

**Northwest Argentina:
From the Chaco to the Altiplano**

1 – 15 December 2012

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Montane Forest Screech-Owl, one of the trip favorites (and my favorite photo of the tour)

Northwest Argentina is like nowhere else in that vast South American country. The Andes dominate the landscape, with peaks up to 21,000 feet (6,400 meters) towering over a countryside dotted with small, charming villages where the friendly inhabitants are still proud of their indigenous roots. Down in the valleys, vast savannas are carpeted with tall cacti, and some of the canyons make you feel like you are in the American Southwest. Some of the Argentina's best wines are produced in this region, and almost every night we enjoyed great, inexpensive vintages. Our route covered all the habitats in the region including the wet *yungas* forest, montane scrub and *puna*, dry Chaco woodland, and *monte* desert. We saw a great variety of birds, and apart from heavy rain on one day, we had nice weather for almost the whole trip.

The tour started in Buenos Aires, a modern, cosmopolitan metropolis far different from anything else on the trip. Not far from the city center there is a terrific reserve called Costanera Sur that was created unintentionally in the 1970's when the city reclaimed some land by dumping many tons of debris in the river. It was hoped that the land would be used for city buildings, but the project never came to fruition, and nature took over instead. Now, over 40 years later, the area is full of trees and wetlands teeming wildlife, not to mention picnickers, joggers, cyclists, and many other city-dwellers looking for some fresh air. We added ourselves to the mix that first afternoon and enjoyed a great of variety of birds. The area has sadly dried out of the last several years, so the waterfowl that used to be the signature of the reserve is now almost nonexistent, but the landbirds were terrific. We had several regional specialties here including amazing views of the often difficult **Sulphur-throated Spinetail**, numerous **Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finches**, and a few **Freckle-breasted Thornbirds**. **Gray-necked Wood-Rails** scurried around everywhere, and we even had one **Giant Wood-Rail**. We saw several other species here that we saw nowhere else on the trip, including **Sooty-fronted Spinetail**, **White-crested Tyrannulet**, **Many-colored Rush-Tyrant**, **Spectacled Tyrant**, **White-winged Becard**, **Chalk-browed Mockingbird**, **Yellow-winged Blackbird**, and **Chestnut-capped Blackbird**.



Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch and Freckle-breasted Thornbird at Costanera Sur

Early next morning we headed to the airport to catch a flight to Salta, one of the largest cities in the Northwest, and drove north into the lush *yungas*, the name given to the southernmost cloudforests of the Andes. We had lunch, quickly checked into our B&B, then headed out to the nearby Potrerillos de Yala Provincial Park, which protects the forested river valley of the same name. For me, the birding at Yala was some of the best of the trip. Everywhere we went, at any time of the day, the birds were super-active and the air rang with song. We saw far more than I could have hoped for with just an afternoon and a morning there, something we came to appreciate even more after our wash-out at Calilegua later in the trip. By walking up and down the easy dirt road, we managed to see a surprising number of birds we would get nowhere else. Point-blank views of the very local **Red-faced Guan** and nice scope views of an entertaining **Rufous-throated Dipper** topped a list that also included **Torrent Duck**, **Large-tailed Dove**, **Yungas Pygmy-Owl**, **Slender-tailed Woodstar**, **Smoky-brown** and **Dot-fronted Woodpeckers**, **Rufous-capped Antshrike**, **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner**, **Spot-breasted Thornbird**, **Azara's Spinetail**, **Buff-banded Tyrannulet**, **Slaty** and **Highland Elaenias**, **Sclater's Tyrannulet**, **Andean Tyrant**, **Crested Becard**, **Slaty Thrush**, **Rust-and-yellow Tanager**, **Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch**, **Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch**, **Black-backed Grosbeak**, and **Golden-winged Cacique**.



Rufous-throated Dipper and Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch at Yala

Leaving Yala, we headed north, steadily climbing in elevation through the scenic Humahuaca Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site that has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years. We lunched on llama steak while a panpipe band blared, then continued on up, stopping for our first roadside **Andean Swifts**, **Long-tailed Meadowlarks**, and **Patagonian Mockingbirds**. Cacti were replaced by *puna* scrub as we reached the altiplano at over 11,000 ft. Our first stop was Huancar Lake, which was full of coots, waterfowl, and other birds. Dozens of ducks lounged around the lake, with **Crested Duck**, **Puna** (*photo below*) and **Yellow-billed Teals**, and **Yellow-billed Pintail** all present, along with a few **Andean Geese**. Both **Giant** and **Slate-colored Coots** swam around with their recently hatched young, while a lone **Andean Gull** appeared to be sitting on a nest. Two **Puna Ibis** stalked the edge of the pond and tiny, energetic **Andean Negritos** chased insects nearby. Handsome **Silvery Grebes** dove regularly, and there was even one **White-tufted Grebe**. A nearby rocky slope was also very active. Flocks of **Greenish Yellow-Finches** flew around erratically, occasionally joined by **Mourning** and **Ash-breasted Sierra-Finches**. A **Rufous-banded Miner** gave its odd, buzzy song triumphantly from a lofty perch, and a pair of **Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrants** seemed to have a nest under a nearby overhang. We also had our first **Cream-winged Cinclodes**, **Streak-fronted Thornbirds**, and an impressive **Giant Hummingbird** before moving on. The next lake we checked was bone dry, so we spent a few minutes at nearby stream where a few birds came in to drink, such as **Puna Miner** and **Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch**. The wind had really picked up, as it tends to do here in the afternoons, so after once last **Andean Flicker** we headed to our hotel in the tiny mountain town of Abra Pampa.



