

Northwest Argentina (custom tour)

13 – 24 November, 2015

Tour leader: Andrés Vásquez

Co-guided by Sam Woods

Trip Report by Andrés Vásquez; most photos by Sam Woods, a few by Andrés V.



Elegant Crested-Tinamou at Los Cardones NP near Cachi; photo by Sam Woods

Introduction:

Northwest Argentina is an incredible place and a wonderful birding destination. It is one of those locations you feel like you are crossing through Wonderland when you drive along some of the most beautiful landscapes in South America adorned by dramatic rock formations and deep-blue lakes. So you want to stop every few kilometers to take pictures and when you look at those shots in your camera you know it will never capture the incredible landscape and the breathtaking feeling that you had during that moment. Then you realize it will be impossible to explain to your relatives once at home how sensational the trip was, so you breathe deeply and just enjoy the moment without caring about any other thing in life. This trip combines a large amount of quite contrasting environments and ecosystems, from the lush humid Yungas cloud forest to dry high Altiplano and Puna, stopping at various lakes and wetlands on various altitudes and ending on the drier upper Chaco forest.



Sam recording memories near Tres Cruces, Jujuy; photo by Andrés V.

All this is combined with some very special birds, several endemic to Argentina and many restricted to the high Andes of central South America. Highlights for this trip included **Red-throated Dipper**, **5 species of Tinamou** seen (of which **Elegant Crested-Tinamou** was the favorite), **Least** and **Gray-breasted Seedsnipe**, the quite local **Red-faced Guan**, **Yungas Pygmy-Owl**, **Hoy's Screech-Owl**, 3 species of **Flamingos**, 35 furnariids, the uncommon **Rufous-bellied Saltator**, a flock of **13 Andean Condors** soaring together, the unique **Tawny-throated Dotterel**, many beautiful finches, warbling-finches and sierra-finches, some awesome hummingbirds like **Red-tailed Comet**, **Wedge-tailed**, **Andean** and **White-sided Hillstars** plus a great number of waterbirds that included the scarce **Black-headed Duck**, **Lake** and (Andean) **Ruddy Ducks**, **Rosy-billed Pochard**, **Comb Duck**, **Ringed**, **Cinnamon**, **Puna** and **Silver Teals**, **Great**, **White-tufted**, and **Silvery Grebes**, and 6 species of coots including the rare and local **Horned Coot**.

We cover a lot of ground in this trip but road infrastructure is brilliant and landscapes are never boring. Food is really good throughout the trip, perhaps especially for meat-lovers, since Argentina offers some of the best steaks on the continent. That, combined with superb and inexpensive wines that come from vineyards of this region, helps makes this trip even more enjoyable.

This was a custom tour with a good friend of mine, Rick Goldfarb, who has been with Tropical Birding for 9 tours already; this was the 7th time I had the pleasure to guide him. Sam Woods, another of our TB guides, also joined the tour, both to learn it as well as get a few lifers. It was basically a tour among friends, so the atmosphere was superb and the easiness of being a small group made things flow nicely.

Tour narrative:

Day 1 – Arrival and drive to Tafi del Valle: We started the tour right at the airport when Sam and I picked up Rick and started driving west towards Tafi del Valley. Rick was ready to bird right away and he spotted a **White-tailed Kite** flying over the fields next to the airport entrance road; at the terminal parking lot we found **Chalk-browed Mockingbird**, **Cattle Tyrant**, and **Grayish Baywing**.

After a bit over an hour of driving we left behind the flat lowlands to cross through a beautiful verdant cloud forest, part of the southernmost Yungas of Argentina, and for a good stretch we drove parallel to the famous Río Los Sosa. We were not able to stop much along the way since it was quite late already but we did see the first of many **Mitred Parakeets** of the trip and a great reward, the unique **Rufous-throated Dipper** (photo below, Sam W.) which is a big target on this trip so I was very happy to get it right at the start; we got not only great views but Sam managed an awesome picture.



After crossing the steep valley we found ourselves on the flat highlands south of Tafi where a famous reservoir called Dique La Angostura gave us the first chances to get some waterfowl. We found **White-winged Coots**, **Red Shovelers**, **Yellow-billed Teal** and since it was getting dark already we found various **Black-crowned Night-Herons** and started to hear **South American Snipes** flying over; we eventually saw one relatively well but better views are always desired for this one.

