

OTHER TRIP REPORTS AVAILABLE

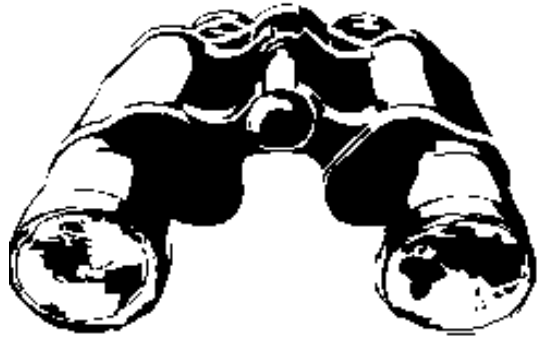
A Birding Trip Report

Australia
Belize
Bhutan '88
Bhutan
SE Brazil
Caribbean (Yucatan, Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Jamaica)
Caribbean (Lesser Antilles)
Colombia: Santa Marta
Ecuador & Galapagos
Cuba & the Dominican
Guatemala (Atitlán)
Ethiopia
Hong Kong
Indonesia: North Sulawesi, Halmahera, Batanta, Sulawesi, Vogelkop, and Biak
Kenya
Kenya and Uganda
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mexico (Colima)
Mexico (Tamaulipas CBC's)
Mexico (Tamaulipas, SL Potosi, Coahuila)
Mexico (Baja & Oaxaca)
New Zealand
Panama (Canal Zone & Darien)
Peru: Manu
Peru: Marañón
Russia: Primorye
Sabah
Spain
South Africa
Scotland
Thailand
Trinidad-Tobago
Turkey
Venezuela (NW)

Patagonia

**Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos, Tierra del Fuego, Chubut,
and Santa Cruz Provinces**

November 25-December 18, 2000



**ORNIFOLKS... networking birders with
destinations**

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Acknowledgements

- **Germán Pugnali** operates ecotourism services from Buenos Aires and guide services can be arranged through his office at safaris@radar.com.ar
- Germán arranged for **Mark Pearman** to guide us through the marshes of Buenos Aires. Thanks, Mark.
- We recommend that birders visiting Río Gallegos and Santa Cruz Province hire the bird-finding services of **Santiago Imberti**. Santiago's skills will also prove useful if you lock your keys in the car!
- **Dr. Reginaldo E. 'Chino' Lejarraga** and **Lic. Pedro Cristóbal Doiny Cabre** made us very welcome in Bahía Blanca and showed us some great birds in the process.
- Thanks to the drivers: Mark, Howie, Mike and Ken.
- Ken Cole set up the pre- and post-trip extensions and assisted with interpretative skills- enabling a 'free' night in Río Gallegos.
- Finally, Louise Augustine and Howie Nielson made the trip all the more enjoyable for us by lugging their Questars along.

Participants:

Louise Augustine, Bruce Bartrug, Ken Cole, Mark Elwonger, Mike Flieg, Paul Keller, Guy Kirwan, Howie Nielson, Don Rathbun, Peter Roxburgh

For updates on trips, dates, and new trip reports, check the **Ornifolks** website at

<http://Ornifolks.org>

Besides serving as a bulletin board and providing its members with safe and economical ways to visit foreign birding destinations, *Ornifolks* offers members:

- ◆ Custom international birding
- ◆ a library of trip reports
- ◆ contacts with ground agents and local guides

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Policy Regarding Trip Leaders

The goal of our organization is to enable birders to visit difficult areas at less expense than with a professional group. If any Ornifolks member can set up trips for a fraction of the cost of a professional tour, find other members willing to participate, and go for less or at no cost, we see no ethical problem. Many participants don't have the time, expertise, or inclination to do the necessary research or make the preparations, but instead are willing to assist the leaders by defraying their expenses, and few potential organizers will step forward to lead a trip for nothing.

Ornifolks in Patagonia

	25 Nov	26 Nov	27 Nov	28 Nov	29 Nov	30 Nov	1 Dec	2 Dec	3 Dec	4 Dec	5 Dec	6 Dec	7 Dec	8 Dec	9 Dec	10 Dec	11 Dec	12 Dec	13 Dec	14 Dec	15 Dec	16 Dec	17 Dec	18 Dec		
	Buenos Aires		Trelew			Santa Cruz			Tierra del Fuego			Buenos Aires														
Solitary Caciue			1s-1h	4																						<i>Cacicus solitarius</i>
Epaulet Oriole	1																									<i>Icterus cayanensis</i>
Saffron-cowled Blackbird		12	10	40																						<i>Agelaius flavus</i>
Yellow-winged Blackbird		20																								<i>Agelaius thilius</i>
Chestnut-capped Blackbird					25	20	6																			<i>Agelaius ruficapillus</i>
White-browed Blackbird					10	50	4																			<i>Leistes superciliosus</i>
Pampas Meadowlark																										<i>Sturnella militaris</i>
Long-tailed Meadowlark																										<i>Sturnella loyca</i>
Brown-and-yellow Marshbird																										<i>Pseudoleistes virescens</i>
Scarlet-headed Blackbird																										<i>Amblyramphus holosericeus</i>
Austral Blackbird																										<i>Curaeus curaeus</i>
Bay-winged Cowbird																										<i>Molothrus badius</i>
Screaming Cowbird																										<i>Molothrus rufoaxillaris</i>
Shiny Cowbird																										<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>

