds as Sparking Violetear, Azara's Spintail, Sclater's Tyrannulet, Smoke-coloured Pewee, Plush-crested Jay, Tropical Parula and Rusty Flowerpiercer. Three birds deserve special mention; we enjoyed good looks at the Maquis Canastero, which until recently was thought to be endemic to Bolivia. We also enjoyed incredibly good looks at the extremely range restricted Zimmer's Tapaculo, which came in extremely well to tape playback. The valley where we were birding is the only place in the world, where the extremely range restricted Rufous-bellied Saltator, is accessible by vehicle. We were not to be disappointed, as we enjoyed good close looks at this attractive species. As we drove back towards Coronel Moldes, we added two new species to our list, the beautiful Buff-necked Ibis and the Chaco Chachalaca. Back at our hotel some of the group were enjoying pre-dinner drinks when a White-eared Opossum was spotted in the garden, some members of the group managed to have a look at it before it disappeared down a drain!

Our first stop the following morning was the Camco Alegre Reservoir, which held good numbers of birds. New birds for the tour included a few Bare-faced Ibis, a large number of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, a pair of Puna Teal, this is a surprisingly low altitude for this species, a good number of beautiful Rosy-billed Pochards, a couple of wintering American Golden-Plovers, a solitary wintering Semipalmated Plover, a single wintering Pectoral Sandpiper and a few Wattled Jacanas. Following a very fine lunch at a restaurant along the edge of the lake, we went birding along the Cornisa Road, where once again, we found new birds which included the very uncommon Rufous-thighed Kite, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Eurler's and Piratic Flycatchers and both Pale-legged and Two-banded Warblers. Much of the rest of the afternoon was taken up by the long drive northwards to San Martin, in Jujuy Province. As we neared San Martin we managed to find three new species of birds for the tour, along the roadside, these were Cattle

Egret, Plumbeous Kite and Smooth-billed Ani.

In the late afternoon we enjoyed our first foray into Calilegua National Park. New birds here included Pale-vented Pigeon, the attractive Golden-collared Macaw, the very large Squirrel Cuckoo and Brown-crested Flycatcher. As we were driving out of the park at dusk, a Brown Aguti was observed well, along the side of the track.

We spent the whole of the following day birding the lower slopes of the very beautiful Calilegua National Park which are carpeted in dense yungas cloudforest. We saw some very special birds today. One of which, was an adult King Vulture, which circled high above us, this bird is surprisingly beautiful, for a vulture. We also enjoyed great looks at a Hook-billed Kite in flight, this is a very uncommon bird, we also saw the even less common Rufous-thighed Hawk in flight, and a Broad-winged Hawk in flight, gave us four very rare species of raptors today. The Broad-winged Hawk is a very rare migrant to Argentina. We also enjoyed great looks at the largest species of toucan in the world, the stunning Toco Toucan. We enjoyed super looks at the very beautiful Amazonian Motmot, which was at the southernmost point of its distribution, we enjoyed good looks at the very uncommon Ochre-cheeked Spinetail, the uncommon Black-capped Antwren and believe it or not, scope views of the incredibly shy, White-throated Anitpitta! There was also a supporting cast of other new birds which included White-eyed and Green-cheeked Parakeets, Sick's Swift, Blue-crowned Trogon, Olivaceous and Black-banded Woodcreepers, Sepia-capped and Streaked Flycatchers, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Orange-headed and Guira Tanagers, Purple-throated Euphonia, Blue-black Grassquit and Saffron-billed Sparrow. Following dinner we returned to the park where a little spotlighting produced super close looks at the range restricted Hoy's Screech-Owl.

We spent the whole of the next day birding the upper slopes of Calilegua National Park birding a huge expanse of yungas cloudforest, with magnificent views at each bend in the road and good numbers of new birds. Our driver pointed out Gray-necked Wood-Rail, we actually taped in a pair of White-throated Quail-Doves, small flocks of Alder Parrots flew overhead, a Dark-billed Cuckoo showed well, one bend in the road produced the very beautiful Slender-tailed Woodstar, a Smoky-brown Woodpecker was observed climbing up the trunk of a large tree, Buff-banded Tyrannulets proved quite common at this altitude, an Andean Tyrant popped into view, as did a White-winged Becard, a Glossy-black Thrush flew through the dense foliage, we enjoyed good looks at the Stripe-headed Brushfinch, the Argentine endemic Fulvous-headed Brushfinch and a couple of Crested Oropendolas were observed close to their nest.

Continuing northwards we entered the altiplano and did some birding very close to the Bolivian border. In no time at all we chalked up three new species of birds, Puna Hawk, Mountain Caracara and Brown-backed Mockingbird. We were heading for the secluded hamlet of Yavi, which has the reputation of harbouring some very scarce species, including some birds that were once thought to only occur in Bolivia. New birds here included Bare-faced Ground-Dove, the spectacular and rare Wedge-tailed Hillstar, which is only known from a handful of sites in Bolivia and Jujuy. A Rock Earthcreeper performed well for us, as did the range restricted Rusty-vented Canastero, the D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant was a real treat and a Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant was a surprise find. Black-hooded Sierra-Finches proved quite plentiful, as did both Common Diuca Finch and Citron-headed Yellowfinch. We also saw plenty of Vicunas during the days birding.

The following morning saw us back at the tiny hamlet of Yavi, very close to the border with Bolivia. Where we saw a few flocks of Mountain Parakeets, however, we also saw what was without a doubt, the mammal of the trip, when we enjoyed prolonged looks at the very smart

looking Southern Viscacha. Mid-morning we headed for the Santa Victoria Mountains to do some high altitude birding. Unfortunately, a puncture had delayed us and the storm clouds were gathering in the mountains. A picnic lunch was enjoyed by all and we managed to find the following new birds, before the storm hit, Puna Tinamou, a much appreciated Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, both Common and Puna Miners, Plain-breasted and Straight-billed Earthcreepers, Cordilleran Canestero, a very unexpected Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant and Bright-rumped and Puna Yellowfinches. We then drove down from the mountains and had an early day in La Quiaca.

The following day as we headed south, we stopped to go birding at three high Andean lakes, close to Abra Pampa, new birds here included Silvery Grebe, Puna Ibis, Chilean and Puna Flamingos, Crested Duck, the very uncommon Giant Coot, Puna Plover, Andean Avocet, Golden-spotted Ground-Dove and the delightful Andean Negrito. We then continued our drive southwards to Yala, where we would spend the night. In the afternoon we did some birding in nearby scrub land which produced two new species of birds for the tour; the rather shy Rufous-capped Antshrike and the attractive Black-and-chestnut Warbling-Finch. After dinner we did a little spotlighting and enjoyed a Lyre-tailed Nightjar, sitting on a cliff face.

The following morning we drove to Argentina's most accessible high altitude alder forests, where our main target bird was to be the Argentine endemic Red-faced Guan. In no time at all, we were all enjoying terrific scope views of one of these birds, perched up, in a nearby tree. Other new birds included Streak-throated Bush Tyrant, Crested Becard and Rust-and-yellow Tanager. A spot of birding close to our hotel produced Spot-breasted Thornbird, yet another Argentine endemic and the Dusky-capped Flycatcher. In the afternoon we flew back to Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, where we spent the night.