Next morning we left very early for Laguna de los Pozuelos, a large saline lake that is bird magnet in this very dry region. We drove through the dark on rough, dusty roads with almost no other around, arriving at a little stream that flows into the lake just at dawn. It gets quite cold at night at these elevations, and we all had to add a few layers as we had our field breakfast in the beautiful dawn light. Elegant **Andean Avocets** were the first bird we saw; they looked cold too as they waited for the sun to come up over the distant peaks. Soon after, a **Plain-breasted Earthcreeper**, looking very thrasher-like, perched on the bridge, and a buzzy song from the *puna* alerted us to a **Cordilleran Canastero**. Scanning the plains around us turned up dozens of **Vicognas**, but so far no Lesser Rheas. We drove a rough track towards the lake, stopping every now and then for **Andean Lapwing**, **Gray-breasted Seedsnipe**, **Common Miner**, and **Short-billed Pipit** before a pink haze in the distance made us realize we were nearing the edge of the lake. It was so dry we were able to drive quite close to the edge, and after getting out of the van we marveled at the awesome spectacle of thousands of birds with mountains rising in the background, certainly one of the top highlights of the trip. We quickly picked out the three flamingo species, **Andean**, **James's**, and **Chilean Flamingos**. Huge numbers of **Black-necked Stilts** were also milling about along with a few **Cinnamon Teal** and most of the other coots and waterfowl that we had seen the day before. A number of shorebirds were spending the northern winter here, including **Baird's Sandpiper**, **American Golden-Plover**, and **Wilson's Phalarope** among others. They were joined by several of the resident **Puna Plover**, scampering along the very edge of the lake.



The bird-filled Laguna de los Pozuelos, with James's Flamingos in the foreground.

We left the lake and started the long, dusty drive around the lake to La Quiaca. Diversity here is not high, but what you see tends to be memorable. At one point, Jerry asked me “are there any rheas around here?”, and as if on cue John said “...there’s one right there!” We enjoyed good views of the odd flightless **Lesser Rhea**, and even closer views later on. There was a grizzly sight of **Mountain Caracaras** feasting on a dead sheep head that someone had bizarrely put on a roof. For a while **Burrowing Owls** seemed to be on every fence post, and a pair of **Aplomado Falcons** sat on a utility pole. Other birds we saw along the road included **Variable Hawk**, **Burrowing Owl**, **Creamy-breasted Canastero**, **Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant**, and **Band-tailed Sierra-Finch**. We checked into the hotel in early afternoon and took a short break. Our afternoon mission was to find **Tawny-throated Dotterel** and **Least Seedsnipe**; with the strong afternoon winds, there wasn’t much else we could look for. We drove slowly along a dirt track in the *puna* watching for any movement. 30 minutes passed seeing nothing by **Short-billed Pipits** when finally a seedsnipe burst into the air from right next to the vehicle, landing about 50 yards away but very hard to see. I managed to get the scope on it and miraculously

the bird stayed long enough for everyone to see. Shortly after, Jim spotted the first dotterel, though we all had a bear of a time getting on it as it darted in and out of view. There was no reason to worry, as we ended up seeing at least seven more on the way back, some very close to the car – it truly is one of the most gorgeous of all shorebirds.



Tawny-throated Dotterel

Another early start saw us on another remote dirt road, climbing up to a 15,000 feet (4600 meter) pass in the remote Sierra de Santa Victoria. It was foggy, windy, and frigid when we arrived. We could only bear to be out of the vehicle for a few minutes, but it was long enough to see a **Slender-billed Miner** give a good impression of a hummingbird as it fought against the fierce winds. We decided to go down the road to find some sun and relief from the wind. Soon we were below the fog, and the view of the sun rising over the ocean of clouds lapping against distant peaks was truly stunning. We started to warm up, though it was still windy. Not many birds make these rocky slopes their home, but there are even fewer people. Watching the shepherds herding sheep into stone corrals made it feel like we had just stepped through a time machine. Walking down the road, one of the most common birds was the



very pretty **Red-backed Sierra-Finch** (*left*) feeding on the ground and flitting back and forth. **Andean Swallows** circled overhead and it seemed very fitting when three **Andean Condors** circled overhead. Other birds here included **Ornate Tinamou**, **Andean Hillstar**, **Straight-billed Earthcreeper**, **Puna Canastero**, **Cinereous Ground-Tyrant**, **Brown-backed Mockingbird**, and **Plumbeous Sierra-Finch**. Driving back to the pass, we stopped briefly and got the hoped-for **Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant** before zigzagging down to some stone ruins, a good place to have

our packed lunch. The golden **Puna Yellow-Finches** that sat on the walls were an added bonus. After lunch, we spent some time birding the scrub for **Mountain Parakeet**, **Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail**, and **d'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant** before driving back west to the village of Yavi. This quaint little village has become famous among birders as the best place in Argentina (and perhaps the world) to see the rare **Wedge-tailed Hillstar**. Luck was with us that afternoon as it was almost the first bird we saw on our walk. We quickly located other targets like **Spot-winged Pigeon**, **Bare-faced** and **Black-winged Ground-Doves**, **White-winged Black-Tyrant**, **White-tipped Plantcutter**, and **Black-hooded Sierra-Finch**. **Citron-headed Yellow-Finch** took a little longer, but we found it in the end, and headed back to the hotel before the winds picked up.