The Itinerary

- 25 Nov** **Buenos Aires City**
Reserva Costanera Sur
- 26 Nov** **Buenos Aires Province**
Ceiba Marshes, espinal woodland
- 27 Nov** **Buenos Aires Province**
Nandu Baysal: gallery forest & wet grassland. PM: Ribera Norte reserve.
- 28 Nov** **Buenos Aires Province**
La Reserva Otamendi: río Lujan, park headquarters, road to Paraná ferry. PM: Costanera Sur.
- 29 Nov** **Chubut-Río Negro Provinces**
PM: Drive to San Antonio Oeste. Estancia Los Montes
- 30 Nov** **Rio Negro Province**
Private estancias north and west of Las Grutas
- 1 Dec**..... **Chubut- Río Negro Provinces**
AM: arroyos south of Las Grutas, PM: drive to Puerto Madryn. Punta Pirámides.
- 2 Dec**..... **Chubut Province: Valdés Peninsula**
Punta Norte, Punta Cantor, Punta Pardelas.
- 3 Dec**..... **Chubut Province: Punta Tombo**
visiting Dos Pozos and wetlands behind the dump NE of Trelew.
- 4 Dec**..... **Chubut Province to Santa Cruz Province**
Morning birding along road 20 km towards Dos Pozos. PM: estuary of río Gallegos
- 5 Dec**..... **Santa Cruz Province**
Cabo de Virgenes
- 6 Dec**..... **Santa Cruz Province**
Drive to Estancia Angostura with stops at Ríos Coyle, Santa Cruz, Chico.
- 7 Dec**..... **Santa Cruz Province**
Estancia Angostura with trip to Lago Tonchi
- 8 Dec**..... **Santa Cruz Province**
Drive from Estancia Angostura to El Calafate, birding Lago Viedma and Lago Argentino.
- 9 Dec**..... **Santa Cruz Province**
El Calafate to Parque Nacional Las Glaciares; Las Soledad Lake, Glacier Moreno
- 10 Dec**..... **Santa Cruz Province**
El Calafate to Río Gallegos, with stops in arid steppe en route
- 11 Dec**..... **Santa Cruz Province to Tierra del Fuego**
Ushuaia Bay, airport, town, dump.
- 12 Dec**..... **Tierra del Fuego**
Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego, Ushuaia Bay.
- 13 Dec**..... **Tierra del Fuego**
El Paso Garibaldi (600-900 m), Estancia Harberton, Estancia Moat.
- 14 Dec**..... **Tierra del Fuego**
Boat trip through Beagle Channel, various islands. PM: Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego
- 15 Dec**..... **Tierra del Fuego**
Martial Glacier
- 16 Dec**..... **Buenos Aires Province**
Fly to Bahía Blanca. Estuary La Ria
- 17 Dec**..... **Buenos Aires Province**
Estancia del Cristóbal (Monte de Santa Elena)
- 18 Dec**..... **Buenos Aires Province**
Fly to Buenos Aires. Costanera Sur. International Departures.

The Mammal List

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	Buenos Aires		Trelew			Santa Cruz			Tierra del Fuego			Buenos Aires														
Nara (Patagonian Hare)					1																					<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>
Patagonian Lesser Cavy																										<i>Microcavia australis</i>
Cary (?)	x																									<i>Cavia aperea</i>
Capybara (?)																										<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>
Nutria																										<i>Myocastor coypus</i>
European Hare																										
Beaver (introduced)																										
Orca																										<i>Orcinus orca</i>
Southern Right Whale																										<i>Eubalaena australis</i>
Guanaco																										<i>Lama guanicoe</i>
Argentine Gray Fox																										<i>Dusicyon culpaeus magellanicus</i>
Patagonian Skunk																										<i>Conepatus humboldti</i>
Larger Hairy Armadillo																										<i>Chaetophractus villosus</i>
Southern Elephant Seal																										<i>Mirounga leonina</i>
South American Sea Lion																										<i>Otaria flavescens</i>

References

1. Birdlife International. Threatened Birds of the World. Lynx Ediciones. 2001.

Further Reading

1. Chatwin, B. In Patagonia. R.R Donnelly & Sons Company. 1977.
2. Gardner, N. Gardner, D. A Birder's Guide to Travel in Argentina. Published by the authors. 1990.
3. de la Peña, M.R. Rumboll, M. Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica. HarperCollins. 1998.
4. Harris, G. A Guide to the Birds and Mammals of Coastal Patagonia. Princeton University Press. 1998.