Day 2 – Infiernillo and Rio Los Sosa: Early morning we drove north of Tafi ascending into the mountains. Several stops along the way produced most targets we were hoping for. The first stop, still on disturbed environments gave us awesome views of **White-browed Tapaculo** (upper photo, Sam W.) which is a country endemic. The same general area gave us the first **Greenish Yellow-Finches**, a couple of the gorgeous **Red-tailed Comet**, a very responsive **Andean Flicker**, a pair of chatty **Puna Canasteros**, and another country endemic, the elegant **Tucuman Mountain-Finch** (central photo, Sam W.). Just a couple kilometers higher we got surprised by a lingering **White-banded Mockingbird**, which should have migrated south by then. A **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** perched on a post right next to the road made us stop for pictures and luckily we heard close by a couple **Hellmayr’s Pipit** which eventually we saw very well.



After some more ascending we started to be surrounded by a drier rocky setting where we found plenty of good stuff. We stepped out of the car and a short walk into a narrow ravine produced **White-sided Hillstar**, a responsive **Buff-breasted Earthcreeper**, a group of **Black Siskins**, a lone **Slender-billed Miner** and two curious **Streak-fronted Thornbirds**. On the very same spot we found another country endemics, the quite plain **Moreno’s (Bare-eyed) Ground-Dove**, the only ones of the whole trip. (photo on bottom, Sam W.).



It was still early so we decided to continue upwards and got to the pass of the mountain range where we found a rather unresponsive **Scaly-throated Earthcreeper** which made us work a little to see it but finally we got nice scope views. We did several stops along the area that rewarded us with **Torrent Ducks**, **Creamy-winged** and **White-winged Cinclodes**, **Rufous-sided Warbling-Finches**, the elegant **Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch**, **Brown-capped Tit-Spinetal**, the first of many **White-winged Black-Tyrants** and the desired **Andean Swifts**.



The farthest point we got to during the morning before heading back to Tafi was just a few kilometer down from the pass where we looked for a regional target and with some work and patience we managed good views. The scarce and local **Steinbach’s Canastero** (country endemic) made us wait a little but it came from a relatively long way for us to see it briefly, but well.

We returned to the town of Tafi for a leisurely lunch, and afterwards we headed back down towards the Yungas forest to search for a few specialties.

Literally the first bird of the afternoon was the main target, and it performed nicely; after some playback we got two **Yellow-striped Brush-Finches** (photo below, Sam W.), another of the Argentine endemics. We later found our first **Plush-crested Jays**, **White-wedged Piculet**, **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner**, **Brown-capped Redstart**, **Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch** and **Spot-breasted Thornbird**; most of these we saw again farther north.



With a couple more hours of daylight left, we drove back up to the reservoir to scan in more detail the water, and we were well-rewarded. Rick saw a weird bird flying just above the water pretty far out, a brown bird considerably smaller than the **Andean Gulls** that were nearby; it got us intrigued. We studied it with the scope mostly in flight and from time to time when it sat in the water; I could see a pale belly and some white in the underwing plus a pale nape and darkish cap. It was a completely out-of-place jaeger that I believe it was a young **Long-tailed Jaeger**; this species has also been recorded far inland at the base of the Andes in the Ecuadorian Amazon. It is difficult to rule out other *Stercorarius spp.* but considering size, other historical records of the species, and comparison to other photos, it does appear to be Long-tailed. Sadly due to distance and relative darkness of the late afternoon we were unable to take any pictures. It was exciting but frustrating since we did not manage photographic documentation.



Apart from this interesting find, we saw several new birds for the list. We mostly scanned from the northern shore scoring **Red-gartered Coots**, **Coscoroba Swans**, **Andean Geese** (photo on previous page, Sam W.), two distant **Andean Flamingos**, **Roseate Spoonbills**, and the same species we saw the previous afternoon.