The following morning we drove to Buenos Aires International Airport, where we added one last bird to our trip list, there were plenty of Gray-breasted Martins nesting around the airport.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

RHEIDAE

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana* A single bird observed well in farmland close to Dean Funes. Males incubate, rear and tend the large broods which are usually the result of several females laying in the same nest.

TINAMIDAE

Ornate Tinamou *Nothoprocta ornata* The common tinamou of the puna grasslands, we saw small numbers on the west slope of Aconquija and in the Santa Victoria Mountains.

Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii* A single bird was observed very well, close to Tafi del Valle.

Spotted Tinamou *Nothura maculosa* A small group were observed on the ground and one bird in flight, close to Capilla del Monte.

Elegant Crested-Tinamou *Eudromia elegans* A couple of birds were seen very well along the roadside, close to Dean Funes.

Puna Tinamou *Tinamotis pentlandii* One of these scarce and little-known birds was observed with a couple of Ornate Tinamous in the Santa Victoria Mountains.

PODICIPEDIDAE

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland* Small flocks frequently encountered, in a number of wetland areas.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Small numbers of this species were also frequently encountered, in most wetland areas.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major* Once again, small numbers of this species were also frequently encountered in most wetland areas.

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis* Seen very well around the high Andean lakes at Abra Pampa.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Olivaceous Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Regularly encountered throughout all wetland areas.

ARDEIDAE

Fasciated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* We enjoyed good looks at one of these birds along the Rio Los Sosa, in Tucuman Province. This bird was of the race *pallescens*, which is a rare and endangered race, which just gets into northern Argentina.

White-necked Heron *Ardea cocoi* Small numbers present in most wetland areas.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Regularly encountered throughout all lowland wetlands.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Regularly encountered throughout all wetland areas.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* A small flock was observed on two separate occasions, close to San Martin, in Jujuy Province. This species only colonised Argentina in 1969.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* One bird was present at a large pond close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix* Numerous encounters throughout the lowlands and foothills.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A couple of birds were observed at the San Carlos Reservoir, with much larger numbers present at one of the lakes, at Abra Pampa.

CICOMIIDAE

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari* Small numbers were observed flying over Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires, which unfortunately was dry.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Good numbers observed in a number of wetland areas.

THRESEKIORNITHIDAE

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* Regularly encountered throughout most of the wetland areas up to 2,000 metres.

Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi* Small numbers present at the small lakes at Abra Pampa.

Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus* Small numbers were observed at the Camco Alegre Reservoir, in Salta Province.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus* Small numbers observed in the Andean foothills and the dry chaco.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Small numbers observed at a number of wetlands we visited, including spectacularly full breeding plumaged birds at Camco Alegre Reservoir.

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* Up to 100 or so birds were present on the lakes at Abra Pampa. Flamingos feed on small invertebrates such as water-fleas, copepods, brine-shrimp and brine-flies.

Puna Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* A small number were present at the Abra Pampa lakes.

ANATIDAE

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Good numbers present at Lago San Roque and Camco Alegre Reservoir.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Good numbers observed very well at the Camco Alegre Reservoir.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba* One bird was seen very well at Lake Angustura, which was our only sighting.

Andean Goose *Chloephaga melanoptera* A handsome high elevation goose, good numbers encountered in the Puna region.

Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides* Good numbers present on the small lakes at Abra Pampa, these were of the altiplano race *alticola*.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys* We were very fortunate to enjoy good scope views of a pair of this very uncommon species during our time birding at Cabra Corral.

Brazilian Duck *Amazonetta brasiliensis* Small numbers present, at most wetlands we visited.

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata* We enjoyed terrific looks at a family party along the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province. It was very enjoyable to watch them swimming along in the raging torrent, with no trouble at all. Little wonder that this species was voted 'Bird of the Tour'.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* Small numbers present at a few of the wetlands we visited throughout the tour. It is a stunning looking bird.

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea* Half a dozen or so pairs showed very well at Lake Angustura, this was our only sighting for the tour.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* Small numbers were observed well at Lago San Roque and at Camco Alegre Reservoir.

Brown Pintail *Anas georgica* Regularly encountered throughout all the wetlands we visited.

Silver Teal *Anas versicolor* We enjoyed very good scope views of a pair of birds of this uncommon species, at Cabra Corral.

Puna Teal *Anas puna* Our first sighting was of a pair of birds at Camco Alegre Reservoir, this was a real surprise, as this species does not normally occur at so low an altitude. We also saw it well at the lakes at Abra Pampa, at the altitude where it should occur.

Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris* Regularly encountered throughout the tour.

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca* We were fortunate to enjoy good scope views of a dozen or

so of these uncommon birds, while birding at Camco Alegre Reservoir.

Andean Duck *Oxyura ferruginea* This high altitude species was seen well in the scope at San Carlos Reservoir and the small lakes at Abra Pampa.

CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Common and widespread throughout the lowlands of Argentina.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* This species is also widely spread throughout the lowlands of Argentina.

Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* Seen on a very regular basis throughout the tour. Argentina and Chile remain the stronghold for this high altitude species.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* We were very fortunate to observe an adult bird of this very uncommon species, flying directly overhead in Calilegua National Park, at the very southern end of this birds range.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* This uncommon species was observed in flight on two occasions in Calilegua National Park and then seen again, also in flight, close to Yala.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* Small flocks of this delightful species were seen well on a number of occasions, flying above yungas cloudforest.

Rufous-thighed Kite *Harpagus diodon* We were very fortunate to observe this rare and little-known species of raptor, on two separate occasions. Firstly, we observed it in flight along the Cornisa Road and secondly, again in flight, in Calilegua National Park.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* A few small flocks were observed well, during our time in Jujuy Province.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* Commonly observed in the high Andes; with particularly fine scope views of a pair perched, at the Lagoons of Yala.

Rufous-thighed Hawk *Accipiter erythronemius* This uncommon species was seen well in flight in Calilegua National Park, at the southern edge of this birds range.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* A single bird was observed very well both perched and in flight, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.

Bay-winged Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* We enjoyed two sightings of this attractive species; the first, was on the west slope of Aconquija and the second sightings occurred in The Badlands.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* Commonly encountered throughout the lowlands.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* We enjoyed good close looks at soaring birds, on consecutive days in Calilegua National Park. This species which breeds in North America is a rare winter visitor to the very far north of Argentina, which is at the extreme southern end of this birds wintering range.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* A single bird was observed soaring above yungas cloudforest at Rio Los Sosa. This species was at the very southern edge of its range, where it is very uncommon and thinly spread.

Red-backed Hawk *Buteo polyosoma* Regularly encountered throughout the lower altitudes of the Andes Mountains.

Puna Hawk *Buteo poecilochrous* This species replaces the above species at higher altitude in the Andes Mountains; we saw it very well on a number of occasions.

FALCONIDAE

Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus* This attractive species of falcon was seen well

on the altiplano, close to Humahuaca and again on the altiplano of the Santa Victoria Mountains.

Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus* Observed on almost a daily basis.

Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango* Regularly encountered at low altitude throughout the tour.

Spot-winged Falconet *Spizapteryx circumcincta* This uncommon species of the dry chaco, was observed extremely well as it perched in the top of a small tree, close to Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Regularly encountered at all altitudes, throughout the tour.

Applomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* This very attractive species of falcon was observed very well on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* This beautiful bird was observed in flight, on two separate occasions. The first observation was of a bird in flight in an open area at Rio Los Sosa. The second, much better sighting was of a bird repeatedly flying at eye level and very close, in Calilegua National Park.

CRACIDAE

Chaco Chachalaca *Ortalis canicollis* A small flock was observed on one occasion in dry chaco, not far from Coronal Moldes, in Salta Province.

Red-faced Guan *Penelope dabbeni* We enjoyed prolonged scope views of this uncommon bird perched in yungas cloudforest at the Lagoons of Yala. It is restricted in range to southern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina.

Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura* We enjoyed regular sightings throughout the tour.

RALLIDAE

Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius* We enjoyed terrific looks at a single bird walking along the edge of a large pond, not more than a few metres away from us, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.

Gray-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides cajanea* Our driver pointed one out to us, which we saw very well, in the lowlands of Calilegua National Park.

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* Once again, we enjoyed terrific looks at a single bird walking along the edge of a large pond, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Small numbers observed on three separate occasions. The American form had been recently split off as a distinct species from the Common Moorhen of Eurasia.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata* A few birds observed on reservoirs in the north-west.

Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons* Less common than the other species of coot that occur in Argentina; we saw a few birds very well at the large pond, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province,

Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea* Small numbers seen very well at one of the lakes at Abra Pampa. Some were observed nest building.

American Coot *Fulica ardesiaca* A couple were observed on the San Carlos Reservoir, with larger numbers present at the small lakes at Abra Pampa.

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera* Huge numbers present at most of the wetlands we visited.

CARIAMIDAE

Black-legged Seriema *Chunga burmeisteri* This uncommon and range restricted species was observed very well, close to Quilmes, in Tucuman Province.

JACANIDAE

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* A few birds were observed very well in the scope at Camco Alegre Reservoir.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus* Regularly encountered at most wetland areas we visited.

Andean Avocet *Recurvirostra andina* Small numbers were present at the small lakes at Abra Pampa, some had very small chicks.

CHARADRIIDAE

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* Seen on almost a daily basis.

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens* We enjoyed regular observations of this attractive species of lapwing, during our time at higher altitudes in the Andes.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica* An uncommon migrant from North America; two birds were observed extremely well at the Camco Alegre Reservoir.

Puna Plover *Charadrius alticola* An uncommon species which is endemic to high altitude Andean lakes. We enjoyed very good scope views of small numbers of birds, at the lakes at Abra Pampa.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* A migrant from Alaska and Canada, it is an uncommon winter visitor to Argentina, which winters mainly along the coast. So we were very fortunate to find a bird as far inland, as the Camco Alegre Reservoir, in Salta Province.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* A migrant from Alaska and Canada, it is a fairly common winter visitor to Argentina. We observed a solitary bird at Lago San Roque, followed by a second solitary bird on the lakes at Abra Pampa.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* A migrant from Alaska and Canada, it is a common winter visitor to Argentina, we saw good numbers at most of the wetlands we visited. Spencer Fullerton Baird (1823-1887) was an American zoologist who became a giant of American ornithology. Baird was Assistant Secretary, until 1878 and then Secretary of the United States National Museum, the Smithsonian Institution. He wrote a Catalogue of North American Birds in 1858. The young Baird became a friend of John James Audubon to whom he sent collected specimens. Dr. Elliot B Coues named the sandpiper after Baird.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* A migrant from Alaska and Canada, it is a common winter visitor to Argentina. We saw a single bird extremely well at Camco Alegre Reservoir.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* A migrant from Arctic Canada, it is an uncommon winter visitor to Argentina. We were fortunate to observe a single bird at Lago San Roque, in Cordoba Province.

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae* We flushed a couple of birds along the edge of Lake Angustura.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* A migrant from North America, it is a fairly common winter visitor to Argentina. We observed small numbers at three separate lakes we visited. Alexander Wilson (1766-1813) was a pioneering American ornithologist and the first to

study American birds in their native habitats. As such he is often called the Father of American Ornithology. Born in Scotland, Wilson was imprisoned for libel and following his release in 1794 he emigrated to the United States. From 1808-1813 he published seven volumes of his *American Ornithology*.

THINOCORIDAE

Gray-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus* We enjoyed good looks at a single individual on the altiplano in the Santa Victoria Mountains.

LARIDAE

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* We enjoyed regular sightings of this species during our time in the high Andes.

Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis* We saw this species well at Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires and at Lago San Roque.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* We observed a few birds in flight along the edge of the River Plate, in the Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.

COLUMBIDAE

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* Seen on a daily basis throughout the whole tour.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* Small numbers present in the areas of yungas cloudforest that we visited.

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro* Regularly encountered throughout the tour. Picazura is a Guaraní Indian word meaning sour pigeon!

Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa* Regularly encountered throughout the tour, including the altiplano race *albipennis*, which differs in having a white wing stripe.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Numerous and widespread, observed on every single day of the tour, it is perhaps not so numerous now, thanks to our American friends whom we met on the flight to Córdoba!

Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui* An abundant bird of the lowlands and foothills, which we saw almost daily.

Bare-faced Ground-Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae* Proved to be fairly common at the small hamlet of Yavi, close to the border with Bolivia.

Bare-eyed Ground-Dove *Metriopelia morenoi* We saw this Argentine endemic very well, close to Tafi del Valle, in Tucumán Province.

Black-winged Ground-Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera* Seen well on a number of occasions in the higher parts of the Andes Mountains.

Golden-spotted Ground-Dove *Metriopelia aymara* We enjoyed good looks at this species at the small lakes at Abra Pampa.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* We saw this species well on a few occasions in yungas cloudforest close to Capilla del Monte, in Córdoba Province.

Large-tailed Dove *Leptotila megalura* A few birds seen well in some of the areas of yungas cloudforest that we visited.

White-throated Quail-Dove *Geotrygon frenata* Believe it or not, we actually taped in a pair of these birds in Calilegua National Park.

PSITTACIDAE

Black-hooded Parakeet *Nandayus nenday* This species has been introduced to Buenos Aires, we saw large numbers at the Costanera Sur Reserve.

- Burrowing Parrot** *Cyanoliseus patagonus* We observed good numbers of this species in the area between Tafi del Valle and Cafayate.
- Green-cheeked Parakeet** *Pyrrhura molinae* We enjoyed good close looks at a couple of flocks of this uncommon and range restricted species during our time birding in the Calilegua National Park.
- Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus* This species proved to be abundant in the lowlands, where we saw literally hundreds of their conspicuous colonial stick nests.
- Gray-hooded Parakeet** *Psilopsiagon aymara* Seen very well on a couple of occasions in the Tafi del Valle area.
- Mountain Parakeet** *Psilopsiagon aurifrons* We saw a few small flocks fly by, while birding around the small altiplano village of Yavi, very close to the Bolivian border.
- Blue-crowned Parakeet** *Aratinga acuticaudata* A fairly common bird of the dry chaco, which we saw well on a number of occasions.
- Mitred Parakeet** *Aratinga mitrata* This proved to be a very common species in yungas cloudforest.
- White-eyed Parakeet** *Aratinga leucophthalma* We observed a small flock very well on one occasion, in the Calilegua National Park.
- Golden-collared Macaw** *Primolius auricollis* We saw a couple of flocks of this uncommon species of macaw during our time in the Calilegua National Park.
- Scaly-headed Parrot** *Pionus maximiliani* Noisy flocks of this species were regularly encountered in yungas cloudforest.
- Alder Parrot** *Amazona tucumana* This uncommon and range restricted species was observed well on a couple of occasions, during our time in Calilegua National Park.