Ornifolks in Patagonia

Ornifolks in Patagonia

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	Buenos Aires		Trelew			Santa Cruz			Tierra del Fuego			Buenos Aires													
Hudson's Black-Tyrant																									
White-winged Black-Tyrant						2																			
Spectacled Tyrant																									
Pied Water-Tyrant																									
Yellow-browed Tyrant																									
Cattle Tyrant																									
Swainson's Flycatcher																									
Tropical Kingbird																									
Fork-tailed Flycatcher																									
Crowned Slaty Flycatcher																									
Streaked Flycatcher																									
Great Kiskadee																									
Tyrant Flycatchers and Allies																									
White-naped Xenopsaris																									
White-winged Becard																									
Tyrant Flycatchers and Allies																									
White-tipped Plantcutter																									
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter																									
Ovenbirds and Allies																									
Common Miner																									
Short-billed Miner																									
Chaco Earthcreeper																									
Scale-throated Earthcreeper																									
Bar-winged Cinclodes																									
Gray-flanked Cinclodes																									
Dark-bellied Cinclodes																									
Rufous Hornero																									
Thorn-tailed Rayadito																									
Tufted Tit-Spinetail																									
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail																									
Chotoy Spinetail																									
Sooty-fronted Spinetail																									
Pale-breasted Spinetail																									
Stripe-crowned Spinetail																									
Yellow-chinned Spinetail																									
Lesser Canastero																									
Short-billed Canastero																									
Cordilleran Canastero																									
Patagonian Canastero																									
Austral Canastero																									
Freckle-breasted Thornbird																									
Wren-like Rushbird																									
Curve-billed Reedhaunter																									
Straight-billed Reedhaunter																									
Firewood-gatherer																									
Band-tailed Earthcreeper																									
Brown Cacholote																									
White-throated Cacholote																									
White-throated Treerunner																									
Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper																									
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper																									
Tapaculos																									
Crested Gallito																									
Sandy Gallito																									
Vireos																									
Rufous-browed Peppershrike																									
-Chivi Vireo																									
Old World Flycatchers and Allies																									
Rufous-bellied Thrush																									
Austral Thrush																									
Creamy-bellied Thrush																									

Trip Diary

November 25. Having arrived a day before the group, Paul Keller, Don Rathbun and I spent the morning at Reserva Costanera Sur, a large wetland area between the central part of Buenos Aires and the Rio de la Plata. Returning to the Hotel Diplomat, we met Reginaldo 'Chino' Lejarraga and Roberto Güller. The rest of the gang, Louise Augustine, Bruce Bartrug, Ken Cole, Mike Flieg, Howie Nielson, and Peter Roxburgh, were collected at the international airport by Mark Pearman and our driver, and we all rode in a comfortable bus to be in position for birding the marshes near Ceiba, making a few stops to sample the avifauna of the marshes near dusk.

November 26. The gallery forests and espinal woodlands near Ceiba provided one of the few opportunities for forest birding of the trip. It was here we saw White-fronted and Checkered Woodpeckers, Ash-colored and Dark-billed Cuckoos, Giant Wood-Rail, Small-billed Elaenia, Swainson's Flycatcher, White-naped Xenopsaris, White-winged Becard, Brown Cacholote, and Narrow-billed and Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper. The marshes held Brazilian Teal, Wood and Maguari Storks, a Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, Warbling Doradito, Chotoy, Pale-breasted and Yellow-chinned Spinetails, Long-tailed Reed-Finch, Black-capped Warbling-Finch, and **Saffron-cowled Blackbirds**. Visiting nearby grasslands, we were treated to views of **Greater Rheas**, Red-winged Tinamous, Savanna Hawk, and Tawny-bellied and **Gray-and-chestnut Seedeaters**. The evening was completed when Scissor-tailed Nightjar was found a few miles from our hotel.

November 27. We drove to an area near the Uruguay border, where a gallery forest held promise for Indigo (Glaucous Blue) Grosbeak. We were rewarded with great looks at a courting pair of **Black-and-white Monjitas**. The remainder of the morning was spent obtaining looks at Crested Doradito, Yellowish Pipit, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-tyrant, Gray Monjita, Streaked Flycatcher, Creamy-bellied Thrush, the "Lowland" form of Hepatic Tanager, Solitary Cacique, Epaulet Oriole, and Screaming Cowbird. However, we dipped on the grosbeak.

Returning to Buenos Aires, we stopped for a few hours at dusk at Ribera Norte Reserve, a small wetland in a plush neighborhood of the city. The habitat offered us great looks at Rufous-sided Crake (with young), Gilded and White-throated Hummingbird, and Sooty-fronted Spinetail. Guy Kirwan was awaiting us at the Hotel Diplomat, and we said *adios* to Chino, Roberto and Mark (promising to buy his annotated checklist and his field guide for Argentina, as soon as they are available).

Ornifolks in Patagonia

November 28. Retaining our bus and driver, we were on to Reserva Otamendi and more marsh birding. Here we familiarized ourselves with Wren-like Marshbirds, and a **Dot-winged Crake** was flushed as we returned to the bus. Howie discovered one of the best birds of the day, a **Straight-billed Reedhaunter**. Gray-headed Gulls, Southern Rough-winged Swallows and Yellow-billed Cardinals were also trip exclusives.

In an attempt to repeat the famous Tulear Madagascar debacle, Louise caused the bus driver to cry when he dropped his ice cream on the gas station pavement, after he tried to imitate her style of removing the wrapper. When we returned to Buenos Aires, we found the Reserva Costanera Sur closed and had to content ourselves with birding from the esplanade.

November 29. Our flight to Trelew was uneventful, and we rented three compact cars and headed north, stopping only briefly when it became impossible to ignore the Burrowing Parrots and Elegant-crested Tinamous. We checked into Marina Cero, a comfortable beach-side resort at Las Grutas, and continued east to the site suggested by Gardner for **Yellow Cardinal** and other local endemics.