Day 3 – Tafi to Quilmes and Cafayate: We departed before dawn to get into the territories of our targets for the day early enough. As soon as we descended from the mountains on the other side of the pass north of Tafi and reached the flat fields near Amaicha we started hearing Elegant Crested-Tinamous but despite our hopes and a little hiking, we could not locate it. We did find in the same area two big targets for the trip, the dull but endemic **Sandy Gallito** (photo on upper right, Sam W.) and the plain and also country endemic **White-throated Cachalote** (photo on upper left, Sam W.). It was along the same path that we saw our first **Ringed Warbling-Finches**, **Greater Wagtail-Tyrants**, and a lone **Common Diuca-Finch**. We had not moved with the car more than one kilometer when a loud noise called our attention so we stepped out and flushed a flock of about 50 to 80 **Burrowing Parrots** that were down on the ground.

Further up we checked a stake out for **Sharp-billed Canastero** which we found with ease and in the same area we got a **Long-tailed Meadowlark**. A little walk inside an abandoned terrain produced **Tufted Tit-Spinetail**, **White-bellied**



Tyrannulets, and a couple **Stripe-crowned Spinetails**. A few kilometers further ahead we approached the small village of Quilmes where large cacti were everywhere. There is a beautiful species of woodpecker that loves those cacti and sure enough we found several individuals of **White-fronted Woodpecker** (photo on previous page, Sam W.). We scouted the area a little bit since we planned on returning to the same location at night looking for owls, so we drove around a little bit until close to noon and then we decided to move on northwards. Not far there is a well-known grassland which is a renowned spot for **Spectacled Tyrant**, which we found right next to the road.



Continuing northwards, I was just looking for a shady spot to have our packed lunches when a white passerine sitting on a wire had me hitting the brakes. This was our first **White Monjita** of the trip and thanks to it we also got in the same spot about 5 different individuals of **White-tipped Plantcutter** (photo above, Sam W.) which had eluded us the entire morning. After a quick lunch stop we drove directly to our hotel in Cafayate where we had a well-deserved rest during the hottest time of the day.

The afternoon was rather relaxed; the only bird that we had to target around the town was the **Chaco Earthcreeper** (photo on right, Sam W.) for which we took a short walk just behind our hotel. We had no trouble finding it but the vocal birds that responded to our calls were inside private property, so we needed to talk our way in; the person that finally allowed us in was quite peculiar and never took his eyes away from us, since he thought we were going to hunt the birds; when he saw what we were doing, he was so fascinated that he followed us and started to talk about the birds and animals of his property. He told us that once a month he climbs the mountain behind his house and brings a good piece of meat to feed a Puma; he puts the meat down on a spot and then he goes watching the cat from a prudent distance. I found that quite intriguing, but obviously we did not have time for an eight hour trek.



With the only target “in the bag”, we embarked and succeeded on a quest that is amazingly difficult in Argentina: finding a restaurant where we could have dinner before 7pm. Argentinians tend to eat quite late, and restaurants normally open only from 8 to 11pm, but we wanted to eat earlier so we could drive one hour south (and later another hour back) to go look for Chaco Owl around Quilmes. We took that risk knowing from the beginning it was a real long shot; I would not do this on most tours! In any case, we arrived at dusk at a spot where we knew the owl had been reported not too long ago, and after prolonged searching we finally heard one individual responding. It got us very excited but after over half hour of trying, it went quiet and never called again. Empty handed we started our longish drive back and got to bed a bit late.



Overwhelmed Sam at a road stop north of Cafayate; photo by Andrés V.

Day 4 –Cafayate to Cachi: happily for us, this day did not require an early start, so we had a fairly late breakfast, and right after we started the journey again northwards. The first hours of the ride take place through some of the most scenic landscapes where you feel like stopping around every bend for pictures. The famed Quebrada de las Conchas is just spectacular; the rock formations are absolutely stunning and the combination of red cliffs enclosing patches of green forest and occasional deep blue ponds make you realize you are on a really special place on Earth. After a couple hours of driving, with occasional stops for pictures, we left behind this beautiful mountainous land and descended to the flat outskirts of Salta; this area is mainly agricultural, but it holds a couple birds we needed. A couple of stops produced the elegant **Black-crested Finch**, our first **Black-capped Warbling-Finch**, the quite long-tailed **Stripe-capped Sparrow**, and a **Sooty-fronted Spinetail**.