CUCULIDAE

- Ash-colored Cuckoo** *Coccyua cinerea* We were very fortunate to enjoy good close looks at this particularly uncommon and little-known species of cuckoo, on the first day of the tour, in Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.
- Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* A single individual was observed very well on one occasion in Calilegua National Park.
- Dark-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus melacoryphus* Once again, a single individual was observed very well on once occasion in Calilegua National Park.
- Guira Cuckoo** *Guira guira* Small flocks of this extraordinary species of cuckoo, where regularly encountered throughout the tour.
- Striped Cuckoo** *Tapera naevia* One bird came into tape very well, close to Capilla del Monte.
- Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* A few birds observed along the roadside, on a couple of occasions, close to San Martin, in Jujuy Province.

STRIGIDAE

- Tropical Screech-Owl** *Megascops choliba* One bird taped in nicely, in dry chaco, close to Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

- Hoy's Screech-Owl** *Megascops hoyi* This range restricted owl of montane cloudforest, responded very well to tape playback one evening in Calilegua National Park, where we were able to observe it very well in the scope. Gunnar Arthur Hoy (1901-1997) was a Norwegian-born

ornithologist of German extraction; his father was German and his mother Swedish. As such, he was required to join the German army after their occupation of Norway during the Second World War. As a result, after the war he was accused of being a collaborator and was imprisoned. In 1951 he emigrated to Argentina with his wife and six year old son, and by 1954 he was a curator at the Natural History Museum of the University of Salta. Hoy kept in touch with many of the world's leading ornithologists and became the 'Grand Old Man of Argentinean Ornithology'.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* One scoped very well in broad daylight, in dry chaco at Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* Regularly encountered throughout the whole tour.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Little Nightjar *Caprimulgus parvulus* Brilliant, very close scope views of this species, in the spotlight one evening, in dry chaco, close to Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis torquata* On the same evening, we also enjoyed very close scope views of this species of nightjar, in the spotlight, close to Salinas Grandes Saltfields.

Lyre-tailed Nightjar *Uropsalis lyra* Seen in the spotlight one evening, in humid cloudforest above Yala. It is a very spectacular species of nightjar.

APODIDAE

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* A few small flocks were observed well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Sick's Swift *Chaetura meridionalis* This species was split off from the Ashy-tailed Swift a number of years ago. We enjoyed good looks at a couple of small flocks, while birding in Calilegua National Park. Helmut Sick (1910-1991) was a German-born Brazilian ornithologist who worked for the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro for many year. He is particularly famed for being the man who rediscovered, in 1978, one of the few surviving populations of the critically endangered Lear's Macaw *Anodorhynchus leari*. His particular interest was macaws and he was also responsible for re-ordering of some genera in the taxonomic sequence. It has been said that he was one of the most dedicated and active ornithologist ever to work in South America. He wrote *Ornitologia Brasileira uma Introducao* in 1984. This great work was translated into English, in 1993 as *Birds in Brazil – A Natural History*.

Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus* Commonly encountered during our time in the Andes Mountains; it was particularly common in The Badlands, in Salta Province.

TROCHILIDAE

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans* We enjoyed good looks at a single individual along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province.

Red-tailed Comet *Sappho sparganura* We enjoyed regular encounters with this spectacular species of hummingbird, during our time in the Andes Mountains.

Wedge-tailed Hillstar *Oreotrochilus adela* We enjoyed a stunning male on two consecutive days at the altiplano village of Yavi, where it was discovered for the first time in Argentina, as recently as 1991.

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas* We enjoyed a few good sightings during our time in the Andes Mountains.

Blue-tufted Starthroat *Helimaster furcifer* We saw this spectacular species of hummingbird very well on one occasion in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Slender-tailed Woodstar *Microstilbon burmeisteri* Another spectacular species of hummingbird,

this uncommon and range restricted species is Argentina's smallest species of bird. We saw it very well on one occasion in Calilegua National Park.

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon aureoventris* Regularly encountered throughout the whole tour; it was particularly common in the Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.

White-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia chionogaster* Regularly encountered throughout yungas cloudforest areas of the tour.

TROGONIDAE

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui* We enjoyed wonderful scope views of this very attractive species, during our time in Calilegua National Park.

ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Observed on two occasions from our speeding vehicle.

MOMOTIDAE

Amazonian Motmot *Momotus momota* A recent split from Blue-crowned Motmot, we enjoyed terrific scope views of this very attractive species, in Calilegua National Park, at the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

BUCCONIDAE

Spot-backed Puffbird *Nystalus maculatus* We enjoyed good scope views of this uncommon species, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province and again, on the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province.

RAMPHASTIDAE

Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco* We enjoyed a couple of super looks at this, the largest species of toucan, while birding in Calilegua National Park.

PICIDAE

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus* This diminutive species of woodpecker was observed well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

White-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cactorum* We observed this chaco speciality, close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields and in The Badlands.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigatus* Observed well on one occasion, during our time in Calilegua National Park, where this bird is at the extreme southern edge of its range.

Checkered Woodpecker *Veniliornis mixtus* This small species of woodpecker was observed very well on the first day of the tour, in the Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.

Dot-fronted Woodpecker *Veniliornis frontalis* We enjoyed several good sightings of this yungas cloudforest endemic, which is restricted in range to southern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus* This bird was observed well on one occasion, in Calilegua National Park.

Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros* We enjoyed regular encounters throughout the tour.

Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola* This Andean Mountain endemic, is a ground frequenting species of woodpecker, which we saw very well on a few occasions.

Field Flicker *Colaptes campestris* Another more widespread species of ground frequenting woodpecker, which somewhat surprisingly, we only saw on one occasion, close to Capilla del Monte.

Black-bodied Woodpecker *Dryocopus schulzi* We were very fortunate to enjoy good scope views of this rare and endangered species, in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte.

FURNARIIDAE

Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia* We enjoyed good looks at this species in the Santa Victoria Mountains and again, at Abra Pampa. Disused cavy burrows are the usual nesting sites for most species of miners, which rarely 'mine' their own burrows.

Puna Miner *Geositta punensis* We saw this species particularly well in the Santa Victoria Mountains while our guide was away having the puncture attended to on our bus. We saw it a second time, at Abra Pampa.

Rufous-banded Miner *Geositta rufipennis* First observed in the Sierras Grandis and much later in the tour we saw it again, in the Santa Victoria Mountains.

Rock Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus andaecola* This species was observed well on two consecutive days, on the altiplano, close to Yavi, in Jujuy Province.

Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus* Seen well on one occasion in the Santa Victoria Mountains.

Scale-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia dumetaria* This species was seen very well on one occasion, on the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Plain-breasted Earthcreeper *Upucerthia jelskii* We saw this species very well on one occasion, at 4,000 metres in the Santa Victoria Mountains, where it is at the extreme southern edge of its range.