After locating the site (40 km east of Las Grutas between km 1100 and 1101— look for a half-buried white tire on the north side, and a white gate marked ‘Laguna del Monte’; drive ½ km from the highway, birding a fenceline east of the windmill), we searched to no avail for the cardinals, but scored a number of new species in the process, including Band-tailed Earthcreeper. Later that evening, the friendly hotel staff was able to put us in contact with a local birder who indicated that she would be willing to take us to a site for Yellow Cardinal the very next morning.

November 30. Accompanied by the local birder and her nephew, who had access to a local estancia, we drove about 20 km north of Las Grutas, into tall espinal scrub, and stopped at a site where we immediately located **Hudson’s Black-tyrant** and a **Carbonated Sierra-finch**. About a half-hour later Mike found a pair of Yellow Cardinals, and these hung around long enough to be seen well by all of us, in the scopes. Greater Wagtail-Tyrants, **Cinnamon Warbling-Finch** and Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant were also present in the area. The rest of the morning was spent checking a local reservoir and looking for **Sandy Gallitos**.

Ornifolks in Patagonia

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Herons																									Ardeidae		
Whistling Heron																										Syrigma sibilatrix	
Little Blue Heron										1																Egretta caerulea	
Snowy Egret																										Egretta thula	
Cocoi Heron																										Ardea cocoi	
-Great (American) Egret																									1	3	Ardea alba egretta
-Common Cattle-Egret																										2	Bubulcus ibis ibis
Little Heron																										2	Butorides striatus
Black-crowned Night-Heron																									2	Nycticorax nycticorax	
Flamingos																									Phoenicopteridae		
Chilean Flamingo																											Phoenicopterus chilensis
Ibises																									Threskiornithidae		
Whispering Ibis																											Phimosus infuscatus
White-faced Ibis																										1	Plegadis chihi
Black-faced Ibis																											Theristicus melanopis
Roseate Spoonbill																											Ajaia ajaja
Storks and Allies																									Ciconiidae		
Black Vulture																										2	Coragyps atratus
Turkey Vulture																										6	Cathartes aura
Andean Condor																											Vultur gryphus
Wood Stork																											Mycteria americana
Maguari Stork																											Ciconia maguari
Penguins																									Spheniscidae		
Magellanic Penguin																											Spheniscus magellanicus
Petrels and Allies																									Procellariidae		
Antarctic Giant-Petrel																											Macronectes giganteus
White-chinned Petrel																											Procellaria aequinoctialis
Cory's Shearwater																											Calonectris diomedea
Magellanic Diving-Petrel																											Pelecanoides magellani
Black-browed Albatross																											Diomedea melanophris
Tyrant Flycatchers and Allies																									Tyrannidae		
Chaco Suiñi																											Suiñi suiñi
-White-crested (Chilean) Elaenia																										2	Elaenia albiceps chilensis
Small-billed Elaenia																											Elaenia parvirostris
Sooty Tyrannulet																											Serpophaga nigricans
White-crested Tyrannulet																											Serpophaga subcristata
Greater Wagtail-Tyrant																											Stigmatura budyoides
Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant																											Anairetes flavirostris
Tufted Tit-Tyrant																											Anairetes parulus
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant																											Tachuris rubrigastra
Crested Doradito																											Pseudocolopteryx sclateri
Warbling Doradito																											Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris
Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant																											Euscarthmus meloryphus
-Bran-colored Flycatcher																											Myiophobus fasciatus fasciatus
Vermilion Flycatcher																											Pyrocephalus rubinus
Fire-eyed Diucon																											Xolmis pyrope
Gray Monjita																											Xolmis cinerea
Black-crowned Monjita																											Xolmis coronata
White Monjita																											Xolmis irupero
Rusty-backed Monjita																											Xolmis rubetra
Black-and-white Monjita																											Heteroxolmis dominicana
Chocolate-vented Tyrant																											Neoxolmis rufiventris
Great Shrike-Tyrant																											Agriomis livida
Gray-bellied Shrike-Tyrant																											Agriomis microptera
Lesser Shrike-Tyrant																											Agriomis murina
Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant																											Muscisaxicola macloviana
Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant																											Muscisaxicola capistrata
White-browed Ground-Tyrant																											Muscisaxicola albiflora
Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant																											Muscisaxicola flavinucha
Patagonian Negrito																											Lessonia rufa

Ornifolks in Patagonia

December 4. Fearing that this would be our last chance for White-throated Cachalote, we birded the habitat along the road towards Dos Pozos, and became better acquainted with Lesser and Patagonian Canasteros, and Band-tailed Earthcreepers in the process. The search did turn up an unused cachalote nest and a pair of Aplomado Falcons. A splinter group visited the exceptional Dinosaur Museum in Trelew.

We boarded our Aerolineas Argentinas flight and there was still enough daylight upon arrival at Río Gallegos to meet Santiago Imbierti, arrange car rental from scratch (our reservations had been lost), and make our way to the Río Gallegos estuary. The strong wind made scope viewing of distant shorebirds impossible, but a Peregrine Falcon zipping between the bayfront residences and two White-chinned Petrels were worthy of note.