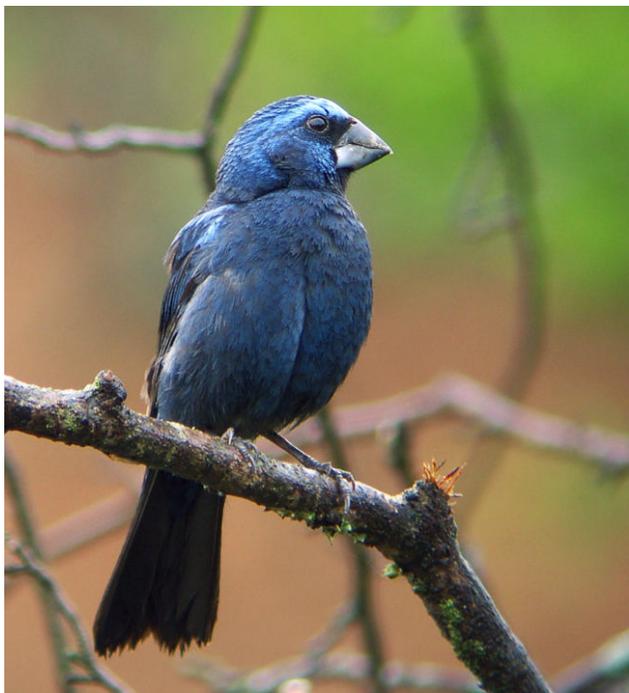
Having seen everything I was looking for at Yavi, we didn't return next morning and got a head start on the long drive south. A couple of stops in the Humahuaca Valley got us **Gray-hooded Parakeet** and **Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant**, though not much else, but a short detour to a reservoir called Dique La Cienega proved well worthwhile. Time was tight, but our short stop got us **White-faced** and **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks**, **Coscoroba Swan**, **Brazilian Teal**, **Wood Stork**, **Cocoi Heron**, **White-faced** and **Bare-faced Ibis**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Red-gartered** and **White-winged Coots**, **Brown-hooded Gull**, and others. We continued down into the hot lowlands and drove through a sea of sugar cane plantations to the farming town of San Martín. It was brutally hot, but that didn't stop us from heading out to the nearby Calilegua National Park that afternoon. Not having much time, we concentrated on the lower, drier parts of the park. It was very quiet, but with patience and persistence we started seeing some nice birds like **Pale-vented Pigeon**, **Amazonian Motmot**, **Green-cheeked Parakeet**, **Variable Antshrike**, **Black-capped Antwren**, **Black-banded Woodcreeper**, **Streaked Xenops**, **Ochre-cheeked Spinetail**, **Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher**, **Plush-crested Jay**, **Two-banded Warbler**, **Saffron-billed Sparrow**, and **Purple-throated Euphonia**. On the way back to the hotel, we stopped at the bridge to look at the **Southern Martins** that always seem to be there.



*The beautiful Plush-crested Jay –
we saw them in many sites, including Calilegua.*

We returned next morning to Calilegua. The beautiful clear weather and cloudless mountain peaks gave no hint of the coming storm. Even Francisco, the local guide, said the weather was going to be great. For a couple of hours, at least, it was. We started in the lower part again, where we got better views of **Green-cheeked Parakeet**, and Francisco spotted a distant **Peregrine Falcon**. We worked on a shy **Giant Antshrike** which some of the group ended up seeing, and we were lucky to have a pair of **Golden-collared Macaws** perch very close on a dead snag. After seeing **Greenish Elaenia**, **Guira Tanager**, and **Crane Hawk**, it was obviously clouding over, and we started the slow drive up to the wetter forest. One quick stop got us a kettle of **Swallow-tailed Kites** and nice views of a **White-browed Brush-Finch**, but I didn't want to linger. Finally we reached a territory of **White-throated Antpitta**, one of the key targets, and just as the bird was coming in (I had a glimpse) the skies opened up, and we had to hoof it back to the van. Assuming it would stop before long, we drove up to the pass and tried to wait it out. After about 40 minutes, the rain let up a bit, and we got out just in time to see a big flock of **Tucuman Parrots** circle around a few times overhead. Unfortunately, the rain picked up again, even harder than before - it was pounding deafeningly down on the van. We were many miles up a very bad road that was prone to landslides, and it was too risky to stay, so we had to bail and make our way slowly down the mountain. It was tricky, but our driver did a great job and we got down safely. Over five hours later, the rain finally started letting up, and eventually stopped. Francisco told us that the lowland areas hadn't had any significant rain in months. The good news was that the temperature had plunged at least 20°F and it was now quite pleasant. We made the most of the afternoon and did see a few nice birds like **Blue-crowned Trogon**, **Toco Toucan**, **Narrow-billed Woodcreeper**, and **Hepatic Tanager** before heading back to the hotel.

The cooler temperatures were very welcome as we left very early and headed down into the dry Chaco, normally one of the hottest places in Argentina. We started birding a dirt road in the foothills, spotting raucous groups of **Chaco Chachalacas** as we drove to the forest. Activity was high and we quickly found a **Many-colored Chaco Finch** perched up singing, frenetic **Greater Wagtail-Tyrants** moving through the scrub, small flocks of **Black-capped Warbling-Finches**, colorful **Blue-and-yellow Tanagers**, vibrant **Ultramarine Grosbeaks** (*photo below*), and a few **Red-crested Finches**. Black-legged Seriemas were singing from the dense scrub, but sadly none ever came out into view – their shy nature and impenetrable habitat makes seeing one often a matter of luck more than anything. Continuing down the road, we managed to find a fierce-looking **Spot-backed Puffbird**, **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**, a **Striped Cuckoo**, and various flycatchers like **Small-billed Elaenia**, **Suiriri Flycatcher**, **Swainson's Flycatcher**, and **Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant**. The road was lined with the massive



stick nests of thornbirds. Most of them turned out to be owned by the widespread **Rufous-fronted Thornbird**, but finally after checking many nests we found our target, the diminutive **Little Thornbird**. Later in the day, we drove away from the mountains to the dusty farming town of JV Gonzales. A gas station stop got us our first charismatic **Lark-like Brushrunners** scurrying along the ground and little while later we started seeing herds of **Greater Rhea**. Afternoons here can often be hot and silent, but we took full advantage of the unusually cool weather and pulled out some terrific birds. A dirt track not far from town had **White-fronted Woodpecker**, **Dark-billed Cuckoo**, **Great Antshrike**, **Stripe-backed Antbird**, **Large Elaenia**, **Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant**, and **Dull-colored Grassquit**. However, the top sightings for the day were the **Tataupa Tinamou** that we lured across the track for completely open views, and the colorful **Olive-crowned Crescentchest** sitting full in the open in the late afternoon glow.