We stocked up on some food for a picnic lunch, and started to drive back up into the mountains, heading west towards the picturesque village of Cachi. The ascent into the mountains here goes through the well-known Cuesta del Obispo before passing through the beautiful national park called Los Cardones. The lower portions also have Yungas forest,

while higher up there is patchy highland forest and scrub. We made several stops in each section, but we paid special attention to the highland forest patches, since our main target of the day lives there. We tried in several quebradas for the rare **Rufous-bellied Saltator** (photo Sam W.) and just when we were about to give up we found a very responsive pair. Around the same area we found **Yellow-billed** and **Tufted Tit-Tyrants**, **Maquis Canastero**, **Common** and **Rufous-banded Miners**, and a very territorial **Rock Earthcreeper**. Right at the pass we took a short detour into a beautiful valley that encloses a unique rock formation named Valle Encantado where we found a pair of **Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrants** and an **Andean Condor** sitting on a nest.



The main target there, the skulking **Zimmer's Tapaculo**, made us work; we spent almost an hour trying for it, and after not hearing it for over 20 minutes we returned, defeated, to the car to leave. I already opened the car door when suddenly I managed to hear it at some distance, so I rushed to the spot trying to get a more precise position. Sam and Rick caught up with me, and with patience we heard it singing from a high slope. I decided to climb the hill to locate it better since the acoustics in the mountains were quite deceiving. Finally I located the exact spot where it was singing from, and managed to see it well and then show it to Rick and Sam.

Happy, we continued our way towards Cachi and arrived in the flat highland desert of Los Cardones. We decided to search for one of the targets of the next day since we had time. While driving really slowly on a side road, Sam found a lone **Elegant Crested-Tinamou**, but it ran like crazy almost immediately after spotting it, so we did not get satisfactory views. We took a couple scenery photos and called it a day.



Day 5 –Cachi and Los Cardones to Salta: We took a packed breakfast so that we could be in the desert at the crack of dawn when the tinamous call most. It was cold and windy so the hot coffee felt so great. Not long after we saw the first rays of sunlight, a couple of them started singing close by and we were able to triangulate the exact location by moving the car a little closer. We spotted them and got terrific views before Sam ventured walking in to try taking some pictures and damn he succeeded! It is a very accurate name: **Elegant Crested-Tinamou** (photo on left, Sam W.).

We started driving at a slow pace along the flat, beautiful desert of this national park, seeing occasional groups of **Vicuñas** and **Guanacos**. While scanning these shrubby plateaus from the stunning Recta del Tin Tin we found the only **Least Seedsnipe** of the tour that vanished as soon as we stepped out of the car. We found another **Hellmayr’s Pipit**, lots of **Mourning**, **Ash-breasted** and **Plumbeous Sierra-**

Finches, a few **Common Diuca Finches**, and **Puna Yellow-Finches** while we were still high in the Altiplano. Lower down again, crossing the Cuesta del Obispo, we made a few stops to collect a few new birds like **Black-backed Grosbeak** (photo on bottom right, Sam W.), **Golden-billed Saltator** (photo on bottom left, Sam W.), **Rusty Flowerpiercer**, **Small-billed Elaenia**, and **Masked Gnatcatcher**, among some other birds we had previously seen.



Our final destination for the day was still a couple hours away and during the heat of the day we just drove stopping for a typical lunch of that region, the tasty Empanadas Salteñas. We ate almost two dozen of them and continued our journey north towards the outskirts of Salta. We checked in on a very nice hotel in San Lorenzo where birding is good right around the grounds so that is where we spent the rest of the afternoon. The flowers on the garden near the front desk attracted a female **Slender-tailed Woodstar** which was the only individual of that species we managed to find on the trip. From the balcony of the hotel we got **Tropical Pewee**, **Variegated Flycatcher**, flying **Scaly-headed Parrots**, **Black Phoebe**, **White-bellied Hummingbird**, **Dusky-capped Flycatcher**, and **Orange-headed Tanager**.



A short walk a couple around the hotel produced one of our favorite trip birds, **Cream-backed Woodpecker** (photo on right, Sam W.), not only due to its beauty, but also from to the show it gave us as it came flying in, calling. Another specialty showed up just minutes later, a **Dot-fronted Woodpecker** (photo on left, Sam W.), which doesn't look like much compared to its larger cousin; only a birder can get excited as we did when we found it right after the previous one. This walk also produced **Creamy-bellied Thrush**, **Fawn-breasted Tanager**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Streaked Flycatcher**, and **Golden-winged Cacique**.