December 5. Driving his new turbo-diesel 4-WD Sport Utility Vehicle, Santiago met us and escorted us to the Cabo de Virgenes, where the Straits of Magellan meet the Atlantic Ocean. En route, we were soon viewing Magellanic Oystercatchers, Rufous-chested Plovers, Black-faced Ibis, a Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant, and a Short-billed Miner in the scope. At an estancia, Santiago had **Ruddy-headed Geese** staked out; we counted six. **Austral Canastero** was eventually seen at the coast where we had lunch. A few of us visited the penguin colony and saw an albino Magellanic Penguin. Others stayed at the lighthouse and scanned the sea, which produced several Black-browed Albatross. **Canary-winged Finch** was a trip exclusive.

We noticed how the Southern Lapwings had a less noticeable crest and different call from the birds seen earlier in the trip, and Santiago told us that the Upland Geese would have less conspicuous barring on the flanks on the inland birds we would see in the forthcoming days, compared to the ones we were now seeing on the coast.

December 6. This was to be a long driving day, but roads were good with little traffic. We stopped at several shallow lakes and were soon viewing **Magellanic Plovers** (with young) in the Questar. It was at the town of Gobernador Gregores, our last chance for fuel for the next three days, where Howie left his binoculars at the counter of the station. Fortunately the owners were honest and a quick recovery was made. Great Shrike-tyrant was a trip exclusive- for some who had spotted one as we lunched at the bridge over the Río Chico. We caught up with the **White-throated Cacholote** near the entrance to Estancia Angostura.

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	Buenos Aires		Trelew			Santa Cruz			Tierra del Fuego			Buenos Aires													
Roadrunners																									
Striped Cuckoo																									
Parrots																									
Burrowing Parakeet						100	60	40																	
Austral Parakeet															40				5		17				
Monk Parakeet																									
Hummingbirds																									
Glittering-bellied Emerald																									
Gilded Hummingbird																									
White-throated Hummingbird																									
Typical Owls																									
Magellanic Horned Owl																									
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl																									
Burrowing Owl																									
Short-eared Owl																									
Nightjars and Allies																									
Scissor-tailed Nightjar																									
Pigeons																									
Picazuro Pigeon																									
Spot-winged Pigeon																									
Eared Dove																									
Picui Ground-Dove																									
-White-tipped (Brazilian) Dove																									
Limpkin																									
Limpkin																									
Rails																									
Rufous-sided Crake																									
Austral Rail																									
Gray-necked Wood-Rail																									
Giant Wood-Rail																									
Dot-winged Crake																									
Plumbeous Rail																									
Common Moorhen																									
Spot-flanked Gallinule																									
White-winged Coot																									
Red-gartered Coot																									
Red-fronted Coot																									
Seedsnipe																									
White-bellied Seedsnipe																									
Least Seedsnipe																									
Snipe and Allies																									
-South American (Paraguayan) Snipe																									
Fuegian Snipe																									
Greater Yellowlegs																									
Lesser Yellowlegs																									
White-rumped Sandpiper																									
Baird's Sandpiper																									
Pectoral Sandpiper																									
Jacanas																									
Wattled Jacana																									
Sheathbills																									
Snowy Sheathbill																									

December 9. We made an early start for Parque Nacional Los Glaciares and stopped for **Andean Condor**, and to check an isolated grove of trees for Austral Pygmy-owl (no joy). Arriving at the park around mid-morning, we entered Southern Beech forest for the first time, and were greeted with Austral Parakeets, a Fire-eyed Diucon, Rufous-tailed Plantcutters, a Dark-bellied Cinclodes, Black-chinned Siskins and an Austral Blackbird. Santiago once heard a Magellanic Tapaculo but this would become the closest we would get to this species on our trip. At lunch, we enjoyed the only Chilean Flickers of the trip, and Santiago had the second opportunity of the day to prove his skill at opening locked cars without a key. White-throated Treerunners and Magellanic Woodpeckers were found in the forest as we prepared to leave the park. Spectacled Duck and Patagonian Tyrant were missed.

The afternoon was spent on the open plains and wetlands between the park and town, getting good looks at Ashy-headed Geese, a Plumbeous Rail, and a White-browed Ground-Tyrant (here?), as well as more Andean Condors.

December 10. The morning was used to drive from El Calafate on a paved highway back to Río Gallegos. A few stops were made in an attempt to find Patagonian Tinamou and Great Shrike-Tyrant, to no avail, although winds were slight and we did record more Tawny-throated Dotterels.

We dined at the familiar *parrilla* in Río Gallegos, turned our cars in at the airport, and said our goodbyes to Santiago and to Bruce, only to discover a few hours later that Aerolineas Argentinas had cancelled our flight a few days earlier. So we negotiated with the airline for rooms at the Hotel Santa Cruz and relaxed until our departure at noon the following day.

December 11. Our arrival in Ushuaia at the comfortable manor of Senõr Julio Linares was marked with views of steamerducks, skuas and Dolphin Gulls from his picture-window overlooking scenic Ushuaia Bay. A South Polar Skua became a trip exclusive.

Later in the evening, after arranging for three rental cars, we visited the Ushuaia landfill, to discover that the environmental standards had possibly improved since the site was visited years ago by the Gardners. Nevertheless, on the left side of the highway, near the dump, a *parrilla* was disposing entrails, and a pair of White-throated Caracaras had arrived to take advantage of the handout.