Buff-breasted Earthcreeper *Upucerthia validirostris* Seen well on one occasion, close to Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province.

Chaco Earthcreeper *Tarphonomus certhioides* Observed on consecutive days, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Buff-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus* A recent split from Bar-winged Cinclodes, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

Cordoba Cinclodes *Cinclodes comechingonus* We saw this range restricted species very well in the Sierras Grandis, of Cordoba Province.

Olrog's Cinclodes *Cinclodes olrogi* We also saw this uncommon and extremely range restricted species in the Sierras Grandis, of Cordoba Province. Claes Christian Olrog (1912-1985) was a Swedish ornithologist who lived in Argentina and wrote widely on South American birds. He published *Las Aves Argetninas*, in 1959, as well as an annotated Peruvian check-list and many articles on distribution and other topics. The institute for the Administration of Protected Areas in Buenos Aires is named after 'Dr Claes C Olrog'.

Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris* A recent split from Bar-winged Cinclodes, we saw it well in the Santa Victoria Mountains and at Abra Pampa.

White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis* Seen well in the Sierras Grandis, of Cordoba Province and on the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus* Widespread and very common, we saw it well on many occasions, it is the national bird of Argentina.

Crested Hornero *Furnarius cristatus* Endemic to the chaco of South America, we saw this uncommon species in dry chaco, close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops* Seen well on one occasion, at a large pond, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.

Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura fuliginiceps* Proved to be not uncommon in montane scrub, in the lower Andes Mountains.

Tufted Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura platensis* This species was observed well close to Capilla del

Monte and close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, both in Cordoba Province.

Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides* We observed this species very well while birding the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis* Seen very well on a few occasions in the sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* Seen well on one occasion in yungas cloudforest along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province, at the extreme southern edge of its range. Felix Manuel de Azara (1746-1811) was born at Barbunales in Aragon, Spain. He was a military officer, naturalist and engineer, who distinguished himself on various expeditions. He was appointed a member of the Spanish Commission and was sent to South America in 1781, to settle the question of borders between the Portuguese and Spanish colonies. He attained the rank of Brigadier General when in command of the Paraguayan frontier from 1781 to 1801.

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens* Observed well on a couple of occasions in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province, at the very southern edge of its range.

Ochre-cheeked Spinetail *Synallaxis scutata* We were very fortunate to observe this uncommon inhabitant of humid cloudforest, in Calilegua National Park, at the extreme southern edge of its range.

Stripe-crowned Spinetail *Cranioleuca pyrrhophia* Regularly encountered in the sierran chaco of northwestern Argentina.

Rusty-vented Canastero *Asthenes dorbignyi* We saw this species well close to Yavi and on the altiplano in the Santa Victoria Mountains.

Short-billed Canastero *Asthenes baeri* Seen particularly well on one occasion in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Puna Canastero *Asthenes sclateri* Observed very well on one occasion in the Sierras Grandis, of Cordoba Province.

Cordilleran Canastero *Asthenes modesta* Seen well on one occasion on the altiplano of the Santa Victoria Mountains, in Jujuy Province.

Maquis Canastero *Asthenes heterura* We saw this uncommon and range restricted species very well on one occasion, along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province, at the very southern edge of its range.

Steinbach's Canastero *Pseudasthenes steinbachi* We observed this little-known species of canastero, very well indeed, in The Badlands, 50ks north of Cafayate, in Salta Province. Dr Jose Steinbach (1856-1929) collected for the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History, in Argentina and Bolivia. His collection is in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons* Observed very well along the Cornisa Road, in Salta Province, at the extreme southern edge of its range.

Streak-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus striaticeps* Observed very well on one occasion on the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Spot-breasted Thornbird *Phacellodomus maculipectus* This uncommon species was observed very well, on the last day of the tour, close to Yala, in Jujuy Province. This species is endemic to southern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina.

Freckle-breasted Thornbird *Phacellodomus striaticollis* This species came into the tape very well in Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires, on the first day of the tour.

Greater Thornbird *Phacellodomus ruber* This species also responded very well to tape playback at a large pond, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.

Firewood-gatherer *Anumbius annumbi* Seen well on a couple of occasions in dry chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Lark-like Brushrunner *Coryphistera alaudina* Seen well on a few occasions in dry chaco, close

to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province. *Coryphistera* in ancient Greek means 'stiff-crowned'.

Brown Cacholote *Pseudoseisura lophotes* This the largest species of cacholote, was observed well on several occasions in dry chaco.

White-throated Cacholote *Pseudoseisura gutturalis* This Argentine endemic was scoped well, close to Cafayate, in Salta Province.

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata* Frequently encountered in all rainforested areas of the tour.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Seen very well on a couple of occasions in Calilegua National Park.

Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper *Drymornis bridgesii* A really spectacular species of woodcreeper, which we saw very well on a few occasions in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Black-banded Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* We enjoyed good looks at this species, during our time in the Calilegua National Park.

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris* We enjoyed a few good sightings at scattered intervals throughout the tour.

THAMNOPHILIDAE

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* A pair of birds was observed very well in scrub, along the edge of Cabra Corral, close to Caronel Moldes, in Salta Province, at the southern edge of its range.

Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus* A pair was observed very well in scrub close to Yala, in Jujuy Province, on the last day of the tour.

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens* Observed well in dry chaco close to Capilla del Monte and again close to Salinas Grandes Saltfields, both sightings occurred in Cordoba Province.

Black-capped Antwren *Herpsilochmus atricapillus* A pair was observed very well in the Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province. The only place where this species occurs in Argentina.

FORMICARIIDAE

White-throated Antpitta *Grallaria albigula* Following intensive effort we all managed to see this attractive species in the scope, as it called back to us! This took place in the Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province, the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Crested Gallito *Rhinocrypta lanceolata* This splendid bird was observed very well in dry chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Sandy Gallito *Teledromas fuscus* This splendid Argentine endemic was observed very well close to Quilmes, in Tucuman Province and again in The Badlands, of Salta Province. *Teledromus* means 'far running'.

Zimmer's Tapaculo *Scytalopus zimmeri* Splendid looks at one of these birds who responded very well to tape playback along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province. This uncommon and range restricted species is endemic to southern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina.

Dr. John Todd Zimmer (1889-1957) was an American ornithologist who was Curator of Birds at the Field Museum of Natural History, in Chicago, from 1921-1930. He wrote *Birds of the Marshall Field Peruvian Expedition*, in 1930, and *Studies of Peruvian Birds* from 1931. He was co-author of the *Check-list of Birds of the World*, Volume 8 which was published in 1979.

White-browed Tapaculo *Scytalopus superciliaris* Identical in appearance to the above species but with a very different call. Once again this splendid bird responded very well to tape playback in rainforest close to Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province. This species is endemic to a small area of northern Argentina.

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Olive-crowned Crescentchest *Melanopareia maximiliani* Crescentchests have recently been split off from tapaculos and are now in a family of their own. We enjoyed terrific looks at a pair of birds in sierran chaco, not far from Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

TYRANNIDAE

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* Regularly encountered throughout the dry chaco.

