

# 2 DAYS BIRDING AROUND SANTIAGO + A PELAGIC TRIP OFF VALPARAISO

December 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> , 2010



**Trip Leaders: Fabrice Schmitt and Fernando Diaz**

**Participants: Gaétan Paquet, Christine Jacques, John and Greta Graham.**

This short report presents the species seen during 2 days birding around Santiago with Gaétan and Christine, and a pelagic trip off Valparaiso. During the first day, we visited the highlands above Santiago (mostly around Farellones) and the Bатуco/Lampa wetlands north of Santiago. The second day, we visited some coastal wetlands between San Antonio and Algarrobo. We have been very successful during these 3 days, as we found 138 bird species, including all the Chilean endemics found around Santiago, and some very good birds including Stripe-backed Bittern, Black Rail, Great Shrike-tyrant, Ticking Doradito, Masatierra Petrel, Swallow-tailed Gull, Northern Royal Albatross and Buller's Shearwater. We even found a Fulvous Whistling Duck, a vagrant in Chile!!

All pictures are from Fabrice Schmitt, and you can see more at:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fabrice-schmitt/>

# BIRDLIST

**Conservation Status (in red) follows Birdlife International (2009)**

<http://www.birdlife.org/index.html>

Taxonomy mostly follows South American Classification Committee (Dec. 2010)

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

(H) heard only

RR = Restricted-range species (total range < 50.000 km<sup>2</sup>)

## TINAMOUS

**RR Chilean Tinamou**                      **Nothoprocta perdicaria**

1 seen on the way to Farellones and 2 more heard.

## DUCKS

**Fulvous Whistling-duck**   **Dendrocygna viduata**

A vagrant species in Chile !!

1 bird found at the Cadellada sewage plant. A wonderful surprise!!

**Black-necked Swan**              **Cygnus melancoryphus**

Common at El Peral

**Coscoroba Swan**   **Coscoroba coscoroba**

2 seen on the coast.

**Chiloe Wigeon**      **Anas sibilatrix**

Seen at different locations around Santiago.

**Yellow-billed Teal**   **Anas flavirostris**

Fairly common around Santiago. All the birds seen belong to the *flavirostris* subspecies.

**Yellow-billed Pintail**      **Anas georgica**

Common around Santiago.

**White-cheeked Pintail**      **Anas bahamensis**

25+ seen on the sewage pond near Santiago.

**Cinnamon Teal**      **Anas cyanoptera**

A few seen around Santiago and on the coast.

**Red Shoveler**              **Anas platalea**

1000+ seen around Santiago.

**Rosy-billed Pochard**                      **Netta peposaca**

5 seen at the Cadellada sewage plant.

**Black-headed Duck**                      **Heteronetta atricapilla**

At least 200 birds seen on a sewage pond near Santiago. The Black-headed Duck is the only parasitic duck species in the world. As its usual hosts are the Red-gartered and Red-fronted Coots, this duck usually stays inside the reed beds and riparian vegetation, and so is usually difficult to see. But around Santiago, sometimes large numbers (to 800 !!) are found at the Batuco Lagoon or at the sewage pond.

**Lake Duck**    **Oxyura vittata**

Common around Santiago.

**NEW WORLD QUAIL**

**California Quail**    **Callipepla californica**

Common around Santiago. This introduced species is now more common in Chile than in California!

**GREBES**

**White-tufted Grebe**    **Rollandia rolland**

The largest group was found at El Peral Lagoon, with at least 40 birds.

**Pied-billed Grebe**    **Podilymbus podiceps**

A few birds seen on the coast and at El Peral.

**Great Grebe**                      **Podiceps major**

1 seen near Santiago.

**Silvery Grebe**                      **Podiceps occipitalis**

About 15 birds seen at the Cadellada sewage plant. These birds belong to the *occipitalis* subspecies.

**PENGUINS**

**Humboldt Penguin**                      **Spheniscus humboldti**                      **Vulnerable**

15+ seen from the coast, and a few more seen during the pelagic trip.

**ALBATROSSES**

**Northern Royal Albatross** **Diomedea epomophora sanfordi** **Endangered**

5 different birds seen during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso

**Black-browed Albatross**    **Thalassarche melanophrys**                      **Endangered**

40+ during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso.

**Buller's Albatross**    **Thalassarche bulleri**                      **Near-threatened**

At least 2 different birds seen during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso.