The Bird List

Codes used in the Trip List

f.....female
 h..... Heard Only
 L..... Leader only
 m..... male
 s Seen
 sp not identifiable as to species
 x Quantities not estimated
 y young

Quantities

1-15.....# or u..... (uncommon)
 16-50.....fc (fairly common)
 51-150....c (common)
 151– up ..a (abundant)

Breeding Evidence

NB....Nest building by all except woodpeckers and wrens
 DD....Distraction display or injury feigning
 UN....Used nests or eggshells found
 FYAdult carrying food for young
 FL.....Recently fledged young or downy young
 ON ...Occupied nest
 FSAdults carrying a fecal sac
 NE....Nest with eggs
 NY....Nest with young

December 12. We visited Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego, and checked the Bahia Ensenada campground and the Laguna Negra trail for Magellanic Tapaculo and Lago Roca for **Spectacled Duck**, without success. Gray-flanked Cinclodes was recorded at the bridge below Lago Roca and Thorn-tailed Rayaditos and White-throated Treerunners were present in the forest. Back at the Hosteria, Julio had prepared for us a fine home-cooked meal of seafood.

December 13. Our visit to El Paso Garibaldi, about an hour's drive east of Ushuaia, was intended to put us in position for White-bellied Seedsnipe, Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant, and Yellow-bridled Finch. Although the road crosses the pass at about 700 m elevation, the route to the snowfields and talus slopes to the north was not immediately evident and we spent about two hours climbing to the required elevation of about 900 m, through dense vegetation. Upon reaching the site where the seedsnipe had been reported previously, we had no difficulty in locating Yellow-bridled Finch and Ochre-naped Ground-tyrants but the seedsnipe would be a different story. We bashed the slopes for another two hours before returning to our vehicles.

The afternoon was spent driving the metal-surfaced road between Estancia Harberton and Estancia Moat, which follows the northern shore of the Beagle Channel. This stretch of road afforded us excellent views of Kelp Geese and Magellanic Woodpecker. The eastern end passes through tall grass wetlands, which proved to be suitable for Grass Wrens and for an as-yet undetermined species of *Gallinago* (either *stricklandii* Fuegian Snipe or *magellanica* Magellanic Snipe, a recent (potential?) split from South American Snipe).

At a point 23.7 km east of Estancia Moat (2 km east of a lighthouse), we studied the snipe for about an hour, both on the ground and as they performed their winnowing aerial displays, around seven o'clock in the evening. Guy has tentatively identified these as *stricklandii*, based on photos and information in Dutch Birding, but confirmation is lacking.

Fuegian / Magellanic Snipe:

Location: Harberton Road, 23.7 km east of Estancia Moat (2.0 km east of a lighthouse), at about 1900 hours.

Habitat: Open, wet tall-grass hummocky marsh interspersed with narrow, shallow water courses about 3m above sea level and within 100 m of the coast.

Quantity: At least two, possibly as many as four.

Behavior:

- In display flight, which was typical for *G. gallinago*: rapid and direct with fast wingbeats. Achieving an elevation of about 200m by flying in long (600m) arcs, the bird would engage in a shallow dive, during which a 2-3 sec. intermittent winnowing sound could be heard. This sound was presumably from certain flight feathers, as turbulent air vortices were shed, inducing shaft harmonics in the structure of the feather.
- On the ground, it appeared large, bulky and deep chested to all observers. It was heard to make “a prolonged series of monotonous and rhythmic “**chik**-tok, **chik** -tok, **chik** -tok, ...” calls, not unlike the commercial tape of the Magellanic Tapaculo with which we were well acquainted” (MAE); or “a staccato 'yip yip...' in long series” (GMK).

Description:

- **Bill:** noticeably long and deep based, pale greenish basal 2/3 with darker distal 1/3, producing very noticeable two-toned impression
- **Head:** head pattern rather subdued, with narrow dull whitish supercilium, quite unlike photograph of *magellanicus* in Couve & Vidal, and much closer to *stricklandii*
- **Vent** (in flight): very hard to see transversal bars on distal part of vent (not seen, but looked for by HN), brownish-grey flank barring, tail pattern rather dull, reddish-brown and white outer feathers
- **Tail:** extending well beyond primaries at rest
- **Legs:** greenish grey
- **Mantle:** and scapulars with noticeable whitish tramlines, bordered with black, but not broad.

December 14. We had arranged passage aboard a small tour boat to gain access to the Beagle Channel and its various islets, to view seabird colonies and a chance to see Magellanic Diving-petrel. The sight of a sheathbill scarfing seal shit will not soon be forgotten. Many more Kelp Geese with young were noted, and we became better acquainted with both Southern Skua and the more common Chilean Skua. The nominate form of Imperial (Blue-eyed) Shag, which may actually be a distinct species from King Cormorant *albiventer*, was recorded with confidence. As many as four diving-petrels were recorded, the last of which was seen fairly well as it exploded into flight off the stern of the vessel as we returned to port.

