



Albatross

Birding and Nature Tours



DAY TRIP AROUND SANTIAGO: MAY 8th, 2012

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Albatross Birding and Nature Tours

www.albatross-birding.com

Trying to find as many species as possible in just a single day, we decided to visit the highlands above Santiago (Farellones and Valle Nevado) in the morning, and spend the last hours of the day at the Lampa wetlands.

Leaving the hotel at 7 a.m. we arrived to our first birding stop at dawn and rapidly found a few good species including Chilean Tinamou and Dusky-tailed Canastero, both endemic to Chile. We then visited the Yerba Loca reserve where a nice find was a Great Shrike-Tyrant, largest Tyrant-Flycatchers in the world. We also got excellent views on 3 more Chilean endemics: Moustached Turca, White-throated and Dusky Tapaculo!! Farther on the way we stopped for a pair of Crag Chilia, and around Farellones we saw a few highlands species like Rufous-banded Miner, Mountain Caracara, Black-billed Shrike-tyrant and 2 Andean Condors.

We then drove back to the lowlands, heading to the Lampa wetlands where we found a huge variety of ducks, coots, and egrets. Our best find there was clearly an immature of South American Painted Snipe feeding for a while just a few meters from us. Other good birds seen here were Rosy-billed Pochard, Black-headed Duck, a Silver Teal and a Magellanic Horned-Owl, and others!

We were back at the hotel at 6 p.m. after having seen 75 species of birds, including all of the 7 possible Chilean endemics found around Santiago.



An immature Painted Snipe, a nice one found at the Lampa wetlands!

To see more bird pictures, please have a look to my gallery:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fabrice-schmitt/>

BIRD LIST

RR = Restricted-range species (total range < 50,000 km²)

Conservation Status follows Birdlife International (April 2012)

Taxonomic order and notes follows South American Classification Committee (April 2012)

<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline.html>

(H) heard only

TINAMOUS

RR Chilean Tinamou - *Nothoprocta perdicaria* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

1 seen at our first stop, on the way to Farellones

DUCKS

Coscoroba Swan - *Coscoroba coscoroba* Monotypic

4 first seen at the Lampa wetlands where the species reach his northern breeding range in Chile.

Andean Goose - *Chloephaga melanoptera* Monotypic

7 at the Lampa wetlands. That species is breeding in the highlands above Santiago, and is wintering in the lowlands were sometimes grounds to more than 300 can be seen.

Chiloe Wigeon - *Anas sibilatrix* Monotypic

30+ at the Lampa wetlands

Yellow-billed Teal - *Anas flavirostris*

50+ at the Lampa wetlands; belonging here to the *flavirostris* subspecies.

Hellmayr & Conover (1948a) and many earlier classifications treated *andium* as a separate species from *A. flavirostris*. Many authors, from Meyer de Schauensee (1970) to Dickinson (2003), have treated *andium* as a subspecies of *A. flavirostris*. *Anas andium* was considered a separate species from *Anas flavirostris* by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), and this was followed by Hilty (2003). [SACC proposal passed to recognize *andium* as separate species](#). Jaramillo (2003) further suggested that the subspecies *oxyptera* may also deserve recognition as a separate species from *A. flavirostris*.

Yellow-billed Pintail - *Anas georgica spinicauda*

200+ at the Lampa wetlands and sewage plant

White-cheeked Pintail - *Anas bahamensis rubrirostris*

30+ at the sewage plant

Silver Teal - *Anas versicolor fretensis*

1 at the sewage plant

Cinnamon Teal - *Anas cyanoptera*

Common at the Lampa wetlands

Red Shoveler - *Anas platalea* Monotypic

800+ at the sewage plant

Rosy-billed Pochard - *Netta peposaca* Monotypic

A nice male at the sewage plant

Black-headed Duck - *Heteronetta atricapilla* Monotypic

200+ of this rare duck seen at the Lampa wetlands. The Black-headed Duck is the only parasitic duck in the world, mostly parasiting Red-gartered and Red-fronted Coot. The chicks are independent when they hatch and don't need the help of the fathers. The fathers look for incubators only, and Black-headed Duck eggs have been found in very different species nest, including egrets and Chimango Caracara!!

Lake Duck - *Oxyura vittata* Monotypic

200+ at the Lampa wetlands and sewage plant

NEW WORLD QUAILS

California Quail - *Callipepla californica*

A very successful introduced species. We saw a ground crossing the road near Lampa.

GREBES

White-tufted Grebe - *Rollandia rolland chilensis*

1 seen at the Lampa wetlands

Silvery Grebe - *Podiceps occipitalis*

25+ at the Lampa sewage plant, belonging to the *occipitalis* subspecies.

Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990) and Jaramillo (2003) suggested that the northern Andean subspecies, *juninensis*, might merit recognition as a separate species from *Podiceps occipitalis*

CORMORANTS

Neotropic Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax brasilianus olivaceus*

5 at the Lampa sewage plant

HERONS

Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis ibis*

3 at the Lampa wetlands

Cocoi Heron - *Ardea cocoi* Monotypic

1 at the Lampa wetlands

Great Egret - *Ardea alba egretta*

2 at the Lampa wetlands

Ardea alba was formerly (e.g., Pinto 1938, Hellmayr & Conover 1948a, Phelps & Phelps 1958a, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, AOU 1983) placed in monotypic genus *Casmerodius*, but morphometric (Payne and Risley 1976), vocal (McCracken & Sheldon 1987), and genetic data (Sheldon 1987, Sheldon et al. 1995, McCracken & Sheldon 1998) do not support recognition of this as a separate genus from *Ardea*. Some classifications (e.g., Bock 1956, Blake 1977) have placed *Ardea alba* in *Egretta*, but see Sheldon (1987), Sheldon et al. (1995), McCracken & Sheldon (1998), and Sheldon et al. (2000). Some recent genetic data (Chang et al. 2003) support resurrection of *Casmerodius*

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula brewsteri*

25 at the Lampa wetlands

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Andean Condor - *Vultur gryphus* Monotypic NEAR-THREATENED

2 seen near Valle Nevado

HAWKS

White-tailed Kite - *Elanus leucurus leucurus*

1 seen near Lampa

Harris's Hawk - *Parabuteo unicinctus unicinctus*

2 seen near Lampa.

Ferguson-Lees & Christie (2001) and Jaramillo (2003) suggested that northern *harrisi* group (USA to coastal Peru) might warrant recognition as a separate subspecies from the nominate *Parabuteo unicinctus* group

Variable Hawk - *Geranoaetus polyosoma* Monotypic

1 seen between Farellones and Valle Nevado

Formerly a *Buteo*, this species has recently been merged into *Geranoaetus*. Farquhar (1988) concluded that *Buteo poecilochrous* and *B. polyosoma* are conspecific, as they were formerly treated (REF); he was unable to find any way to reliably diagnose the two forms using plumage characters or measurements. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Schulenberg et al. (2007) followed this treatment and suggested "Variable Hawk" be retained for the composite species. Genetic data (Riesing et al. 2003) are consistent with hypothesis that *B. polyosoma* and *B. poecilochrous* are conspecific.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle - *Geranoaetus melanoleucus australis*

A fantastic view just below Farellones; with a bird soaring very close to us!!

RAILS

Red-gartered Coot - *Fulica armillata* Monotypic

Common at the Lampa wetlands

Red-fronted Coot - *Fulica rufifrons* Monotypic

Common at the Lampa wetlands

PLOVERS

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*

Abundant, from Central Chile (*chilensis* subspecies) to Patagonia (*fretensis* subspecies)

Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990) and Wiersma (1996) suggested that *Vanellus chilensis* might consist of more than one species but also noted that data so far suggest intergradation between the two subspecies groups <REF - Neotropical reference in Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990>; Jaramillo (2003) also consider than more than one species is probably involved: two groups exist, southern "Chilean Lapwing" (*chilensis* and *fretensis*) and more northern and eastern "Cayenne Lapwing" (*cayennensis* and *lampronotus*). The two differ in structure, plumage, crest length and colour, soft-part coloration and voice.

AVOCET and STILTS

Black-necked Stilt - *Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*

25+ at the Lampa wetlands

Himantopus mexicanus was formerly (e.g., Peters 1934, Pinto 1938, Hellmayr & Conover 1948b, Phelps & Phelps 1958a, Vaurie 1965c, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Blake 1977, Haverschmidt & Mees 1994) considered a subspecies of Old World *H. himantopus* ("Common Stilt") and was so treated by Dickinson (2003). Some authors have treated southern South American *melanurus* as a separate species (e.g., Sibley & Monroe 1990, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The six taxa in the genus *Himantopus* form a near-globally distributed superspecies (Mayr & Short 1970, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Pierce 1996), and with from one to six species-level taxa recognized by various authors. Virtually no data are available relevant to taxon-ranking of allopatric populations. The contact between *mexicanus* and *melanurus* in South America, where at least some hybridization occurs, affords one of the best opportunities for such study.

SANDPIPERS

South American Snipe - *Gallinago paraguayiae magellanica*

20+ flushed at the Lampa wetlands.