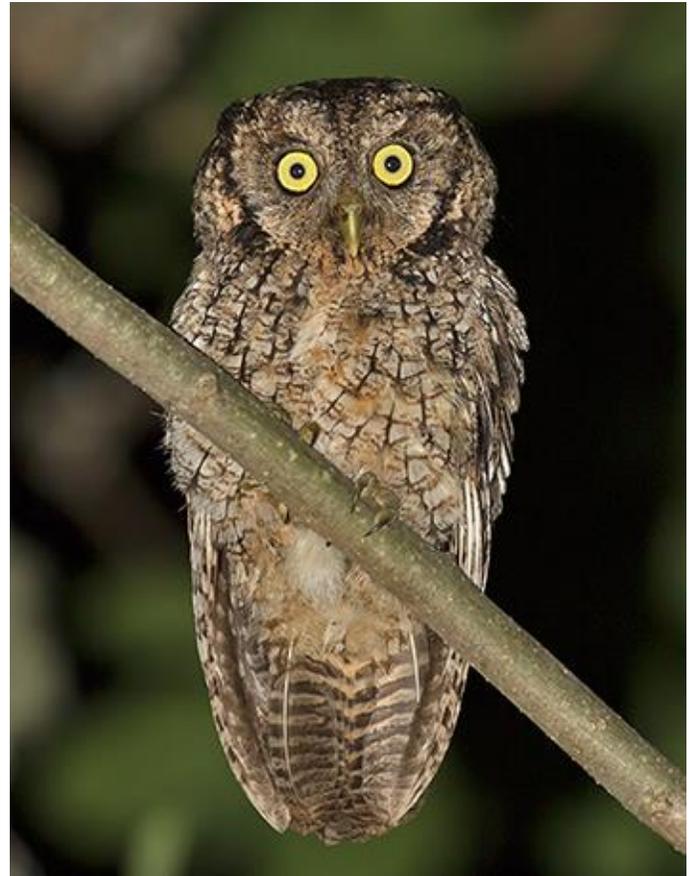
We managed to find another restaurant that served early dinner and worked on our lists through meal to be done early, since we made reservations on a nearby nature reserve for some owling. Sam, the owl nut, found three owl species that night including the main target for the region, **Montane Forest (Hoy's) Screech-Owl** (photo on top of next page, Sam W.). We also got a couple **Tropical Screech-Owls** and a lone **Barn Owl**.

Day 6 –Salta to Yala: This was another day in which we needed cover some ground, but there was a lot of birding to be done along the way. Our first stop was north of Salta on the Dique Campo Alegre resevoir, where we found many new birds for the trip. We started with a lone **Puna Ibis**, followed by a few **Tawny-headed Swallows**, two **Yellowish Pipits**, two flying **Buff-necked Ibis**, a dull non-breeding **Great Grebe** (happily we saw them in nicer plumage later), a bright male **Ultramarine Grosbeak**, our first **Rosy-billed Pochards**, and a very responsive **Short-billed Canastero**.

We moved on and drove along the scenic La Cornisa road, and right at the beginning in some open areas we got surprised by a **Red-legged Seriema** that ran across the road in front of us. Several stops along the narrow and very curvy path produced many targets like **White-browed Brush-Finch**, **Two-banded Warbler**, **Giant Antshrike**, **(Andean) Slaty Thrush**, and **Slaty Elaenia**, together with some more widespread birds like **Cinnamon** and **Euler’s Flycatchers**, **Green-backed Becard**, and **Azara’s Spinetail**.

We reached Yala right at lunch time and ate one of the best steaks of the trip in a local restaurant that does not seem like it would be that good, but that’s Argentina for you, full of surprises and good food. Right after, we checked in a modest but comfortable hotel, had a little rest and afterwards visited the Rio Yala area. There is a narrow dirt road that makes its way up a verdant valley covered with nice Yungas forest, and is home to some targets we needed. Almost at the top of the road we found a male **Plumbeous Black-Tyrant**, and in the same area there was a flock that produced **Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch** and a series of Yungas species that we had seen before. We decided to bird the lower portions of the road and got lucky with two of the main targets of the area, the hulking **Red-faced Guan** (photo on next page, Sam W.) and a quite responsive **Yungas Pygmy-Owl** (photo on right, Sam W.) just before dusk.