**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* **Near-threatened**

At least 1000 birds seen from Punta Tralca during our day along the coast, and 150+ seen during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso. The ones seen from shore off Chiloé Island are probably breeding on Guafo Island, south of Chiloé, where this large seabird colony hosts more than four million Sooty Shearwaters!

**Pink-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus creatopus* **Vulnerable**

Seen in small numbers during our pelagic trip. This shearwater, which makes a long migration through the Pacific, is a Chilean endemic breeder with 95% of the population breeding on Mocha Island. Should be renamed Mocha Shearwater!!

**Buller's Shearwater** *Puffinus bulleri* **Vulnerable**

One during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso!! Not so common here!

**STORM-PETRELS**

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*

50+ during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso.

All these birds belong to the *chilensis* subspecies, supposedly breeding in the Chilean fjords, and are sometimes called Fuegian Storm-petrel.

**DIVING-PETRELS**

**Peruvian Diving-Petrel** *Pelecanoides garnotii* **Endangered**

20 seen during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso.

**PELICANS**

**Peruvian Pelican** *Pelecanus thagus* **Near-threatened**

A very common species in central Chile.

This is a recent and accepted split from the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

**BOOBIES**

**Peruvian Booby** *Sula variegata*

A common species in the center of Chile.

**CORMORANTS**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

A very common species in Chile, found in most of the wetlands visited and along the coast.

**Red-legged Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax gaimardi* **Near-threatened**

Perhaps the most elegant Cormorant in the world!!

Only 1 seen during our pelagic trip.

**Guanay Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii* **Near-threatened**

20+ seen during our day along the coast, and 2 more during the pelagic trip.

## HERONS

**Stripe-backed Bittern**                      ***Ixobrychus involucres***

We saw a bird fishing during one hour at El Peral lake!! Fantastic!!

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**      ***Nycticorax nycticorax***

A few seen along the coast.

**Cattle Egret**   ***Bubulcus ibis***

Fairly common especially in central Chile.

**Cocoi Heron**              ***Ardea cocoi***

1 seen at the Batuco Lagoon, near Santiago.

**Great Egret**   ***Ardea alba***

Seen in small numbers in central Chile.

**Snowy Egret**              ***Egretta thula***

Fairly common.

## IBISES

**White-faced Ibis**      ***Plegadis chihi***

One seen at the Batuco Lagoon, near Santiago.

**Black-faced Ibis**      ***Theristicus melanopis***

7 seen at Farellones where the species is not common.

## NEW WORLD VULTURES

**Turkey Vulture**      ***Cathartes aura***

A few seen along the coast.

**Black Vulture**              ***Coragyps atratus***

3 seen near San Antonio.

**Andean Condor**      ***Vultur gryphus***

**Near-threatened**

We had great views of the largest flying birds of the world during our first day birding around Santiago, with 15+ birds seen.

## HAWKS

**White-tailed Kite**      ***Elanus leucurus***

1 seen at the Batuco lake.

**Cinereous Harrier**   ***Circus cinereus***

3 seen at the Batuco/Lampa wetlands.

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

2 on the way to Farellones.

**Harris's Hawk**      **Parabuteo unicinctus**

1 seen on the way to San Antonio.

**Variable Hawk**      **Buteo polyosoma**

At least 2 birds seen around Farellones.

## FALCONS

**Chimango Caracara**      **Milvago chimango**

Common.

**American Kestrel**      **Falco sparverius**

A few.

## RAILS

**Black Rail**      **Laterallus jamaicensis**      **Near-threatened**

A very secretive species. 4 heard and 2 seen during our day along the coast. The Black Rails present in Chile belong to the *salinasi* subspecies, and the song differences between the nominate subspecies indicate that they perhaps may be better considered as distinct species.

**Plumbeous Rail**      **Pardirallus sanguinolentus**

A pair with a chick seen near Cartagena.

**Spot-flanked Gallinule**      **Gallinula melanops**

1 seen well near Cartagena.

**Red-gartered Coot**      **Fulica armillata**

A common coot in Chile

**Red-fronted Coot**      **Fulica rufifrons**

Common in central Chile.

**White-winged Coot**      **Fulica leucoptera**

Common.

## PLOVERS

**Southern Lapwing**      **Vanellus chilensis**

Very common and noisy!!

Jaramillo comments "two groups exist, southern 'Chilean Lapwing' (*chilensis* and *fretensis*) and more northern and eastern 'Cayenne Lapwing' (*cayannensis* and *lampronotus*). The two differ in structure, plumage, crest length and colour, soft-part coloration and voice". Jaramillo is currently researching this issue. More than one species is probably involved.