Chaco Suiriri *Suiriri suiriri* This range restricted species was observed very well on one occasion in dry chaco, close to Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Buff-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus hellmayri* This uncommon inhabitant of yungas cloudforest was observed very well on a few occasions during our time in the Calilegua National Park.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* Regularly encountered in yungas cloudforest throughout the tour.

Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes flavirostris* This stunning little bird was observed very well on a couple of occasions on the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus* We also enjoyed a couple of sightings of this species along the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Dinelli's Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx dinelliana* A single bird responded well to tape playback at a large pond, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province. This rare and range restricted species only breeds in northwestern Argentina and only in northern Cordoba and Tucuman Provinces. It moves northwards into Paraguay during the winter months. In 1918 Luis Dinelli published, *Notas biológicas sobre las aves del noroeste de la Republica Argentina*, the principal area where the bird is found. He is also commemorated in the trinomial of the bat *Myotis levis dinelli*. The botanist and ornithologist Miquel Lillo (1862-1931) described the doradito.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps* Seen very well on a couple of occasions in yungas cloudforest along the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province.

Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris* Seen well on a number of occasions in the dry chaco.

Slaty Elaenia *Elaenia strepera* This migratory species of elaenia was observed very well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Highland Elaenia *Elaenia obscura* One sat on top of a bush for all to see along the edge of the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province.

Sooty Tyrannulet *Serpophaga nigricans* One bird was observed well along the edge of a large pond, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province. This was followed by a second sighting along the edge of Camco Alegre Reservoir, in Salta Province.

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata* This species proved to be common in the Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.

White-bellied Tyrannulet *Serpophaga munda* A fairly common bird of highland woodland and

scrub, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* Seen well on one occasion during our time in Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province.

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis* Seen well on a few occasion during the tour.

Sclater's Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias sclateri* Seen well on one occasion along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province. Doctor Philip Lutley Sclater (1829-1913) was a graduate of Oxford and practised law for many years. In 1858 he was the founder and first Editor of the *The Ibis*, the Journal of the British Ornithologists Union. He edited it from 1858 to 1865 and again from 1877 until 1913. He was also Secretary of the Zoological Society of London from 1860 until 1903.

Southern Scrub-Flycatcher *Sublegatus modestus* We observed one bird very well in dry chaco, close to Cafayate, in Salta Province.

Plain Inezia *Inezia inornata* This little-known species was observed very well in dry chaco, close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus* This species was also observed very well in dry chaco, close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Greater Wagtail-Tyrant *Stigmatura budytoides* Commonly encountered throughout the dry chaco areas of the tour.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* Observed very well on one occasion in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps* Seen well on one occasion in yungas cloudforest in the Calilegua National Park.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphureus* We observed this species very well on one occasion in yungas cloudforest in the Calilegua National Park.

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* A few were seen well in yungas cloudforest along the edge of the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province and one or two others were seen very well in yungas cloudforest at the lagoons of Yala. Both sightings are at the southern edge of this birds range.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* This large and very attractive species of flycatcher was regularly encountered throughout the tour.

Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* Scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri* This species was seen very well along the Cornisa Road, in Salta Province. Carl Hieronymus Euler 1834-1901, was the Swiss consul in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1897 until his death. The ornithologist Jean Louis Cabanis first described the flycatcher from a specimen which Euler had sent him. Euler's collection of 369 species of birds, most of which were collected on his farm are housed in the Berlin Museum. Unfortunately, today only 40% of this number can now be found in the valley which Euler farmed!

Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus* A few birds observed very well at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Once again we enjoyed scattered sightings of this stream-inhabiting flycatcher, throughout the tour

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* A male, of this stunningly beautiful flycatcher was observed extremely well in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

Andean Negrito *Lessonia oreas* This attractive species was commonly encountered around the small lakes at Abra Pampa, in Jujuy Province.

Andean Tyrant *Knipolegus signatus* This uncommon species was observed well in Calilegua National Park and again at the Lagoons of Yala, both in Jujuy Province.

White-winged Black-Tyrant *Knipolegus aterrimus* Observed well on the west slope of

Aconquija, in Tucuman Province and again in the Santa Victoria Mountains of Jujuy Province.

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus* Only observed in the Sierras Grandis, of Cordoba Province.

Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys* Several scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maculirostris* Distant views of an individual on the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola rufivertex* Observed well on consecutive days at the altiplano hamlet of Yavi, close to the border with Bolivia.

Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola frontalis* An uncommon bird of the altiplano grasslands; we had very close looks at an individual in the Santa Victoria Mountains, of Jujuy Province.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus* Observed very well on a few occasions, close to Yavi, in Jujuy Province.

Gray-bellied Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis micropterus* This uncommon species was observed well on the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province and again, on the altiplano of the Santa Victoria Mountains, in Jujuy Province.

Black-crowned Monjita *Xolmis coronatus* Somewhat surprisingly, we observed this species in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province and again at Quilmes, in Tucuman Province. The sightings were of late migrants which were heading south to their breeding grounds on the northern Patagonia steppe.

White Monjita *Xolmis irupero* Regularly encountered in the lowland and foothills of the Andes Mountains.

Salinas Monjita *Xolmis salinarum* Endemic to Argentina, this uncommon and highly localised species only occurs in halophytic scrub around salt lakes in a small area of northwestern Argentina. On our second attempt at the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, we enjoyed super scope views of three of these very special birds.

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* An uncommon bird of semi open areas and borders of forest. We were fortunate to observe a bird extremely well at the Lagoons of Yala, in Jujuy Province.

D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca oenanthoides* Seen very well on a couple of occasions at the altiplano hamlet of Yavi, close to the border with Bolivia. Alcide Dessalines d'Orbigny (1802-1857) was a traveller, collector, illustrator and naturalist. He attended the Academy of Science in Paris to pursue his methodical paintings and classification of natural history specimens. The Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris sent him to South America in July 1826. There, the Spanish briefly imprisoned him, mistaking his compass and barometers, which had been supplied by Humboldt, for 'instruments of espionage'. After he left prison, he lived for a year with the Guaranis Indians learning their language. He spent five years in Argentina before travelling north along the Chilean and Peruvian coasts. He then travelled in Bolivia, before returning to France in 1834. Once home, he donated thousands of his specimens to the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle.

White-browed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca leucophrys* We enjoyed several good sightings of this attractive species during the course of the tour.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa* We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Seen well at the Lagoons of Yala, in Jujuy Province, at the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* We saw this species very well, while birding in Calilegua National Park.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* This attractive and very vocal species was observed on

almost every day of the tour.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Observed extremely well during our time in Calilegua National Park.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Observed extremely well on one occasion, along the Cornisa Road, in Salta Province.

Variiegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius* Scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Crowned Slaty Flycatcher *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus* Commonly encountered during our time birding in the dry chaco.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* A widespread and very common species throughout the length and breadth of Argentina.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* Another species which we encountered everywhere, except in the high Andes.

White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha* We observed this uncommon species extremely well in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.

COTINGIDAE

White-tipped Plantcutter *Phytotoma rutila* This attractive species of cotinga was observed well on several occasions during the tour.

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus* We enjoyed watching a pair of these birds in Calilegua National Park.

Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus* An uncommon bird of yungas cloudforest, which we saw well at the Lagoons of Yala, in Jujuy Province.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* Seen on almost a daily basis.

Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopocheilidon fucata* Scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* We enjoyed good sightings along the edge of the Cabra Corral, at Caronel Moldes and again along the edge of the Camco Alegre Reservoir, both sightings occurred in Salta Province.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Many birds were nesting at the Buenos Aires International Airport, which we saw well as we were somewhat reluctantly leaving the country.

Southern Martin *Progne elegans* Regularly encountered throughout the tour.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera* This species was also regularly encountered throughout the tour.

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa* Yet another species of swallow which was regularly encountered throughout the tour; it was particularly common at Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A winter migrant from North America; which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

MOTACILLIDAE

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens* Our first sighting was of a couple of birds along the edge of the Cabra Corral, at Caronel Moldes; this was followed by a second sighting along the edge of the Camco Alegre Reservoir, both sightings occurred in Salta Province.

Short-billed Pipit *Anthus furcatus* Our first sighting of this species occurred along the edge of the La Angustura, at Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province; followed by a second sighting at the small lakes at Abra Pampa, in Jujuy Province.

Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera* We observed this species of pipit very well, alongside the preceding species, at La Angustura. It was good to be able to compare them, as all of the pipits in South America look very similar.

Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri* A species of the altiplano; our first sighting occurred in the Sierras Grandis, in Cordoba Province and this was followed by a second sighting at La Angustura, in Tucuman Province. Charles Eduard Hellmayr (1878-1944) was a German zoologist who worked in the United States. In 1922 he was the first associate-level Curator in Zoology at the Field Museum in Chicago. Hellmayr's work on Neotropical birds became a major impetus in the development of the museum, which is now recognised as one of the leading resources on the birds of South America. His publications, from the 1920's to the 1960's, included a *Catalogue of Birds of the Americas and the Adjacent Islands*, written in conjunction with Conover, and he also wrote *The Birds of Chile*.

CINCLIDAE

Rufous-throated Dipper *Cinclus schulzi* We enjoyed brilliant looks at this little gem on consecutive days, along the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province. It is the world's rarest species of dipper and is endemic to southwestern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina. This species is classified as vulnerable in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. Its entire population is estimated to be between 3,000 and 4,000 birds and declining. The main threat to this species are new hydroelectric and irrigation schemes which threaten its riverine habitat.

TROGLODYTIDAE

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus* We enjoyed many observations throughout the tour.

Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this species during the tour.

Grass Wren *Cistothorus platensis* We saw this species very well in the Sierras Grandis, in Cordoba Province.

MIMIDAE

Patagonian Mockingbird *Mimus patagonicus* We enjoyed frequent sightings throughout the tour.

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus* Observed very well during the first four days of the tour.

White-banded Mockingbird *Mimus triurus* This attractive species of mockingbird was observed very well on two consecutive days at the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Brown-backed Mockingbird *Mimus dorsalis* Endemic to the altiplano, where we enjoyed several good sightings.

TURDIDAE

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris* Common and widespread throughout the Andes Mountains of northwestern Argentina.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus* Regularly encountered throughout the first half of the tour.

Andean Slaty Thrush *Turdus nigriceps* We found this uncommon species of thrush on a few occasions while birding in yungas cloudforest.

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco* A common and abundant species, which we saw on most days of the tour.

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* Endemic to the Andes Mountains; we saw it very well in the upper reaches of Calilegua National Park, at the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

POLIOPTILIDAE

Masked Gnatcatcher *Polioptila dumicola* We saw this attractive species in the Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires and in sierran chaco in the Capilla del Monte area.

CORVIDAE

Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops* We enjoyed watching several good flocks of this delightful species, during the second half of the tour.

STURNIDAE

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* This introduced species first appeared in Buenos Aires in 1987 and has now spread in a radius of 500 kilometres. Fortunately, it has not been introduced anywhere else in South America. We observed over a dozen birds in Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.

PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Unfortunately, this introduced species is now abundant and widespread throughout Argentina, even occurring in the small villages of the altiplano. We saw it on almost every day of the tour.

VIREONIDAE

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* We enjoyed many good sightings during the second half of the tour.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* We enjoyed great scope views of this species, on one occasion, in sierran chaco, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province. This is the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

FRINGILLIDAE

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica* Observed very well on one occasion in Calilegua National Park. Recent genetic studies have shown conclusively that euphonias and chlorophonias are not at all closely related to tanagers and they are now afforded their own subfamily within the Fringillidae.

Golden-rumped Euphonia *Euphonia cyanocephala* We were fortunate to observe a pair of this species in yungas cloudforest overhanging the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province. This is at the southern edge of this birds range.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus* Regularly encountered throughout the tour.

Black Siskin *Spinus atratus* We enjoyed watching this very attractive species on two consecutive days in the high Andes, close to Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province.

PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi* We saw this very attractive species of wood warbler along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province and again in Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province.

Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata* A recent split from Masked Yellowthroat; we saw it well in the Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires and again in scrub close to Yala, in Jujuy Province.

Brown-capped Whitestart *Myioborus brunniceps* Commonly encountered in all the yungas cloudforest areas we visited.

Two-banded Warbler *Basileuterus bivittatus* We saw this species very well along the Cornisa

Road, in Salta Province and again in Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province.

Pale-legged Warbler *Basileuterus signatus* We also saw this species very well along the Cornisa Road, in Salta Province and again in Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province.

THRAUPIDAE

Orange-headed Tanager *Thlypopsis sordida* An uncommon species which we saw well in Calilegua National Park and again in scrub close to Yala, both sightings occurred in Jujuy Province.

Rust-and-yellow Tanager *Thlypopsis ruficeps* Another uncommon species which we saw well in yungas cloudforest at the Lagoons of Yala, in Jujuy Province.

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* Found at all yungas cloudforest sites we visited.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira* This attractive species of tanager was observed well in Calilegua National Park.

Lowland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* First observed in dry chaco close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province and again in yungas cloudforest along the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca* Observed on almost a daily basis.

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis* This species was also almost observed on a daily basis.

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota* Regularly encountered in all the yungas cloudforest areas we visited.

EMBERIZIDAE

Many-colored Chaco Finch *Saltatricula multicolor* This very beautiful species was regularly encountered while we were birding in the sierran chaco.

Red Piliated Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus* A bird of the dry chaco, which we saw well on several occasions.

Black-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus atriceps* Commonly encountered in the high altiplano of northern Argentina.

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi* We enjoyed good looks at this species on the west slope of Aconquija, in Tucuman Province.

Mourning Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti* Regularly encountered in the high altiplano of northern Argentina.

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus unicolor* We observed this uncommon high altitude species in the Sierras Grandis, in Cordoba Province and again, close to Coronal Moldes in Salta Province.

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus plebejus* Regularly encountered in the high altiplano of northern Argentina.

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus* Only observed on one occasion, we watched a pair at close quarters on grassland surrounding La Angustura, at Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province.

Black-crested Finch *Lophospingus pusillus* This uncommon species of finch is endemic to southeastern Bolivia, western Paraguay and northwestern Argentina and only occurs in dry chaco. We enjoyed really good looks at this species in chaco woodland close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Common Diuca-Finch *Diuca diuca* We saw this species well on consecutive days at the small altiplano hamlet of Yavi, close to the border with Bolivia.

Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch *Poospiza hypochondria* We enjoyed good sightings of this species

on the higher slopes of the Andes Mountains.

Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch *Poospiza erythrophrys* A yungas cloudforest endemic, which only occurs in southern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina. We saw it very well on several occasions.

Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch *Poospiza nigrorufa* Endemic to northeastern Argentina, Uruguay and southeastern Brazil. We enjoyed many sightings in the Costanera Sur Reserve, in Buenos Aires.

Black-and-chestnut Warbling-Finch *Poospiza whittii* This uncommon species of woodland borders, shrubbery and hedgerows in agricultural areas, was observed very well on one occasion on the last day of the tour, in shrubbery, close to our hotel at Yala, in Jujuy Province.

Ringed Warbling-Finch *Poospiza torquata* This species was observed very well in dry chaco, close to the Salinas Grandes Saltfields, in Cordoba Province.

Black-capped Warbling-Finch *Poospiza melanoleuca* This species occurs in low woodland and scrub, we saw it well on many occasions. It is endemic to northeastern Argentina, Paraguay and southeastern Bolivia.

Tucuman Mountain-Finch *Compsospiza baeri* This very attractive species of finch is almost endemic to Argentina, it just makes it across the border into Bolivia. We saw it very well close to Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province and along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province. This species is classified as vulnerable in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. The main threats to this species are as follows; human settlement in the region has brought goats and cattle which are destroying the birds habitat, potato and strawberry plantations are expanding ever closer to areas where this bird breeds and the use of pesticides during the breeding season has effected other species of birds in the region and may also be having an impact on this species.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* We saw this species well in Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province.

Band-tailed Seedeater *Catamenia analis* Seen well in a number of areas of the lower Andes.

Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata* A bird of the high Andes which we saw well close to Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province and again along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province.

Rusty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa sittoides* An uncommon bird of the high Andes, which we saw well along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* Regular encounters in the Andean foothills and lowlands.

Puna Yellow-Finch *Sicalis lutea* We observed a few birds in the Santa Victoria Mountains, in Jujuy Province.

Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch *Sicalis uropygialis* Small numbers observed in the Santa Victoria Mountains and at the small lakes at Abra Pampa, all sightings took place in Jujuy Province.

Citron-headed Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteocephala* Small flocks observed very well on two consecutive days at the small altiplano hamlet of Yavi, close to the Bolivian border. Until recently this species was thought to be a Bolivian endemic.

Greenish Yellow-Finch *Sicalis olivascens* The common yellow-finch of the high Andes, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola* Seen well on one occasion at a large pond close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.

Great Pampa-Finch *Embernagra platensis* We enjoyed good sightings of this species on a few different occasions.

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata* Observed briefly in scrub land close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province and then observed much better in a patch of scrub surrounding Cabra Corral, at Caronel Moldes, in Salta Province.

- Stripe-headed Brush-Finch** *Arremon torquatus* Seen well in Calilegua National Park and then again at the Lagoons of Yala, both sightings occurred in Jujuy Province.
- Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch** *Atlappetes fulviceps* A yungas cloudforest endemic; we saw it well in Calilegua National Park and then again at the Lagoons of Yala, both sightings occurred in Jujuy Province.
- Yellow-striped Brush-Finch** *Atlappetes citrinellus* This Argentine endemic was observed very well in yungas cloudforest along the Rio Los Sosa, below Tafi del Valle, in Tucuman Province.
- Saffron-billed Sparrow** *Arremon flavirostris* Small numbers seen well in the Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province, at the southern edge of this birds range.
- Stripe-capped Sparrow** *Rhynchospiza strigiceps* This uncommon and localised species, occurs in arid scrub and is endemic to northern Argentina and Paraguay. We saw it very well on several occasions.
- Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* Observed on almost every day of the tour.

CARDINALIDAE

- Rufous-bellied Saltator** *Saltator rufiventris* Great looks at a pair of these rare and stunning birds along the Cuesta del Obispo Road, in Salta Province. This is the only place in the world, where this extremely range restricted species, is accessible by vehicle. It is endemic to southern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina.
- Grayish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* Seen well in scrub land close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province and again at the small lakes at Abra Pampa, in Jujuy Province.
- Golden-billed Saltator** *Saltator aurantirostris* We had regular encounters with this species throughout the tour.
- Black-backed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus aureoventris* We enjoyed a few good looks at this very attractive species.
- Ultramarine Grosbeak** *Cyanococcyz brissonii* We also enjoyed good looks at this attractive species, on several occasions.

ICTERIIDAE

- Chestnut-capped Blackbird** *Chrysomus ruficapillus* This attractive species was observed very well at a large pond, close to La Madrid, in Tucuman Province.
- Long-tailed Meadowlark** *Sturnella loyca* We saw this species very well close to Capilla del Monte and again in the Sierras Grandis, both sightings occurred in Cordoba Province.
- Bay-winged Cowbird** *Agelaioides badius* Regularly encountered throughout the whole tour.
- Screaming Cowbird** *Molothrus rufoaxillaris* We saw a small flock in agricultural land, close to Capilla del Monte, in Cordoba Province.
- Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* Observed on almost every day of the tour.
- Variable Oriole** *Icterus pyrrhopterus* A very recent split from Epaulet Oriole, we saw it very well on a few occasions.
- Orange-backed Troupial** *Icterus croconotus* Recently introduced to Buenos Aires, we observed one of these beautiful birds very well, in the Costanera Sur Reserve.
- Golden-winged Cacique** *Cacicus chrysopterus* Regularly encountered throughout the tour.
- Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* We saw this species very well in Calilegua National Park, in Jujuy Province.

MAMMALS

- White-eared Opossum** *Didelphis albiventris* Some of the group were fortunate to have a quick look at one of these very large opossums, in the grounds of our hotel at Coronel Moldes.
- Brown Hare** *Lepus europaeus* We had regular encounters with this species, which has been introduced from Europe.
- Highland Gerbil Mouse** *Eligmodontia typus* We were very fortunate that Michael Alderman observed one of these small mammals leaving its burrow in arid land close to Quilmes. This enabled the whole group to enjoy a really good look at this seldom-seen species, as it sheltered under a small bush.
- Brown Aguti** *Dasyprocta variegata* We observed one of these mammals at dusk, on one occasion, as we were leaving Calilegua National Park.
- Common Yellow-toothed Cavy** *Galea musteloides* We saw this species well in the Sierras Grandis, where the closely related Common Cavy does not occur.
- Common Cavy** *Cavia aperea* We enjoyed a few scattered sightings throughout the tour.
- Montane Cavy** *Cavia tochudii* We saw our third species of cavy close to Tafi del Valle and again on the altiplano, close to Yavi.
- Southern Viscacha** *Lagidium viscacia* This was definitely the 'Mammal of the Tour', we very much enjoyed watching one of these giant whiskered furry friends, for a prolonged period of time, at the altiplano hamlet of Yavi, close to the border with Bolivia.
- Pampas Fox** *Pseudalopex gymnocercus* We enjoyed many sightings of this attractive species of fox.
- Vicuna** *Vicugna vicugna* We enjoyed many sightings of this attractive species of camellid on both of our visits to the altiplano of the Santa Victoria Mountains.