Day 7 – Yala to Abra Pampa: With another morning to explore the Yungas forest we moved back to the same dirt road that runs parallel to the Yala River to try picking up a few targets that we still needed before departing northwards towards Abra Pampa. We knew we would not get many lifers this day since we had done so well the previous days in similar habitat. There was still a particular bird that was bugging us, the



Rust-and-yellow Tanager, but we lucked out and found it for good views. A **Large-tailed (Yungas) Dove** flashed from the middle of the road and made us stop suddenly to see it perched on a nearby tree, quite exposed. Later on we ran into a flock with **White-crested (Chilean) Elaenia**, **Highland Elaenia**, and **Buff-banded Tyrannulet**, all new flycatchers for the trip, plus a bright male **Masked Yellowthroat**.



Without much more to look for at Yala, we decided to start our long drive north; within only a few kilometers the vegetation changed drastically, turning into a dry scrubby habitat. We ascended in elevation and started crossing one of UNESCO's Natural Heritage Sites, the beautiful Quebrada de Humahuaca. We only did one birding stop on the way before lunch where we found a **Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail**, our first of many **Black-hooded Sierra-Finches**, and a **Straight-billed Earthcreeper**.

We stopped at the small town of Humahuaca for lunch, grocery shopping, and fuel. This small picturesque village is normally quite tranquil but that day it was busy with a political rally by the soon-to-be-elected new president. It was hard to find a restaurant since many streets were closed, and there were large waves of people arriving for the show. We ate quickly and left before the ceremony started and soon we found ourselves close to a well-known lake where we found several new birds for us. **Giant Coots** and **Crested Ducks** were the most common of the waterfowl there but **Silvery** and **White-tufted Grebe**, **(Andean) Ruddy Duck**, and **Puna Teal** were also present. We also found a couple new passerines, the cute **Andean Negrito** and the attractive **Band-tailed Sierra-Finch**.

Finally we got to Abra Pampa, a small town in the middle of highland puna. where we were going to spend the night. Late in the afternoon we birded a few kilometers north of town where we found our first **Puna Miner**, a lone **Gray-bellied Shrike-Tyrant**, some **Golden-spotted Ground-Doves** and many **Bright-rumped Yellow-finches**.



Red-tailed Comet (left), Patagonian Mockingbird (center), Burrowing Parrot (right); photos by Sam W.



Plain-breasted Earthcreeper (left), Giant Antshrike (right); photos by Sam W.

Day 8 – Laguna de los Pozuelos to Yavi: We departed before dawn and drove for about one hour before we stopped for a breakfast in the field. It was the coldest morning of the trip with temperatures near freezing but we were prepared with hot coffee to warm our hands and spirits right at the crack of dawn. In that spot, from a bridge over a small river that feeds this beautiful lake, we saw a couple of **Andean Avocets** (photo on right, Sam W.) gracefully foraging on the cold shallow water. We saw **Andean Geese** flying by and managed to call in two species of Furnariids, the modest **Cordilleran Canastero** and the fun-to-watch **Buff-breasted (Plan-breasted) Earthcreeper**.



We took a side road that leads to the edge of the lake, and on the way we found some **Gray-breasted Seedsnipes** standing on the road ahead of us. We also got the first of four **Ornate Tinamous** we saw that day; we were really happy about this find since tinamous are usually not easy to see and always appreciated. We managed to make our way close to the shore of the lake (photo on bottom, Sam W.) to

have some good views of three species of flamingos of which **James's Flamingo** was probably the most common but **Andean** and **Chilean Flamingos** were not difficult to get. The lake has been getting drier and drier the last few years, and getting closer to the flamingos is more difficult now, especially for photos. Some more scanning produced the tiny **Puna Plover** as well as several water birds we had already seen. Backtracking towards the main road we found our first **Mountain Caracara**, a lone **Aplomado Falcon** and one lone **Lesser (Puna) Rhea** walking on the open fields.