Olive-crowned Crescentchest in the Chaco near JV Gonzales

We drove a dusty, bumpy road out into some Chaco habitat early next morning, pausing just before dawn to see **Little Nightjar**. Stops in some farmland produced **White-browed Blackbird**, **Pale-breasted Spinetail**, and flyover **Comb Ducks**, while a flock of **Blue-crowned Parakeets** perched nearby. Later, we headed out onto a trail through the dense woodland, finding a hulking **Brown Cacholote** near its huge nest. A friendly little dog, not much more than a puppy, suddenly appeared in the track and started following us around – not really what we needed while looking for skulkers! It was unfortunately quite persistent, and the situation became rather bizarre; it's not every day you find yourself crouching down in thorn scrub, holding down a squirming mutt while trying to call in a **Crested Gallito**... We didn't do very well on that one, but had other targets there like **Crested Hornero**, **Red-billed Scythebill**, **Short-billed Canastero**, and the gaudy **Blue-tufted Starthroat**. A **Lined Seedeater** was a bit of a surprise, but I was disappointed to find that my stakeout for Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper had been deforested the year before. We had to settle for a **Red-crested Cardinal** before heading back to town for lunch and an afternoon rest. Sadly, by that afternoon the cold front had finally moved through, and the scorching temperatures returned. We drove out to a reservoir where we surprised a **Thicket Tinamou** cooling down in a puddle in the road. The lake had a selection of waterbirds, and it was neat to see an enormous flock of hundreds of wintering **Barn** and **Cliff Swallows** wheeling over the dam.

It was already hot by the time the sun came up the following day. We spent a few hours tracking down a last few birds in the Chaco like **Great Rufous Woodcreeper**, **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet**, and a much appreciated **Cream-backed Woodpecker** (*photo right*) before escaping back up into the mountains. We



stopped at another lake where a handsome **Rosy-billed Pochard** mingled with the other more common ducks. We also had **Yellowish Pipit**, **Vermilion Flycatcher**, and **Tawny-headed Swallow** before heading to our nice hotel in San Lorenzo. After relaxing a bit and having an early dinner, we headed to a nearby reserve for some nightbirding. The hoped-for **Montane Forest Screech-Owl** came straight in for mega views, and we also had a juvenile **Tropical Screech-Owl** as well as several **Swallow-tailed Nightjars** flying around with their impressive tail streamers.

After our late night, it was good to have a more relaxed start. After a nice breakfast, we headed south out of Salta and turned west, following a rocky river valley high up into the mountains. Dense fog blanketed the slopes, making birding difficult to start with. After struggling to see a few things, the fog suddenly lifted and birds were everywhere. We quickly scored specialties like **Bare-eyed Ground-Dove**, **Tucuman Mountain-Finch**, **Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch**, **Rufous-bellied Saltator**, **Rock Earthcreeper**, and **Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail**. **Maquis Canastero** can sometimes be tricky here, but today they were singing all over the place and sometimes even perching up in the open. Other more common birds included **Sparkling Violetear**, **Yellow-billed** and **Tufted Tit-Tyrants**, **White-browed Chat-Tyrant**, and **Rusty Flowerpiercer**. Having virtually cleaned up our targets in the montane scrub, we drove up over the pass and down into a gorgeous valley covered with impressive *cardón* cacti, stopping along the way for a herd of wild guanacos. Our luck continued, and we quickly located a couple of target endemics, first stumbling into a **White-throated Cacholote** without even trying, then picking out a rare **Steinbach's Canastero** among the much more common **Creamy-breasted Canasteros**. **Common Diuca-Finches** perched up on the cacti, and a little flock of the well-named **Elegant Crested Tinamou** wandered around nearby. Continuing down the valley to the scenic village of Cachi, we enjoyed the impressive sight of the snow-capped 21,000 ft. peaks towering over the horizon. After stopping a few minutes for our first **Ringed Warbling-Finches** and **Cliff Flycatchers**, we headed to the hotel.



Elegant Crested Tinamou



Tucuman Mountain-Finch

It was another crisp, clear morning as we left the hotel, first stopping to enjoy a flock of **Burrowing Parakeet** perched on some wires and then flying around. In the nearby desert, the soft, repetitive calls of the endemic **Sandy Gallito** drew our attention, and we set off across the sparsely vegetated landscape. Its voice can carry a deceptively long way, but after ten minutes or so we were enjoying

views of our quarry perched up on a bush, singing. It occasionally scampered from bush to bush with tail cocked straight up. We saw another **White-throated Cacholote** before heading back up over the mountains and back down the other side, making a few stops for birds like **Orange-headed Tanager** and **Black-crested Finch**, then drove south through the scenic Quebrada de las Conchas with its beautiful sandstone rock formations glowing in the afternoon light. We had a very pleasant and wine-imbued evening at our terrific hotel in the vineyards of Cafayate.



The endemic White-throated Cacholote

We made a pre-breakfast last-ditch effort at **Chaco Earthcreeper**, which is normally not that tough but had become something of a nemesis. Literally minutes before I was about to give up, we heard its soft ticking song, and a few minutes later we finally had our quarry on the top of a bush, looking rather irate. Continuing our journey south through the wide Calchaqui valley, we enjoyed the scenery of the vineyards and cactus-covered slopes. There were some repeat sightings of more common birds, and an area of tall grass had the tour's only **Sedge Wren**. Finally we started climbing back up into the higher mountains, stopping in the scrub for **Scale-throated Earthcreeper** and finally scoring **Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch** and **Black Siskin**, two great birds which had been conspicuously absent up until then. Another stop got us our final earthcreeper, the near endemic **Buff-breasted Earthcreeper**, before we dropped down into Tafi del Valle, a touristy town in a lush, verdant valley. The afternoon was spent birding around the nearby Angostura reservoir, where we added a few last waterbirds like **Red Shoveler**, **Lake Duck**, and **Red-fronted** and **Red-gartered Coots** among numerous more common species, and managed to flush up a couple of **South American Snipes** along the muddy lake margin. A pair of **White-winged Cinclodes** were nesting under a bridge, and we all finally had great views of this species that had only been glimpsed in flight earlier on the tour.

Thanks to our good fortune with the highland species, there wasn't much new left to look for the following morning. The target **White-browed Tapaculo** was ridiculously easy, with one bird even

perched up on the top of a fence post – hardly your typical tapaculo sighting. An **Andean Tinamou** (*photo right*) was feeding in the open near the side of the road, and we found some **Hellmayr's Pipits** in taller grass farther along the highway. With time to spare, we decided to make an assault on the mountain to try for the rare Scribble-tailed Canastero. Sadly we had no luck despite our best efforts, though enjoyed the great scenery, beautiful weather, and repeat sightings of many other birds including a kettle of soaring **Andean Condors**. Later in the afternoon, we birded below Tafi along the Rio Los Sosa. Traffic was insane as the road had been closed the previous two days for construction, but we still found our last endemic fairly quickly, the handsome **Yellow-striped Brush-Finch**. We put up with the endless stream of cars and trucks long enough to see **Cinnamon Flycatcher** and **Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet**, both new for the trip, before heading back up to the hotel for our final night.