**Collared Plover**      **Charadrius collaris**

10 at the Batuco Lagoon, near Santiago.

### **OYSTERCATCHERS**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*

A few seen along the coast.

### **AVOCETS and STILTS**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*

100+ on the coast and at the Batuco Lagoon. All these birds belong to the *melanurus* subspecies, sometimes considered as a distinct species.

### **SANDPIPERS**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

Fairly common along the Chilean coast. We found at least 250 birds together near Cartagena.

SACC comment: Zink et al. (1995) proposed a return to earlier classifications (e.g., Ridgway 1919) that considered New World *hudsonicus* to be a separate species from Old World populations based on genetic distance. Although plumage pattern also differs substantially, vocalizations are evidently very similar, in contrast to the many allotaxa in the Scolopacidae treated as a separate species.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

10 at Batuco lake and 2 more at El Peral.

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*

3 at Cartagena

### **SKUAS**

**Chilean Skua** *Stercorarius chilensis*

10+ seen during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso.

### **GULLS**

**Swallow-tailed Gull** *Creagrus furcatus*

1 during our pelagic trip!!! A wonderful surprise here, as this species is very rarely seen in Central Chile!!

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

1 seen very well during our pelagic trip off Valparaiso.

**Brown-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

A common gull in Central Chile.



The Swallow-tailed Gull seen off Valparaiso!!  
A very rare bird in Central Chile.

**Gray Gull**    **Leucophaeus modestus**

Seen in very small number on the coast.

All the world's population breeds in the Atacama Desert in the north of Chile, very far from the ocean or any wetlands. The adults cross the desert every day to reach the Pacific coast where most of them will look for their food on the sandy beaches. After the breeding season, they spread along the Peruvian and Chilean coasts.

**Franklin's Gull**    **Leucophaeus pipixcan**

A nearctic migrant seen in huge numbers in Chile during the boreal winter. We saw more than 1000 birds on the coast and during our pelagic trip.

The Franklin's Gull makes one of the longest migrations of any gull, and so is the only gull species undergoing two complete molts in a year.

**Kelp Gull**    **Larus dominicanus**

Common everywhere along the Pacific coast.



Seen at Batuco and on the coast.

### **HUMMINGBIRDS**

**White-sided Hillstar**      **Oreotrochilus leucopleurus**

2 seen on the way to Farellones.

**Giant Hummingbird**      **Patagona gigas**

The largest hummingbird in the world!

We had great views of this species near Santiago.

### **WOODPECKERS**

**Striped Woodpecker**      **Veniliornis lignarius**

Excellent view near Santiago

**Chilean Flicker**      **Colaptes pitius**

Nice views on the way to Farellones.

### **OVENBIRDS**

**Rufous-banded Miner**      **Geositta rufipennis**

Common around Farellones. These birds belong to the *fasciata* subspecies.

**RR Crag Chilia**      **Ochetorhynchus melanurus**

Excellent sighting at our usual spot. A beautiful Chilean endemic.

**Scale-throated Earthcreeper**      **Upucerthia dumetaria**

Nice view around Farellones.

**Buff-winged Cinclodes**      **Cinclodes fuscus**

Common in the highlands above Santiago.

A recent split from Bar-winged Cinclodes.

**Gray-flanked Cinclodes**      **Cinclodes oustaleti**

2 seen very well at Farellones.

**Seaside Cinclodes**      **Cinclodes nigrofumosus**

A Chilean endemic, related to the Surf Cinclodes endemic to Peru.

Excellent view during our day along the coast.

**Wren-like Rushbird**      **Phleocryptes melanops**

Seen well at El Peral lake.

**Thorn-tailed Rayadito**      **Aphrastura spinicauda**

A group of 5 seen during our day along the coast.

**Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail**      **Leptasthenura aegithaloides**

Seen well above Santiago. These belong to the *aegithaloides* subspecies.

**Cordilleran Canastero     *Asthenes modesta***

1 bird singing near Farellones, seen very well.

**Sharp-billed Canastero     *Asthenes pyrrholeuca***

Good views around Farellones.

**RR Dusky-tailed Canastero     *Asthenes humicola***

Excellent sighting on this Chilean endemic on the way to Farellones.

**TAPACULOS**

**RR Moustached Turca     *Pteroptochos megapodius***

A very big tapaculo, easy to see in the open!!! Wonderful !!