We were forced to take a short detour farther down to go look for the rare and localized **Horned Coot** (photo on bottom, Andrés V.) since none were spotted at Pozuelos despite some detailed scanning. The side road we needed to take is really bad; it took longer than expected to get there since we needed to move really slowly to avoid damaging the car but we found along the way another pair of **Ornate Tinamous** and our first **Brown-backed Mockingbird**. Right near the edge of the lake we found a group of about 30 **Gray-breasted Seedsnipes** that gave us great views. After just a little scanning we managed to find two individuals of the rare **Horned Coot** together with some more **Giants** and **Andean Coots**.



We had an early lunch surrounded by that beautiful scenery and straight after we started a long drive towards La Quiaca. On the way, still on the flat Altiplano, Rick spotted a group of **Lesser Rheas** and Sam hurried after them for a photograph. Very close to La Quiaca, the town where we stayed for two nights, we got a flat tire that delayed the afternoon departure a little since I needed to have it repaired, and that is a difficult task during the siesta time in this small town.

It was around mid-afternoon when we departed towards the picturesque town of Yavi. A short detour before that got us a group of one of the most wanted shorebirds in South America, the unique **Tawny-throated Dotterel**. Once at Yavi, we walked a little around town and found three of the targets we were looking for. First we got incredible views of a couple **Wedge-tailed Hillstars**, one of which came and sat for ages 3 feet from me. Around the same area we found **Creamy-breasted Canasteros** and along the narrow streets we found several **Bare-faced Ground-Doves**.





Gray-breasted Seedsnipes resting near Lagunilla, close to Laguna de Pozuelos; photo by Andrés Vásquez.



Mountain Caracara near Tilcara; ; photo by Andrés Vásquez.



Day 9 – Santa Victoria mountains:

Another pre-dawn departure and packed breakfast were needed this day in order to get to our destination early. We got to the base of the mountain range at dawn and had our needed coffee. A bit of extra driving was needed to get to the pass in the area called Abra Lizoite where we truly started birding. We found right there a nesting **Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant** and we had great views. In the same area, just a few hundred meters lower we got our only flock of **Mountain Parakeets** that shone bright green in the sun as they flew by. A bit farther down we found the first of several **Cinereous Ground-Tyrants** we saw that day and it was

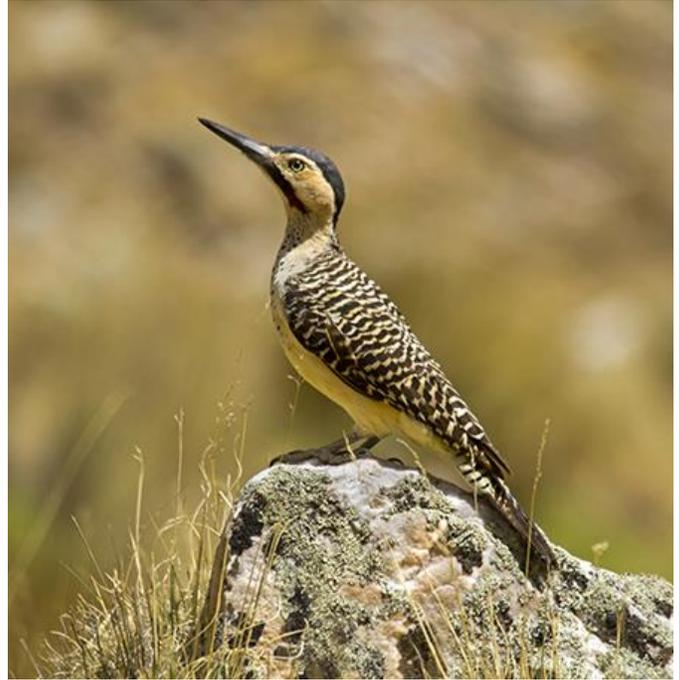
great to compare it with the similar **Puna** and **Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrants** that we found later.

On a narrow valley on the other side of the pass I managed to see a fast tiny shadow that zoomed by and happily it responded well to playback: a gorgeous male **Andean Hillstar** (photo above, Andrés V.). Around the same area we found another **Straight-billed Earthcreeper** and another **Buff-breasted (Plain-breasted) Earthcreeper**. One of the big targets of the day, the dull **Andean Swallow**, gave us only quick looks of single individuals twice during the morning. Another of the major goals we had for the day made us a little nervous, since we did not see a single individual for several hours, but late in the morning many **Red-backed Sierra-Finches** (photo on right, Sam W.) finally showed up in the same places we had already been previously; this finch is very localized in Argentina where it is only found very close to the Bolivian border.