Conservation Status: Near-threatened (continued)

✓ Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>
Puna Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus jamesi</i>
✓ Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>
Sharp-tailed Grass-Tyrant	<i>Culicivora caudacuta</i>
Bearded Tachuri	<i>Polystictus pectoralis</i>
Dinelli's Doradito	<i>Pseudocolopteryx dinellianus</i>
Southern Bristle-Tyrant	<i>Phylloscartes eximius</i>
Bay-ringed Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes sylviolus</i>
Russet-winged Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus leucoryphus</i>
Salinas Monjita	<i>Xolmis salinarum</i>
Swallow-tailed Cotinga	<i>Phibalura flavirostris</i>
Bare-throated Bellbird	<i>Procnias nudicollis</i>
Spot-breasted Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus stictothorax</i>
Tawny Tit-Spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura yanacensis</i>
Araucaria Tit-Spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura setaria</i>
Maquis Canastero	<i>Asthenes heterura</i>
Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail	<i>Spartonoica maluroides</i>
✓ Straight-billed Reedhaunter	<i>Limnornis rectirostris</i>
White-browed Foliage-gleaner	<i>Philydor amaurotis</i>
Spotted Bamboowren	<i>Psilorhamphus guttatus</i>
Azure Jay	<i>Cyanocorax caeruleus</i>
Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila lactea</i>
Giant Conebill	<i>Oreomanes fraseri</i>
Green-chinned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chalybea</i>
Coal-crested Finch	<i>Charitospiza eucosma</i>
Dark-throated Seedeater	<i>Sporophila ruficollis</i>
✓ Gray-and-chestnut Seedeater	<i>Sporophila hypochroma</i>
Blackish-blue Seedeater	<i>Amaurospiza moesta</i>
Rufous-bellied Saltator	<i>Saltator rufiventris</i>

Conservation Status: Vulnerable (continued)

Rufous-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus schulzi</i>
Ochre-breasted Pipit	<i>Anthus nattereri</i>
Black-masked Finch	<i>Coryphaspiza melanotis</i>
Tucumán Mountain-Finch	<i>Poospiza baeri</i>
Buffy-fronted Seedeater	<i>Sporophila frontalis</i>
Temminck's Seedeater	<i>Sporophila falcirostris</i>
Chestnut Seedeater	<i>Sporophila cinnamomea</i>
✓ Saffron-cowled Blackbird	<i>Agelaius flavus</i>
✓ Pampas Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella defilippii</i>

✓ Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>
✓ Lesser Rhea	<i>Rhea pennata</i>
Solitary Tinamou	<i>Tinamus solitarius</i>
Orinoco Goose	<i>Neochen jubata</i>
✓ Chubut Steamerduck	<i>Tachyeres leucocephalus</i>
Spectacled Duck	<i>Anas specularis</i>
Mottled Piculet	<i>Picumnus nebulosus</i>
Yellow-browed Woodpecker	<i>Piculus aurulentus</i>
Black-bodied Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus schulzi</i>
Saffron Toucanet	<i>Baillonius bailloni</i>
Rothschild's Swift	<i>Cypseloides rothschildi</i>
Sickle-winged Nightjar	<i>Eleothreptus anomalus</i>
Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>
Horned Coot	<i>Fulica cornuta</i>
✓ Fuegian Snipe	<i>Gallinago stricklandii</i>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>
✓ Magellanic Plover	<i>Pluvianellus socialis</i>
Diademed Sandpiper-Plover	<i>Phegornis mitchellii</i>
Mantled Hawk	<i>Leucopternis polionota</i>
Crested Eagle	<i>Morphnus guianensis</i>
Harpy Eagle	<i>Harpia harpyja</i>
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalacroboenus australis</i>
✓ Hooded Grebe	<i>Podiceps gallardoii</i>
Red-legged Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax gaimardi</i>

Later in the evening we returned to Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego, to try again for Magellanic Tapaculo and Spectacled Duck. Although *dipping* on the targets, a few of us were treated to a glimpse of a Chilean Hawk, and we all had another opportunity to study Dark-bellied Cinclodes. It is possible that the commercial tape we were using for the tapaculo might not be the correct local dialect to entice a response, or maybe the birds were quiet as a result of being on the nest.

December 15. Our last full day on Tierra del Fuego was sunny with low winds. It would be spent below the Martial Glacier northwest of Ushuaia in a final attempt for White-bellied Seedsnipe. Assisted by the chair-lift, we climbed to about 850 m and spread ourselves across the scree slopes and snowfields. Howie and Guy offered appropriate effort to the task, ascending almost to the tops of the bowls, and Guy claims to have heard a bird as it escaped his view near the top of one of the bowls. The rest of the group was content to scope the scree slopes or traverse the lower snow fields.

The area was also good for additional views of Yellow-bridled Finch and Ochre-naped and Dark-faced Ground-tyrant, and for exceptional views of Ushuaia and Ushuaia Bay.

December 16. We said goodbye to Julio and his bed and breakfast, and flew back to Buenos Aires. Don, Paul and Guy would part our company, as we were to board another flight to Bahia Blanca, and meet Chino and his friend, Cristóbal, who had been lining up a few needed birds from this southern tip of Buenos Aires Province.