Yellow-striped Brush-Finch along the Rio Los Sosa below Tafi

We had a rather leisurely last morning, birding our way down the valley, making a few roadside stops for **Dot-fronted Woodpecker**, **Piratic Flycatcher**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, and lots of “old friends”. Mountains gave way to farmland as we neared Tucumán, and a roadside **Savanna Hawk** was our final sighting before reaching the airport. Our flight back to Buenos Aires was thankfully on time, so we had plenty of time to transfer to the international airport for departures. It had been a fun and productive tour, and I look forward to doing it again in 2014!

BIRD LIST

This list includes all the bird species that were recorded by at least one of the group, including the leader.

Taxonomy of the list follows:

Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, B.L. Sullivan, C. L. Wood, and D. Roberson. 2012. **The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: Version 6.7.** Downloaded from <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/downloadable-clements-checklist>

Totals:

372 bird species seen

6 heard only

Abbreviations:

H=Heard

GO=Seen by the guide only

RHEAS

Greater Rhea

Lesser (Puna) Rhea

TINAMOUS

Tataupa Tinamou

H Huayco Tinamou

Ornate Tinamou

Brushland Tinamou

Andean Tinamou

Elegant Crested-Tinamou

DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Coscoroba Swan

Comb Duck

Andean Goose

Crested Duck

Muscovy Duck

Brazilian Teal

Torrent Duck

Cinnamon Teal

Red Shoveler

Yellow-billed Pintail

Puna Teal

Yellow-billed (Speckled) Teal

Rosy-billed Pochard

Lake Duck

GUANS, CHACHALACAS, AND CURASSOWS

Chaco Chachalaca

Red-faced Guan

Dusky-legged Guan

GREBES

White-tufted Grebe

Pied-billed Grebe

Silvery Grebe

FLAMINGOS

Chilean Flamingo

RHEIDAE

Rhea americana

Rhea pennata garleppi

TINAMIDAE

Crypturellus tataupa

Rhynchotus maculicollis

Nothoprocta ornata

Nothoprocta cinerascens

Nothoprocta pentlandii

Eudromia elegans

ANATIDAE

Dendrocygna viduata

Dendrocygna bicolor

Coscoroba coscoroba

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Chloephaga melanoptera

Lophonetta specularioides

Cairina moschata

Amazonetta brasiliensis

Merganetta armata

Anas cyanoptera

Anas platalea

Anas georgica

Anas puna

Anas flavirostris

Netta peposaca

Oxyura vittata

CRACIDAE

Ortalis canicollis

Penelope dabbeni

Penelope obscura

PODICIPEDIDAE

Rollandia rolland

Podilymbus podiceps

Podiceps occipitalis

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Phoenicopterus chilensis

Andean Flamingo
James's (Puna) Flamingo

STORKS

Wood Stork

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS

Neotropic Cormorant

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS

Cocoi Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Cattle Egret

Striated Heron

Whistling Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

White-faced Ibis

Puna Ibis

Bare-faced Ibis

Buff-necked Ibis

Roseate Spoonbill

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Andean Condor

OSPREY

Osprey

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES

White-tailed Kite

Hook-billed Kite

Swallow-tailed Kite

Rufous-thighed Kite

GO Plumbeous Kite

Crane Hawk

Savanna Hawk

Roadside Hawk

Harris's Hawk

Variable Hawk

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS

H Rufous-sided Crake

Giant Wood-Rail

Gray-necked Wood-Rail

Common Gallinule

Red-gartered Coot

Red-fronted Coot

Giant Coot

Slate-colored (Andean) Coot

White-winged Coot

LIMPKIN

H Limpkin

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS

Southern Lapwing

Andean Lapwing

Phoenicoparrus andinus

Phoenicoparrus jamesi

CICONIIDAE

Mycteria americana

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

ARDEIDAE

Ardea cocoi

Ardea alba

Egretta thula

Bubulcus ibis

Butorides striata

Syrigma sibilatrix

Nycticorax nycticorax

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Plegadis chihi

Plegadis ridgwayi

Phimosus infuscatus

Theristicus caudatus

Platalea ajaja

CATHARTIDAE

Coragyps atratus

Cathartes aura

Vultur gryphus

PANDIONIDAE

Pandion haliaetus

ACCIPITRIDAE

Elanus leucurus

Chondrohierax uncinatus

Elanoides forficatus

Harpagus diodon

Ictinia plumbea

Geranoospiza caerulescens

Buteogallus meridionalis

Rupornis magnirostris

Parabuteo unicinctus

Geranoaetus polyosoma

Geranoaetus melanoleucus

RALLIDAE

Laterallus melanophaius

Aramides ypecaha

Aramides cajaneus

Gallinula galeata

Fulica armillata

Fulica rufifrons

Fulica gigantea

Fulica ardesiaca

Fulica leucoptera

ARAMIDAE

Aramus guarauna

CHARADRIIDAE

Vanellus chilensis

Vanellus resplendens

American Golden Plover
Puna Plover
Tawny-throated Dotterel
STILTS AND AVOCETS
Black-necked (White-backed) Stilt
Andean Avocet
JACANAS
Wattled Jacana
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Baird's Sandpiper
South American Snipe
Wilson's Phalarope
SEEDSNIPES
Gray-breasted Seedsnipe
Least Seedsnipe
GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS
Andean Gull
Brown-hooded Gull
Large-billed Tern
PIGEONS AND DOVES
Rock Pigeon
Pale-vented Pigeon
Picazuro Pigeon
Spot-winged Pigeon
Eared Dove
Ruddy Ground-Dove
Picui Ground-Dove
Bare-faced Ground-Dove
Bare-eyed (Moreno's) Ground-Dove (E)
Black-winged Ground-Dove
White-tipped Dove
Large-tailed (White-faced/Yungas) Dove
CUCKOOS
Squirrel Cuckoo
Dark-billed Cuckoo
Guira Cuckoo
Striped Cuckoo
Smooth-billed Ani
OWLS
Tropical Screech-Owl
Montane Forest (Hoy's/Yungas) Screech-Owl
Yungas Pygmy-Owl
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
Burrowing Owl
NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES
Little Nightjar
Scissor-tailed Nightjar
SWIFTS
White-collared Swift
Sick's Swift
Andean Swift

