

# Albatross

*Birding and Nature Tours*



Between forests and wetlands: Birding in Lampa and Vilches areas

13<sup>rd</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Guide:** Fernando Medrano

**Participant:** Bob Proniewych

Albatross Birding & Nature Tours

---

[www.albatross-birding.com](http://www.albatross-birding.com)

## OVERVIEW

This is the report of a private tour designed for Bob Proniewych, serious birder from Long Island, who came to the Southern cone by first time, after many birding trips around the world. Our target was had good views of 14 species: South American Painted-snipe, Chestnut-throated huet-huet, Chilean Pigeon, Magellanic woodpecker, Burrowing parrot, Austral parakeet, Rufous-legged owl, White-throated treerunner, Chucao tapaculo, Spectacled duck, Des murs' Wiretail, Patagonian tyrant, Fire-eyed diucon and Patagonian Sierra-finch.

With this purposes, we had to go to Vilches area! The Vilches area is the northern section of the Andean temperate forest in Chile, so that allowed us watch the majority of this species in their northern distribution range. We knew that Tapaculo's species are very vocal, but hard-to-see, so we put special effort on this species.

Overall we had good views of 71 species, including some highlights as South American Painted-snipe, Chestnut-throated huet-huet, Magellanic woodpecker, Burrowing parrot, Austral parakeet, Chucao tapaculo, Magellanic tapaculo, Spectacled duck, Torrent duck, Des murs' Wiretail, Patagonian tyrant, Fire-eyed diucon and White-throated hawk.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Our first target was the South-american Painted-snipe, a lifer for Bob. With this purpose, we started our trip on November 13<sup>rd</sup> from the airport to the Lampa wetlands. We started watching the first lifers for Bob from the car! On the road to our first stopping place -Puente Negro- we saw Common diuca-finch and Picui ground-dove. Puente Negro is an important area for breeding birds (specially Brown-hooded gull and Black-necked stilt), so we tried to disturb as less as possible, and after a good view of 3 South-american painted snipe we left this place.

The second place was Santa Inés, where we saw five cinereous harriers, and the widespread -but locally rare- Short-eared owl. Not bad at all! In this place we called to the Black rail, but it did not call back.

After that, we went to the Batuco wetland to get good view of some ducks: We saw Chiloe wigeon, Lake duck, Yellow-billed pintail, Speckled teal, Cinnamon teal and Red shoveler, some of them with their chicks. We get excellent views of all these species through the scope.

We knew that we had a long driving from Lampa to Vilches area, so we started our trip at midday. After 400 kilometers, we arrived to Colbún lake. In the first stopping place, we watched our first Chilean pigeons, flying above our heads. Here, we had good views of three Fire-eyed diucon roosting on the wires. Here, he had a first -bad- view of the Desmurs' wiretail, but actively responding to our calling. Looking through the top of the canopy of the hills, we had two surprises: A peregrine falcon and an Osprey! The osprey is a regular -but very rare- species in southern Chile.

After, we went to the eastern side of the lake, and there we had excellent views with the scope of two of the main targets: Burrowing parrots and Spectacled ducks

After an overnight-flight and a whole day birding-driving, we reached our comfortable hostel in Vilches, providing us time to rest and get organized for the forthcoming days.

Our last birding parade that day was in the Altos de Lircay National Reserve entrance, trying to watch the Rufous-legged owl. Although we call it, and it responses, we didn't see it.

## Day 2

After an enjoyable night on Hosteria Vilches and a really good breakfast, we walked from the Altos de Lircay National Reserve entrance to the Aliwenmahuida trail, crossing by good quality forests and understory. In this place, we heard some distant tapaculos (Chucaos and Huet-huet), and parakeets. In the natural viewpoint of this trail, and while we were enjoying the incredible landscape some austral parakeets appeared overflying the forest.

Before of leaving this trail, we heard a Patagonian tyrant, and after a quick play-back call, we watched this little tyrant in its northern breeding range.

We visited the "Concones" trail, where we saw the White-throated hawk. This is a difficult-to-see species in this place.

With this already done, we wanted to watch the Magellanic woodpecker. To do that, we had to walk by the main hiking trail. After one mile, we heard the evidences: a distant tapping on the forest. We followed the sound, and we saw a beautiful couple of them.

Close of that place, we followed the call of a Chestnut-throated huet-huet, on a covered stream. After some play-back calls, we saw it walking around the forest. A good target had been reached!



Chestnut-throated Huet-huet. Photography: Fernando Díaz

Then, we came back to the Aliwenmahuida trail, to look for our last diurnal target: the Chucao tapaculo. We saw it close to a covered stream, with native bamboo (Quila).

When we were leaving the National reserve, we saw two beautiful reptile species: The Southern growler, and two Thin tree lizards.

After another great meal served in the hostel, we get out again to look for the Rufous-legged owls in the trail "Las tacitas" and in the entrance of the park. Although we tried two hours, in four different places, we just heard them distant, but they were not responding actively. Then, we aborted mission in order to prioritize an early beginning in the next day.

### Day 3

We started this day birding on the Hosteria Vilches, watching Green-backed firecrown and White-throated treerunner. After a super-b breakfast, we drove to the Colbún lake, to improve our views of the wiretail. We tried several times, and finally Bob had a good view, entering in the vegetation while I was calling it from the edge of the patch. In that place, we also walked along the edge of the lake, and we had good views of three Upland goose, Black-faced ibis, Great grebe and White-tufted grebe. After that, we started our return to the hotel "Diego de Almagro" in Providencia.