Species limits in New World *Gallinago* have been fluid and controversial, and not based on explicit analyses. Many authors (e.g., Peters 1934, Pinto 1938, Hellmayr & Conover 1948b) have considered *paraguaiae*, *magellanica*, and *andina* to be conspecific. Additionally, *Gallinago paraguaiae* was considered conspecific with *G. [gallinago] delicata* by Phelps & Phelps (1958a), Meyer de Schauensee (1970), and Blake (1970). Fjeldså and Krabbe (1990) placed *magellanica* with *paraguaiae*, making this species *G. magellanica*. Any arrangement of species limits in these taxa is based largely on anecdotal data, and this group is badly in need of formal study, especially given that differences in displays and vocalizations among *paraguaiae*, *magellanica*, and *andina* have been reported (Jaramillo 2003)

Greater Yellowlegs - *Tringa melanoleuca* Monotypic

2 at the Lampa wetlands

PAINTED-SNIPE

South American Painted-snipe - *Nycticryphes semicollaris* Monotypic

A rare one and usually difficult to see. An immature bird seen very well and for a long time, feeding at about 5 meters from us, at our usual spot at the Lampa wetlands

PIGEONS

Picui Ground-Dove - *Columbina picui picui*

3 near Lampa

Rock Pigeon - *Columba livia*

So pretty... especially the brown ones!!

Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata*

Very common in all the country (*auriculata* subspecies in Central Chile, *virgata* subspecies in Patagonia)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl - *Bubo virginianus magellanicus*

1 roosting at their usual place near Santiago.

König et al. (1996, 1999), followed by Marks et al. (1999), Mazar Barnett & Pearman (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Wink et al. (2008), recognized *B. magellanicus* as separate from *B. virginianus* based primarily on vocal differences; critical intermediate populations, however, have yet to be sampled. [SACC proposal to recognize as separate species did not pass](#). [NACC rejected a proposal to recognize *magellanicus* as a species pending more thorough study, including sampling of critical intermediate populations.]

HUMMINGBIRDS

Green-backed Firecrown - *Sephanoides sephaniodes* Monotypic

Common around Santiago in winter time

WOODPECKERS

Striped Woodpecker - *Veniliornis lignarius* Monotypic

Good view in the *Matorral* scrub, on the way to Farellones

Veniliornis lignarius and Chequered Woodpecker *V. mixtus* form a superspecies (Short 1982, Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Winkler & Christie 2002); justification is weak for their treatment as separate species (Short 1970, 1971, 1982); genetic data (Weibel & Moore 2002a, b) confirm their relationship as sister species.

Chilean Flicker - *Colaptes pitius* Monotypic

Seen on the way to Farellones

FALCONS

Ericson et al. (2006) and Hackett et al. (2008) found that the Falconiformes are actually more closely related to the Psittaciformes and Passeriformes than to any other orders

Mountain Caracara - *Phalacrocorax mexicanus* Monotypic

2 birds seen near Farellones

Chimango Caracara - *Milvago chimango*

Common from Santiago (n nominate subspecies) to Patagonia (*temucoensis* subspecies)

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*

Common (*peruvianus* subspecies in the north of the country, *cinnamominus* in the rest of the country)

TAPACULOS

RR Moustached Turca - *Pterotochos megapodius* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Excellent views on the way to Farellones belonging here to the nominate subspecies. A large and charismatic tapaculo running in the open!!

RR White-throated Tapaculo - *Scelorchilus albicollis* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

1 bird decided to come in the open, singing on the top of a rock at only a few meters from us!!
Nominate subspecies here.

Dusky Tapaculo - *Scytalopus fuscus* Monotypic CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Excellent view on the way to Farellones

OVENBIRDS

Rufous-banded Miner - *Geositta rufipennis*

40+ at Farellones belonging to the *fasciata* subspecies.

Geositta rufipennis may consist of more than one species (Jaramillo 2003, Remsen 2003).

RR Crag Chilia - *Ochetorhynchus melanurus* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Excellent views on 2 birds on the way to Farellones belonging to the nominate subspecies

Wren-like Rushbird - *Phleocryptes melanops*

Seen at the Lampa wetlands (nominate subspecies)

Buff-winged Cinclodes - *Cinclodes fuscus* Monotypic

A common Cinclodes from Central Chile to Patagonia. A few were still present at high elevation near Farellones, but most of them were already in the lowlands where they will spend the winter time.

Jaramillo (2003) suggested that the *albiventris* group might warrant recognition as a separate species from *Cinclodes fuscus*. Unfortunately, Chesser's (2004a) sampling did not include populations of *C. fuscus* from the Andes north of Argentina. Sanín et al. (2009) sampled *C. fuscus* from throughout its range and found that it was polyphyletic, with various populations more closely related to *C. ologi*, *C. oustaleti*, *C. comechingonus*, and *C. antarcticus*. [SACC proposal passed to elevate the *albiventris* and *albidiventris* groups to species rank](#). Derryberry et al. (2011) also corroborated this treatment. As for English names, Jaramillo (2003) proposed Cream-winged Cinclodes for *C. albiventris* and Buff-winged Cinclodes for *C. fuscus*, and Jaramillo (see proposal 415) proposed Chestnut-winged Cinclodes for *C. albidiventris*; these are used here tentatively until formal SACC action

Thorn-tailed Rayadito - *Aphrastura spinicauda*

2 birds found in the Matorral scrub on the way to Farellones. These birds are migrants, as the species is not breeding there.