Pluvialis dominica
Charadrius alticola
Oreopholus ruficollis
RECURVIROSTRIDAE
Himantopus mexicanus melanurus
Recurvirostra andina
JACANIDAE
Jacana jacana
SCOLOPACIDAE
Tringa melanoleuca
Tringa flavipes
Calidris bairdii
Gallinago paraguaiae
Phalaropus tricolor
THINOCORIDAE
Thinocorus orbignyianus
Thinocorus rumicivorus
LARIDAE
Chroicocephalus serranus
Chroicocephalus maculipennis
Phaetusa simplex
COLUMBIDAE
Columba livia
Patagioenas cayennensis
Patagioenas picazuro
Patagioenas maculosa
Zenaida auriculata
Columbina talpacoti
Columbina picui
Metriopelia ceciliae
Metriopelia morenoi
Metriopelia melanoptera melanoptera
Leptotila verreauxi
Leptotila megalura
CUCULIDAE
Piaya cayana
Coccyzus melacoryphus
Guira guira
Tapera naevia
Crotophaga ani
STRIGIDAE
Megascops choliba
Megascops hoyi
Glaucidium bolivianum
Glaucidium brasilianum
Athene cunicularia
CAPRIMULGIDAE
Caprimulgus parvulus
Hydropsalis torquata
APODIDAE
Streptoprocne zonaris
Chaetura meridionalis
Aeronautes andecolus

HUMMINGBIRDS
GO Planalto Hermit
 Sparkling Violetear
 Red-tailed Comet
 Andean Hillstar
 Wedge-tailed Hillstar
 Giant Hummingbird
 Blue-tufted Starthroat
 Slender-tailed Woodstar
 Glittering-bellied Emerald
 White-bellied Hummingbird
 Gilded Hummingbird (Gilded Sapphire)
TROGONS
 Blue-crowned Trogon
MOTMOTS
 Amazonian Motmot
KINGFISHERS
 Ringed Kingfisher
 Amazon Kingfisher
PUFFBIRDS
 Spot-backed (Chaco) Puffbird
TOUCANS
 Toco Toucan
WOODPECKERS
 White-barred Piculet
 White-fronted Woodpecker
 Smoky-brown Woodpecker
 Checkered Woodpecker
 Dot-fronted Woodpecker
 Golden-olive Woodpecker
 Green-barred Woodpecker
 Andean Flicker
 Cream-backed Woodpecker
SERIEMAS
H Black-legged Seriema
FALCONS AND CARACARAS
 Mountain Caracara
 Southern Caracara
 Chimango Caracara
 American Kestrel
 Aplomado Falcon
 Peregrine Falcon
PARROTS
 Nanday Parakeet (I)
 Burrowing Parakeet (Parrot)
 Green-cheeked Parakeet
 Monk Parakeet
 Gray-hooded Parakeet
 Mountain Parakeet
 Blue-crowned Parakeet
 Mitred Parakeet
H White-eyed Parakeet
 Yellow-collared (Golden-collared) Macaw

TROCHILIDAE
Phaethornis pretrei
Colibri coruscans
Sappho sparganura
Oreotrochilus estella estella
Oreotrochilus adela
Patagona gigas
Heliomaster furcifer
Microstilbon burmeisteri
Chlorostilbon lucidus
Amazilia chionogaster
Hylocharis chrysura
TROGONIDAE
Trogon curucui
MOMOTIDAE
Momotus momota
ALCEDINIDAE
Megaceryle torquata
Chloroceryle amazona
BUCCONIDAE
Nystalus maculatus striatipectus
RAMPHASTIDAE
Ramphastos toco
PICIDAE
Picumnus cirratus
Melanerpes cactorum
Picoides fumigatus
Veniliornis mixtus
Veniliornis frontalis
Colaptes rubiginosus tucumanus
Colaptes melanochloros leucofrenatus
Colaptes rupicola rupicola
Campephilus leucopogon
CARIAMIDAE
Chunga burmeisteri
FALCONIDAE
Phalcoboenus megalopterus
Caracara plancus
Milvago chimango
Falco sparverius
Falco femoralis
Falco peregrinus
PSITTACIDAE
Nandayus nenday
Cyanoliseus patagonus
Pyrrhura molinae
Myiopsitta monachus
Psilopsiagon aymara
Psilopsiagon aurifrons
Aratinga acuticaudata
Aratinga mitrata
Aratinga leucophthalma
Primolius auricollis

Scaly-headed Parrot
Tucuman Parrot
Turquoise-fronted (Blue-fronted) Parrot

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS

Giant Antshrike
Great Antshrike
Rufous-capped Antshrike
Variable Antshrike
Stripe-backed Antbird
Black-capped Antwren

CRESCENTCHESTS

Olive-crowned Crescentchest

ANTPITTAS

GO White-throated Antpitta

TAPACULOS

GO Crested Gallito
Sandy Gallito (E)
White-browed Tapaculo (E)

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS

Common Miner
Slender-billed Miner
Puna Miner

Rufous-banded Miner

H Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Black-banded Woodcreeper
Great Rufous Woodcreeper
Red-billed Scythebill
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper
Streaked Xenops
Rock Earthcreeper
Straight-billed Earthcreeper
Chaco Earthcreeper
Rufous Hornero
Crested Hornero

GO Wren-like Rushbird
Scale-throated Earthcreeper
Plain-breasted Earthcreeper
Buff-breasted Earthcreeper
Cream-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes
White-winged Cinclodes
Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner
Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail
Tawny Tit-Spinetail
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail
Rufous-fronted Thornbird
Little Thornbird
Streak-fronted Thornbird
Spot-breasted Thornbird
Freckle-breasted Thornbird
Lark-like Brushrunner
Creamy-breasted Canastero
Short-billed Canastero
Puna Canastero

