

Albatross

Birding and Nature Tours



Full day birding through the coastal wetlands of Central Chile

August 2016

Leader: Rodrigo Silva

Participants: Jesper Sollerman

Albatross Birding & Nature Tours

www.albatross-birding.com

OVERVIEW

In this private tour with Jesper we spent the whole day birding through the coast of the central region, starting at the Maipo Estuary and finishing at Algarrobo. In our route we visited many different birding spots, achieving a total of 79 species up to the end of the day.

ITINERARY

We left Santiago City before dawn, at 06:15, and then drove to Maipo Estuary, where we start birding at 07:45. Maipo river mouth is one of the most important wetland in the central region, recently designated as a Site of regional importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). We started birding across the brushland and sand dunes, before reaching the wetland itself. After 3 and a half hours birding we achieved 53 species including Spot-flanked Gallinule, Plumbeous Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Rufous-chested Dotterel, Hudsonian Godwit, Snowy-crowned Tern, Patagonian-forest Earthcreeper and the beautiful Many-colored Rush-Tyrant. Some clouds and a light-rain threatened us but fortunately the weather became better quite soon and we were able to keep moving as planned.

After some coffee and cookies once we got back to the car, we moved to Cartagena Lagoon, a small but very diverse lagoon placed at one of the most popular beach towns of the central region. There we got some new species for our day list as Red Shoveler, White-tufted and Great Grebe, Coscoroba and Black-necked Swan. Then we kept on our way north up the coast, but not before to stopping for a quick-lunch at Las Cruces, where we got some "empanadas" plus a Peruvian Booby.

We reached the our northern birding stop of the day at 2:30 pm and once there we visited 2 different habitats: a small but productive reed site where we found the secretive Stripe-backed Bittern, and a native "matorral" area where we added some inland-species. Early in the season, we didn't get the

spring and summer migrants but we got several species which are more common in the central region during winter time, such as Chilean Pigeon, Green-backed Firecrown, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Des Mur's Wiretail and Patagonian Tyrant. In addition we got some Chilean endemics including Moustached Turca, White-throated and Dusky Tapaculo and Dusky-tailed Canastero.

After a long but successfully birding session we headed back to the city, reaching Jesper's Hotel at 6 pm which gave him time for a shower, dinner and some good rest before an early-wake up to catch the flight to Eastern Island, the next day.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomic order and notes follows South American Classification Committee

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

Detailed birdlists available at eBird

<http://www.ebird.org>

DUCKS

Black-necked Swan - *Cygnus melancoryphus*

Coscoroba Swan - *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Chiloe Wigeon - *Anas sibilatrix*

Cinnamon Teal - *Anas cyanoptera*

Red Shoveler - *Anas platalea*

Yellow-billed Pintail - *Anas georgica*

Yellow-billed Teal - *Anas flavirostris*

Lake Duck - *Oxyura vittata*

NEW WORLD QUAILS

California Quail - *Callipepla californica*

GREBES

White-tufted Grebe - *Rollandia rolland*

Pied-billed Grebe - *Podilymbus podiceps*

Great Grebe - *Podiceps major*

BOOBIES

Peruvian Booby - *Sula variegata*

CORMORANTS

Neotropic Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

PELICANS

Peruvian Pelican - *Pelecanus thagus*

HERONS

Stripe-backed Bittern - *Ixobrychus involucris*

Great Egret - *Ardea alba*

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula*

Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis*

Black-crowned Night-Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax*

NEW-WORLD VULTURES

Black Vulture - *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*

HAWKS

Variable Hawk - *Geranoaetus polyosoma*

RAILS

Spot-flanked Gallinule - *Porphyriops melanops*

Plumbeous Rail - *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

Red-gartered Coot - *Fulica armillata*

Red-fronted Coot - *Fulica rufifrons*

White-winged Coot - *Fulica leucoptera*

AVOCETS and STILTS

Black-necked Stilt - *Himantopus mexicanus*

OYSTERCATCHERS

American Oystercatcher - *Haematopus palliatus*

PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover - *Pluvialis squatarola*

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*

Collared Plover - *Charadrius collaris*

Rufous-chested Dotterel - *Charadrius modestus*

SANDPIPERS

Whimbrel - *Numenius phaeopus*

Hudsonian Godwit - *Limosa haemastica*

Sanderling - *Calidris alba*

Baird's Sandpiper - *Calidris bairdii*

GULLS and TERNS

Brown-hooded Gull - *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

Gray Gull - *Leucophaeus modestus*

Kelp Gull - *Larus dominicanus*

South American Tern - *Sterna hirundinacea*

Snowy-crowned Tern - *Sterna trudeaui*

PIGEONS

Chilean Pigeon - *Patagioenas araucana*

Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata*

HUMMINGBIRDS

Green-backed Firecrown - *Sephanoides sephaniodes*

WOODPECKERS

Striped Woodpecker - *Veniliornis lignarius*

FALCONS

Chimango Caracara - *Milvago chimango*

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*

PARROTS

Monk Parakeet - *Myiopsitta monachus*

TAPACULOS

Moustached Turca - *Pteroptochos megapodius*
White-throated Tapaculo - *Scelorchilus albicollis*
Dusky Tapaculo - *Scytalopus fuscus*

OVENBIRDS

Wren-like Rushbird - *Phleocryptes melanops*
Patagonian-forest Earthcreeper - *Upucerthia saturiator*
Buff-winged Cinclodes - *Cinclodes fuscus*
Thorn-tailed Rayadito - *Aphrastura spinicauda*
Des Murs's Wiretail - *Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail - *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*
Dusky-tailed Canastero - *Pseudasthenes humicola*

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Tufted Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes parulus*
Many-colored Rush Tyrant - *Tachuris rubrigastra*
Austral Negrito - *Lessonia rufa*
Fire-eyed Diucon - *Xolmis pyrope*
Patagonian Tyrant - *Colorhamphus parvirostris*

COTINGAS

Rufous-tailed Plantcutter - *Phytotoma rara*

SWALLOWS

Chilean Swallow - *Tachycineta meyeni*

WRENS

House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*

THRUSHES

Austral Thrush - *Turdus falcklandii*

MOCKINGBIRDS

Chilean Mockingbird - *Mimus thenca*

SPARROWS

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus gayi*

Common Diuca-Finch - *Diuca diuca*

Grassland Yellow-Finch - *Sicalis luteola*

Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis*

BLACKBIRDS

Long-tailed Meadowlark - *Sturnella loyca*

Austral Blackbird - *Curaeus curaeus*

Yellow-winged Blackbird - *Agelasticus thilius*

FINCHES

Black-chinned Siskin - *Spinus barbatus*

OLD-WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*