## **BIRD LIST (75 species)**

Taxonomic order and notes follows South American Classification Committee

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

Detailed birdlist available at eBird

<http://www.ebird.org>

### DUCKS

1. Upland goose – *Chloephaga poliocephala*
2. Torrent duck – *Merganetta armata*
3. Spectacled Duck – *Specularnas specularis*
4. Chiloe Wigeon - *Anas sibilatrix*
5. Yellow-billed teal – *Anas flavirostris*
6. Yellow-billed Pintail - *Anas georgica*
7. Cinnamon teal – *Anas cyanoptera*
8. Red shoveler – *Anas platalea*
9. Lake duck – *Oxyura vittata*

#### NEW WORLD QUAILS

10. California Quail - *Callipepla californica*

#### CORMORANTS

11. Neotropic Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

#### GREBES

12. White-tufted grebe – *Rollandia rolland*
13. Great grebe – *Podiceps major*

#### HERONS

14. Cattle egret – *Bubulcus ibis*
15. Cooi heron – *Ardea cooi*
16. Great egret – *Ardea alba*
17. Snowy egret – *Egretta thula*

#### IBISES

18. Black-faced Ibis – *Theristicus melanopis*

#### NEW-WORLD VULTURES

19. Black Vulture - *Coragyps atratus*
20. Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*

#### HAWKS

21. White-tailed Kite – *Elanus leucurus*
22. Cinereous harrier – *Circus cinereus*
23. Variable Hawk - *Geranoaetus polyosoma*
24. White-throated hawk – *Buteo albigula*
25. Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus*

#### RAILS

26. Red-gartered coot – *Fulica armillata*
27. Red-fronted coot – *Fulica rufifrons*

#### PLOVERS

28. Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*

## AVOCETS and STILTS

29. Black-necked stilt – *Himantopus mexicanus*

## PAINTED-SNIPE

30. South American Painted-snipe – *Nycticryphes semicollaris*

## GULLS

31. Brown-hooded Gull – *Chroicephalus maculipennis*

32. Kelp Gull - *Larus dominicanus*

## PIGEONS

33. Rock pigeon – *Columba livia*

34. Chilean Pigeon – *Patagioenas araucana*

35. Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata*

36. Picui ground-dove – *Columbina picui*

## PARROTS

37. Burrowing Parrot – *Cyanoliseus patagonicus*

38. Austral Parakeet – *Encognathus ferrugineus*

## OWLS

39. Austral Pygmy-Owl - *Glaucidium nana* – *Just heard*

40. Rufous-legged Owl – *Strix rufipes* – *Just heard*

## NIGHTJARS

41. Band-winged Nightjar – *Systellura longirostris* – *Just heard*

## HUMMINGBIRDS

42. Green-backed Firecrown - *Sephanoides sephaniodes*

## WOODPECKERS

43. Striped Woodpecker - *Veniliornis lignarius* – *Just heard*

44. Magellanic Woodpecker – *Campephilus magellanicus*

## FALCONS

45. Chimango Caracara - *Milvago chimango*

46. American Kestrel – *Falco sparverius*

47. Peregrine falcon – *Falco peregrinus*

#### TAPACULOS

48. Chestnut-throated Huet-huet – *Pteroptochos castaneus*

49. Chucao Tapaculo – *Scelorchilus rubecula*

50. Magellanic Tapaculo - *Scytalopus magellanicus*

#### OVENBIRDS

51. Thorn-tailed Rayadito - *Aphrastura spinicauda*

52. Des Murs's Wiretail - *Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*

53. White-throated Treerunner – *Pygarrhichas albogularis*

54. Plain-mantled tit-spinetail – *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*

#### TYRANTS

55. White-crested Elaenia – *Elaenia albiceps*

56. Tufted Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes parulus*

57. Spectacled tyrant – *Hymenops perspicillatus*

58. Fire-eyed Diucon - *Xolmis pyrope*

59. Patagonian Tyrant - *Colorhamphus parvirostris*

#### SWALLOWS

60. Blue-and-white Swallow - *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

61. Chilean Swallow - *Tachycineta meyeni*

#### WRENS

62. House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*

#### THRUSHES

63. Austral Thrush - *Turdus falcklandii*

#### MOCKINGBIRDS

64. Chilean Mockingbird - *Mimus thenca*

#### FINCHES & SPARROWS

65. Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis*

66. Patagonian Sierra-Finch – *Phrygilus patagonicus*

67. Mourning Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus fruticeti*

- 68. Common Diuca-Finch - *Diuca diuca*
- 69. Grassland Yellow-Finch - *Sicalis luteola*

#### SISKINS

- 70. Black-chinned Siskin - *Spinus barbatus*

#### BLACKBIRDS

- 71. Long-tailed Meadowlark - *Sturnella loyca*
- 72. Austral Blackbird - *Curaeus curaesus*
- 73. Yellow-winged blackbird – *Agelasticus thilius*
- 74. Shiny Cowbird - *Molothrus bonariensis*

#### SPARROWS

- 75. House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*

#### MAMMALS

- 1. European Hare - *Lepus europaeus*

#### REPTILES

- 1. Ribboned lizard – *Liolaemus lemniscatus*
- 2. Thin tree lizard – *Liolaemus tenuis*
- 3. Southern growler – *Pristidactylus torquatus*