Pionus maximiliani
Amazona tucumana
Amazona aestiva
THAMNOPHILIDAE
Batara cinerea argentina
Taraba major
Thamnophilus ruficapillus cochabambae
Thamnophilus caerulescens dinellii
Myrmorchilus strigilatus suspicax
Herpsilochmus atricapillus

MELANOPAREIIDAE

Melanopareia maximiliani

GRALLARIIDAE

Grallaria albigula

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Rhinocrypta lanceolata
Teledromas fuscus
Scytalopus superciliaris superciliaris

FURNARIIDAE

Geositta cunicularia titicacae
Geositta tenuirostris
Geositta punensis
Geositta rufipennis
Sittasomus griseicapillus griseicapillus
Dendrocolaptes picumnus casaresi
Xiphocolaptes major
Campylorhamphus trochilirostris hellmayri
Lepidocolaptes angustirostris
Xenops rutilans
Ochetorhynchus andaecola
Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus
Tarphononmus certhioides
Furnarius rufus
Furnarius cristatus
Phleocryptes melanops
Upucerthia dumetaria
Upucerthia jelskii
Upucerthia validirostris
Cinclodes albiventris
Cinclodes atacamensis
Syndactyla rufosuperciliata
Leptasthenura fuliginiceps
Leptasthenura yanacensis
Leptasthenura aegithaloides berlepschi
Phacellodomus rufifrons sincipitalis
Phacellodomus sibilatrix
Phacellodomus striaticeps
Phacellodomus maculipectus
Phacellodomus striaticollis
Coryphistera alaudina
Asthenes dorbignyi dorbignyi
Asthenes baeri
Asthenes sclateri lilloi

Cordilleran Canastero
 Maquis (Iquico) Canastero
 Sulphur-throated Spinetail
 Stripe-crowned Spinetail
 Steinbach's Canastero (E)
 Brown Cacholote
 White-throated Cacholote (E)
 Sooty-fronted Spinetail
 Azara's Spinetail
 Pale-breasted Spinetail
 Ochre-cheeked Spinetail
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS
 Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet
 Suiriri Flycatcher
 Buff-banded Tyrannulet
 White-throated Tyrannulet
 Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant
 Tufted Tit-Tyrant
 Mouse-colored Tyrannulet
 Subtropical Doradito
 Greenish Elaenia
 Large Elaenia
 White-crested (Chilean) Elaenia
 Small-billed Elaenia
 Slaty Elaenia
 Highland Elaenia
 White-crested Tyrannulet
 White-bellied Tyrannulet
 Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet
 Sclater's Tyrannulet
 Plain Tyrannulet
 Many-colored Rush Tyrant
 Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant
 Greater Wagtail-Tyrant
 Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant
 Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher
 Cinnamon Flycatcher
 Cliff Flycatcher
 Bran-colored Flycatcher
 Smoke-colored Pewee
 Black Phoebe
 Vermilion Flycatcher
 Andean Negrito
 Cinereous Tyrant
 Andean Tyrant
 White-winged Black-Tyrant
 Spectacled Tyrant
 Yellow-browed Tyrant
 Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant
 Cinereous Ground-Tyrant
 Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant
 Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant
 Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant

Asthenes modesta
Asthenes heterura
Cranioleuca sulphurifera
Cranioleuca pyrrhophia
Pseudasthenes steinbachi
Pseudoseisura lophotes
Pseudoseisura gutturalis
Synallaxis frontalis
Synallaxis azarae superciliosa
Synallaxis albescens australis
Synallaxis scutata
TYRANNIDAE
Camptostoma obsoletum obsoletum
Suiriri suiriri suiriri
Mecocerculus hellmayri
Mecocerculus leucophrys leucophrys
Anairetes flavirostris
Anairetes parulus
Phaeomyias murina
Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis
Myiopagis viridicata
Elaenia spectabilis
Elaenia albiceps chilensis
Elaenia parvirostris
Elaenia strepera
Elaenia obscura
Serpophaga subcristata
Serpophaga munda
Phylloscartes ventralis tucumanus
Phyllomyias sclateri
Inezia inornata
Tachuris rubrigastra
Euscarthmus meloryphus meloryphus
Stigmatura budyoides inzonata
Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer
Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps
Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus cinnamomeus
Hirundinea ferruginea pallidior
Myiophobus fasciatus
Contopus fumigatus
Sayornis nigricans
Pyrocephalus rubinus
Lessonia oreas
Knipolegus striaticeps
Knipolegus signatus cabanisi
Knipolegus aterrimus
Hymenops perspicillatus
Satrapa icterophrys
Muscisaxicola maculirostris
Muscisaxicola cinereus
Muscisaxicola rufivertex
Muscisaxicola frontalis
Agriornis montanus

White Monjita
d'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant
White-browed Chat-Tyrant
Cattle Tyrant
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Swainson's Flycatcher
Brown-crested Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee
Streaked Flycatcher
Piratic Flycatcher
Variegated Flycatcher
Crowned Slaty Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Fork-tailed Flycatcher

COTINGAS

White-tipped Plantcutter

TITYRAS AND ALLIES

White-winged Becard
Crested Becard

VIREOS

Red-eyed Vireo
Rufous-browed Peppershrike

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES

Plush-crested Jay

SWALLOWS

Blue-and-white Swallow
Tawny-headed Swallow
Andean Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Gray-breasted Martin
Southern Martin
Brown-chested Martin
White-rumped Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow

WRENS

House Wren

GO Mountain Wren
Sedge Wren

GNATCATCHERS

Masked Gnatcatcher

DIPPERS

Rufous-throated Dipper

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

GO Swainson's Thrush
Rufous-bellied Thrush
Creamy-bellied Thrush
(Andean) Slaty Thrush
Chiguanco Thrush