We had great views of this species around Santiago, including a bird seen at only 2 meters carrying food to his chicks.

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

Fantastic view on this Chilean endemic.

**RR Dusky Tapaculo     *Scytalopus fuscus***

Wonderful view on a bird singing during 5 minutes on the same perch!!

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

**White-crested Elaenia     *Elaenia albiceps***

Common in most of Chile. The birds seen belong to the *chilensis* subspecies. The differences in plumage between the different subspecies are so evident that a split is clearly expected. Keep track of these subspecies for a forthcoming armchair tick!

**Tufted Tit-Tyrant     *Anairetes parulus***

Some nice views around Santiago

**Ticking Doradito     *Pseudocolopteryx citreola***

One bird seen well during our day along the coast.

A recent split from Warbling Doradito.

**Many-colored Rush Tyrant     *Tachuris rubrigastra***

One of the most colourful flycatchers !

We had great views of this bird at El Peral Lagoon.

**Austral Negrito     *Lessonia rufa***

A few seen at Batuco lake and along the coast.

**Spectacled Tyrant     *Hymenops perspicillatus***

A beautiful flycatcher seen in the wetlands near Santiago.

**White-browed Ground-Tyrant     *Muscisaxicola albilora***

Common in the highlands above Santiago near Farellones.

**Rufous-naped Ground-tyrant** *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*  
1 bird seen near Farellones

**Black-fronted Ground-tyrant** *Muscisaxicola frontalis*  
2 seen above Farellones.

**Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis montanus*  
One seen very close in the highlands near Farellones.

**Great Shrike-tyrant** *Agriornis lividus*  
A pair seen feeding chicks to the nest.

**Fire-eyed Diucon** *Xolmis pyrope*  
A few.

#### **COTINGAS**

**Rufous-tailed Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rara*  
Several sightings.

#### **SWALLOWS**

**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*  
Common

**Chilean Swallow** *Tachycineta meyeni*  
Common

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
2 seen at the Cadellada sewage plant. Not a common species in Central Chile!!

#### **WRENS**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*  
A common species. These birds belong to the *musculus* group and may be split from the ones from North America.

#### **THRUSHES**

**Austral Thrush** *Turdus falcklandii*  
Common

#### **MOCKINGBIRDS**

**RR Chilean Mockingbird** *Mimus thenca*  
Common in central Chile

#### **PIPITS**

**Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera*  
15+ at the Batuco lake.

## SPARROWS

**Rufous-collared Sparrow**      *Zonotrichia capensis*  
Very common. Seen everywhere.

**Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch**      *Phrygilus gayi*  
Common in the highlands above Santiago.

**Mourning Sierra-Finch**      *Phrygilus fruticeti*  
Displaying birds on the way to Farellones.

**Band-tailed Sierra-Finch**      *Phrygilus alaudinus*  
15+ seen very well around Farellones.

**Common Diuca-Finch**      *Diuca diuca*  
Common in central Chile

**Greater Yellow-Finch**      *Sicalis auriventris*  
Common in the highlands above Santiago, around Farellones.

## BLACKBIRDS

**Austral Blackbird**      *Curaeus curaeus*  
Commonly seen in central Chile.

**Yellow-winged Blackbird**      *Agelasticus thilius*  
A common bird in the wetlands around Santiago.

**Shiny Cowbird**      *Molothrus bonariensis*  
A few seen in Santiago, where this parasitic species usually lays its eggs in Rufous-collared Sparrow or Common Diuca-finch nests.  
We actually saw an adult male Yellow-winged Blackbird feeding a flying chock of Shiny Cowbird.

**Long-tailed Meadowlark**      *Sturnella loyca*  
A common species in Chile.

## FINCHES

**Black-chinned Siskin**      *Carduelis barbata*  
Common at Farellones.

## OLD WORLD SPARROWS

**House Sparrow**      *Passer domesticus*  
Too common.

## MAMMAL LIST

**Coruro**      ***Spalacopus cyanus***

Excellent views on this rodent living in big colonies, near Farellones and on the coast.

**Culpeo Fox**      ***Lycalopex culpaeus***

1 seen at high elevation hunting the previous species.

**South American Sea Lion**      ***Otaria flavescens***

Seen during the pelagic trip

**European Rabbit**      ***Oryctolagus cuniculus***

A few seen on the way to Farellones. An introduced species in Chile.



One of the Coruro seen near El Quisco.