RR Dusky-tailed Canastero - *Pseudasthenes humicola* CHILEAN ENDEMIC

Good views on the way to Farellones (nominate subspecies)

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Tufted Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes parulus parulus*

Common from Central Chile to Patagonia

Many-colored Rush Tyrant - *Tachuris rubrigastra*

2 seen well at the Lampa wetlands, belonging here to the very colorful nominate subspecies

Austral Negrito - *Lessonia rufa* Monotypic

A few found at the Lampa marsh.

Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola maclovianus mentalis*

1 first seen at 3,000 meters elevation near Valle Nevado, and a flock of 100+ at the Lampa wetlands. All these birds are migrants, coming from Patagonia.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant - *Agriornis montanus*

2 near Farellones (*maritimus* subspecies)

Great Shrike-Tyrant - *Agriornis lividus*

Excellent view on 1 bird seen on the way to Farellones.

Fire-eyed Diucon - *Xolmis pyrope*

2 seen at our first stop on the way to Farellones. Probably a monotypic species even if the *fortis* subspecies has been described for the birds from Chiloe Island.

Patagonian Tyrant - *Colorhamphus parvirostris* Monotypic

A common species around Santiago in winter time. We had very good views on the way to Farellones.



The Patagonian Tyrant is an austral migrant, easier to see in winter time.

SWALLOWS

Chilean Swallow - *Tachycineta meyeni* Monotypic

A few at the Lampa wetlands

WRENS

House Wren - *Troglodyte (aedon) musculus*

Everywhere and common, belonging here to the *chilensis* subspecies

Many authors (e.g., Hellmayr 1934, Pinto 1944, Phelps & Phelps 1950a) formerly treated Neotropical mainland populations as a separate species *T. musculus*; see also Brumfield and Capparella (1996); this treatment was followed by Brewer (2001) and Kroodsma & Brewer (2005). <incorp. Paynter 1957?> The Falklands population, *T. a. cobbi*, might also be best treated as a species (Wood 1993), as was done by Brewer (2001), Mazar Barnett & Pearman (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Kroodsma & Brewer (2005). [SACC proposal to treat *cobbi* as separate species did not pass](#)

THRUSHES

Austral Thrush - *Turdus falcklandii magellanicus*

Common

MOCKINGBIRDS

RR Chilean Mockingbird - *Mimus thenca* Monotypic **CHILEAN ENDEMIC**

Very common in Central Chile.

The species is spreading to the south and is now even breeding on Chiloe Island. There are also a few sightings in Argentina, so the species should not be considered any more a Chilean endemic...

PIPITS

Correndera Pipit - *Anthus correndera*

A few flushed in the Lampa wetlands, belonging to the *chilensis* subspecies

TANAGERS

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus gayi*

Common on the way to Farellones

(H) Mourning Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus fruticeti*

1 heard on the way to Farellones

Common Diuca-Finch - *Diuca diuca*

Common in Central Chile

Grassland Yellow-Finch - *Sicalis luteola luteiventris*

Common at the Lampa wetlands, especially in winter time when huge flocks can be found

Meyer de Schauensee (1966) and Ridgely & Tudor (1989) suggested that the southern subspecies *luteiventris* might represent a separate species from *Sicalis luteola*, and it was treated as such by Sibley & Monroe (1990) and AOU (<?> 1983, 1998). Meyer de Schauensee (1966), Ridgely & Tudor (1989), and Hilty (2003) also suggested that the subspecies *bogotensis* might deserve species rank.

SPARROWS

Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis*

Common

BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Yellow-winged Blackbird - *Agelasticus thilius*

Big flocks at the Lampa wetlands

Shiny Cowbird - *Molothrus bonariensis*

Big flocks at the Lampa wetlands

Long-tailed Meadowlark - *Sturnella loyca*

Common around Santiago

FINCHES

Black-chinned Siskin - *Sporagra barbata* Monotypic

2 on the way to Farellones

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*

Common all over the country

MAMMAL LIST

CTENOMYIDAE

Coruro - *Spalacopus cyanus*

1 seen at Valle Nevado where huge colonies are found.

MYOCASTORIDAE

Coypu - *Myocastor coypus*

1 in a canal at Lampa



The Coruro is easily seen at the large colonies found near Valle Nevado