
Albatross

Birding and Nature Tours



Full Day at La Campana National Park

12th August 2016

Leader: Fernando Díaz

Participants: Bill and Mabel Hildebrandt

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Chilean Tinamou *Nothoprocta perdicaria*

While planning our trip we were very worried about the weather because August is the middle of winter in Chile. However we had an excellent day's birding with lots of activity and good observations.

Early in the morning, we headed northbound west of Santiago to the National Park La Campana, Ocoa. This park is located in the Mediterranean area of Chile and is the only Biosphere Reserve in central Chile.

It is a famous place and memorably visited by the naturalist Charles Darwin which he explored during his trip around the world on the Beagle. In this park there are many different types of native vegetation and especially one of the few relict forests of the endemic Chilean Palm.

Arriving at the park we were birding at the entrance, just steps from the vehicle and already we could see some species such as Green-backed Firecrown, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, a large flock of Chilean Pigeon and one of the austral migratory species the Patagonian Tyrant.

As our trip was planned primarily to look for the endemic species of central Chile, we went quickly after some of these. After just few meters we found the first endemic, the Moustached Turca. Two of these charismatic Tapaculos came very close and confiding and allowed us some take some good close-up photographs.

After having a good time at the entrance, we set off to bird the trails, looking for other endemic species.

Our main goal was the elusive White-throated Tapaculo. We heard several of them but none were cooperative enough to allow us to see them. We walked for another few hundred meters and there on a slope we could see one of them running down the cleared areas and into the bushes. We then saw and heard this restless bird several times more. Also in the area was another endemic the, Dusky-tailed Canastero.

One of the endemic species we most wanted to see was the Chilean Tinamou. We were waiting a long time in the bush until finally one crossed the trail and walked just 3 meters from us. We saw this shy Tinamou several times and we were able to take some very good pictures.

Other interesting birds in the park were Austral Pygmy Owl, Striped Woodpecker, White-throated Treerunner and Thorn-tailed Rayadito.

In way back we saw from the car a big flock of 30 Andean Condor.

All in all it was a successful day and proves that, even off-season, there is excellent birding in central Chile.



White-throated Treerunner *Pygarrichas albogularis*



Austral Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium nana*

Birds List

Chilean Tinamou *Nothoprocta perdicaria*

California Quail *Callipepla californica*

Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*

Bicolored Hawk *Accipiter bicolor*

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*
Chilean Pigeon *Patagioenas araucana*
Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui*
Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*
Austral Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium nana*
Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephaniodes*
Striped Woodpecker *Veniliornis lignarius*
Chilean Flicker *Colaptes pitius*
Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*
Moustached Turca *Pterotochos megapodius*
White-throated Tapaculo *Scelorchilus albicollis*
White-throated Treerunner *Pygarrhichas albogularis*
Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper *Upucerthia saturator*
Thorn-tailed Rayadito *Aphrastura spinicauda*
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*
Dusky-tailed Canastero *Pseudasthenes humicola*
Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*
Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope*
Patagonian Tyrant *Colorhamphus parvirostris*
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter *Phytotoma rara*
Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*
Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii*
Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus thenca*
Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi*
Common Diuca-Finch *Diuca diuca*

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca*

Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaeus*

Black-chinned Siskin *Spinus barbatus*