In less than an hour after arriving, we had visited the local Burrowing Parrot roost and were looking at Crested Gallitos through the Questar. The nearby brackish marshes had dried out too much to hold any needed crakes or rails, but it did hold a few Grass Wrens and Grassland Sparrows. Beyond the marshes, the road accessed the estuary La Ria, and luckily the evening was perfectly calm (Chino had said there were 40 mph gales the previous day). Although the Snowy-crowned Tern did not appear on-schedule, the mudflats offered great Questar looks at **Olrog's Gulls**; American Golden-plovers and Black Skimmers were trip exclusives.

Chino and his wife and son fed us in grand Argentine style and our appetites did not disappoint our hosts.

December 17. Today we were taken west to Cristóbal's family estancia, in an area of espinal forest. But first the road would pass through agricultural fields, scattered wetlands (with Plumbeous Rails and Sooty Tyrannulets) and tall grasslands, and sites for the **Pampas Meadowlark**. After carefully checking the numerous Long-tailed Meadowlarks at a few sites, we eventually began recording *militaris* with certainty between km 30 and 35, and finally found a reasonably-sized flock of about 30 birds.

We turned south from the pavement at km 61-62, and the habitat changed from grassland to *espinal* rather abruptly about 70 km from Bahia Blanca, as we began seeing Spotted Nothuras, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Brown Cacholote, Tufted Tit-Spinetails, White-tipped Plantcutters and Vermilion Flycatchers.

Cristóbal had a stakeout for Chaco Earthcreeper, and we soon had one in view. Also at this site we heard Brushland Tinamou, and were able to entice one with tape to cross the road for good looks by all except Howie, who unfortunately was blocked out. While exploring the area further, we recorded Blue-and-yellow Tanager, a trip exclusive. Another site, along a permanent stream, provided Cristóbal with two more species for his estancia list: Swainson's Hawk and Tawny-headed Swallow.

At the ranch house, as we lunched and napped, Howie reported a Yellow Cardinal. After watching, we found an unfledged young in the middle of a lone acacia being attended by the parents, and had scope looks of the parents feeding the young. Upon our return to town, before leaving the *espinal*, we encountered a fly-by Spot-winged Falconet, which we were unable to relocate.

December 18. We thanked Chino and Cristóbal and boarded a flight back to Buenos Aires, where we hired a taxi to take us to our day room at the Hotel Diplomat. Soon we were back at Costanera Sur, for a final chance at **Black-headed Duck** and Curve-billed Reedhaunter.

Buenos Aires/ Patagonian Endemics		
✓ Chubut Steamerduck		<i>Tachyeres leucocephalus</i>
✓ Olrog's Gull		<i>Larus atlanticus</i>
✓ Rusty-backed Monjita		<i>Xolmis rubetra</i>
✓ Patagonian Canastero		<i>Asthenes patagonica</i>
✓ White-throated Cacholote		<i>Pseudoseisura gutturalis</i>
✓ Sandy Gallito		<i>Teledromas fuscus</i>
✓ Carbonated Sierra-finch		<i>Phrygilus carbonarius</i>
✓ Cinnamon Warbling-Finch		<i>Poospiza ornata</i>
Narosky's Seedeater		<i>Sporophila zelichi</i>

Conservation Status of Argentine Birds

Conservation Status: Critical

	Brazilian Merganser	<i>Mergus octosetaceus</i>
	Glaucous Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus glaucus</i>
	Blue-throated Macaw	<i>Ara glaucogularis</i>
	Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>
✓	Yellow Cardinal	<i>Gubernatrix cristata</i>
	Narosky's Seedeater	<i>Sporophila zelichi</i>

Despite careful searching, our efforts turned up only another Freckle-breasted Thornbird. Water levels might have been a bit low for the duck.

We returned to the Hotel Diplomat and prepared to board our international flights back to the U.S. later that evening. All except for Louise, who was off to Antarctica.

Conservation Status: Endangered

	Vinaceous Parrot	<i>Amazona vinacea</i>
	Purple-winged Ground-Dove	<i>Claravis godefrida</i>
	Marsh Seedeater	<i>Sporophila palustris</i>

Conservation Status: Vulnerable

	Dwarf Tinamou	<i>Taoniscus nanus</i>
	Black-fronted Piping-Guan	<i>Pipile jacutinga</i>
	Helmeted Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus galeatus</i>
	Military Macaw	<i>Ara militaris</i>
	Blue-winged Macaw	<i>Propyrrhura maracana</i>
	Red-spectacled Parrot	<i>Amazona pretrei</i>
	Blue-bellied Parrot	<i>Triclarina malachitacea</i>
✓	Austral Rail	<i>Rallus antarcticus</i>
✓	Dot-winged Crane	<i>Porzana spiloptera</i>
✓	Olrog's Gull	<i>Larus atlanticus</i>
	Crowned Eagle	<i>Harpyhaliaetus coronatus</i>
	Andean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus andinus</i>
	Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>
✓	Antarctic Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
✓	Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>
	São Paulo Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes paulistus</i>
✓	Black-and-white Monjita	<i>Heteroxolmis dominicana</i>
	White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis andicola</i>
	Cock-tailed Tyrant	<i>Alectrurus tricolor</i>
	Strange-tailed Tyrant	<i>Alectrurus risora</i>
	Black-capped Piprites	<i>Piprites pileatus</i>
	White-bearded Antshrike	<i>Biatas nigropectus</i>
	Canebrake Groundcreeper	<i>Clibanornis dendrocolaptoides</i>