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

Patagonian Mockingbird
Chalk-browed Mockingbird
Brown-backed Mockingbird

Xolmis irupero irupero
Ochthoeca oenanthoides
Ochthoeca leucophrys tucumana
Machetornis rixosa
Myiarchus tuberculifer
Myiarchus swainsoni ferocior
Myiarchus tyrannulus
Pitangus sulphuratus
Myiodynastes maculatus solitarius
Legatus leucophaius
Empidonomus varius
Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus
Tyrannus melancholicus
Tyrannus savana

COTINGIDAE

Phytotoma rutila

TITYRIDAE

Pachyramphus polychopterus spixii
Pachyramphus validus

VIREONIDAE

Vireo olivaceus chivi
Cyclarhis gujanensis

CORVIDAE

Cyanocorax chrysops

HIRUNDINIDAE

Pygochelidon cyanoleuca
Alopochelidon fucata
Orochelidon andecola
Stelgidopteryx ruficollis
Progne chalybea
Progne elegans
Progne tapera
Tachycineta leucorrhoa
Hirundo rustica
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

TROGLODYTIDAE

Troglodytes aedon
Troglodytes solstitialis auricularis
Cistothorus platensis tucumanus

POLIOPTILIDAE

Polioptila dumicola

CINCLIDAE

Cinclus schulzi

TURDIDAE

Catharus ustulatus
Turdus rufiventris
Turdus amaurochalinus
Turdus nigriceps nigriceps
Turdus chiguanco

MIMIDAE

Mimus patagonicus
Mimus saturninus
Mimus dorsalis

STARLINGS

European Starling (I)

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

Yellowish Pipit

Short-billed Pipit

Hellmayr's Pipit

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Masked Yellowthroat

Tropical Parula

Golden-crowned Warbler

Two-banded Warbler

Brown-capped Redstart

TANAGERS AND ALLIES

Red-crested Cardinal

Orange-headed Tanager

Rust-and-yellow Tanager

Sayaca Tanager

Blue-and-yellow Tanager

Fawn-breasted Tanager

Guira Tanager

Rusty Flowerpiercer

Black-hooded Sierra-Finch

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch

Mourning Sierra-Finch

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch

Red-backed Sierra-Finch

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch

Common Diuca-Finch

Black-crested Finch

Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch

Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch

Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch

Ringed Warbling-Finch

Black-capped Warbling-Finch

Tucuman Mountain-Finch (E)

Puna Yellow-Finch

Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch

Citron-headed Yellow-Finch

Greenish Yellow-Finch

Saffron Finch

Grassland Yellow-Finch

Great Pampa-Finch

Blue-black Grassquit

Lined Seedeater

Double-collared Seedeater

Band-tailed Seedeater

Plain-colored Seedeater

Red-crested Finch

Dull-colored Grassquit

Rufous-bellied Saltator

Grayish Saltator

Golden-billed Saltator

STURNIDAE*Sturnus vulgaris***MOTACILLIDAE***Anthus lutescens**Anthus furcatus**Anthus hellmayri hellmayri***PARULIDAE***Geothlypis aequinoctialis velata**Setophaga pitiayumi**Basileuterus culicivorus**Myiothlypis bivittata argentinae**Myioborus bruniceps***THRAUPIDAE***Paroaria coronata**Thlypopsis sordida**Thlypopsis ruficeps**Thraupis sayaca**Thraupis bonariensis**Pipraeidea melanonota**Hemithraupis guira**Diglossa sittoides**Phrygilus atriceps**Phrygilus gayi**Phrygilus fruticeti**Phrygilus unicolor**Phrygilus dorsalis**Phrygilus plebejus**Phrygilus alaudinus**Diuca diuca**Lophospingus pusillus**Poospiza hypochondria**Poospiza erythrophrys**Poospiza nigrorufa nigrorufa**Poospiza torquata**Poospiza melanoleuca**Compsospiza baeri**Sicalis lutea**Sicalis uropygialis**Sicalis luteocephala**Sicalis olivascens**Sicalis flaveola**Sicalis luteola**Embernagra platensis olivascens**Volatinia jacarina**Sporophila lineola**Sporophila caerulescens**Catamenia analis**Catamenia inornata**Coryphospingus cucullatus**Tiaris obscurus**Saltator rufiventris**Saltator coerulescens**Saltator aurantirostris*

Many-colored Chaco Finch

BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS

Saffron-billed Sparrow

White-browed (Stripe-headed) Brush-Finch

Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch

Yellow-striped Brush-Finch (E)

GO Grassland Sparrow

Rufous-collared Sparrow

Common Bush-Tanager

CARDINALS AND ALLIES

Hepatic (Red) Tanager

Black-backed Grosbeak

Ultramarine Grosbeak

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

White-browed Blackbird

Long-tailed Meadowlark

Yellow-winged Blackbird

Chestnut-capped Blackbird

Bay-winged Cowbird

GO Screaming Cowbird

Shiny Cowbird

Variable Oriole

Solitary Black Cacique

Golden-winged Cacique

Crested Oropendola

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES

Purple-throated Euphonia

Hooded Siskin

Black Siskin

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow

MAMMALS

Wild guinea pigs

European Hare (I)

Guanaco

Vicugna

Brown Agouti

Brown Brocket

Saltatricula multicolor

EMBERIZIDAE

Arremon flavirostris dorbignii

Arremon torquatus

Atlapetes fulviceps

Atlapetes citrinellus

Ammodramus humeralis

Zonotrichia capensis

Chlorospingus ophthalmicus argentinus

CARDINALIDAE

Piranga flava flava

Pheucticus aureoventris

Cyanocompsa brissonii

ICTERIDAE

Sturnella superciliaris

Sturnella loyca

Agelasticus thilius

Chrysomus ruficapillus

Agelaioides badius

Molothrus rufoaxillaris

Molothrus bonariensis

Icterus pyrrhopterus pyrrhopterus

Cacicus solitarius

Cacicus chrysopterus

Psarocolius decumanus

FRINGILLIDAE

Euphonia chlorotica

Spinus magellanicus

Spinus atratus

PASSERIDAE

Passer domesticus

Cavia spp.

Lepus europaeus

Lama glama

Vicugna vicugna

Dasyprocta variegata

Mazama gouazoubira