The Holy Grail of South American shorebirds, the unique **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover** has been seen in this areas in the past and even though we knew it was a really long shot, we decided to give it a try by scanning every potential patch of habitat we found, walking along boggy areas near the road. I had also previously found



some potential habitat on maps so we even walked a quite long steep slope to get to a pond that looked quite good for the bird. None of these walks produced the desired bird, despite all the efforts and time put on this species it simply decided to remain hidden for us. A nice consolation prize was this **Andean Flicker** (photo on right, Andrés V.) that was posing for pictures.



After a nice picnic lunch, we started driving back towards La Quiaca but we had unfinished business en route. We stopped at Yavi again to look for **Citron-headed Yellow-Finches** which were elusive to us the previous day. It took us almost until 5pm to find it but this time we came out victorious when a single individual basically flew and perched in front of Sam's camera. Right after this we called it a day and returned to the hotel.

Day 10 – La Quiaca to Salta: We had done so well in the previous days that we found ourselves without any particular species to target in the area before starting the long drive southwards. I decided to leave La Quiaca quite early to have time to take some detours and explore some areas on the way back to Salta. Since it is impossible to get early breakfasts



in La Quiaca we took packed breakfasts again and headed out before dawn. It was simply an amazing drive with the first rays of light hitting the gorgeous Andean mountains along the highway. When it was getting brighter Rick spotted a **Puna Snipe** flying alongside the car. We stopped by Las Cruces to have a scenic breakfast stop and later continued down past Jujuy. A couple of random stops produced a pair of **Plumbeous Rails**, a group of **Southern Martins** (photo on left, Sam W.) and a **White-faced Ibis**. Close to Tilcara, soaring above a high cliff, Sam spotted a group of **13 Andean Condors** which of course we had to stop for.

Farther down, just at the southern outskirts of Jujuy and in a slow and narrow portion of the highway Rick spotted a tinamou sitting next to the road so, wary of traffic, we slowed down, turned around and stepped out of the car to try to locate the bird. We scanned the tall grasses where it was seen and suddenly it flew right from our feet; the distinctive red in the wings and its large size made it unmistakably the difficult **Huayco Tinamou**. At the same stop, we found a group of **Screaming Cowbirds** by their distinctive voice. Soon after, while driving, we started noticing a very interesting spectacle, the biggest hatch of butterflies we had ever seen. We drove over 70 kilometers during which unstoping numbers of butterflies would cross in front of us; it is difficult to estimate totals but for sure there were a few million of them in the region, all hatching the same day adorning the air wherever we would look.



Close to El Carmen, we took a short detour that took us to a small dam where we were hoping to find some new waterfowl that still had been eluding us. We found mostly birds we had seen before although we improved on our previous views of **Great Grebe**, since this time we found a perfect plumage adult. We also got closer views of **Rosy-billed Pochards** (photo bottom of page, Sam W.). A very pleasant surprise was a huge raptor that

was being mobbed by a much smaller one; the **Roadside Hawk** looked miniscule compared to the enormous **Crowned Eagle** that was soaring too close to the hawk's territory.

We had lunch in a scenic restaurant overlooking the waters of Dique La Cienega. After a good meal we visited another wetland, this time the Dique Las Maderas where got great views of **Spot-backed (Chaco) Puffbird** (photo top of page, Sam W.), **Large Elaenia**, and **Striped Cuckoo** on the forested hills surrounding the lake.



We then passed once more through the Cornisa Road and stopped several times, picking up **Sclater's Tyrannulet** and **Golden-crowned Warbler**, and getting some more **Two-banded Warblers** (photo next page, Sam W.). Since we still had time, we stopped again at Dique Campo Alegre where we spotted a distant but distinctive male **Ringed Teal** that was resting together with a few dozen other ducks. We approached with the car, but some weekend visitors decided to walk towards the birds and scared them all away. By the time we arrive some birds had come back but not the teal; nevertheless we found an interesting migrant for the location, a single **Sanderling** accompanying a group of other shorebirds. It was the end of a long but amazing day, so we continued south to our hotel for a well-deserved rest.



Day 11 – Palomitas: the last full day of the tour we visited the upper elevations of the Chaco, an ecosystem we had only just touched on briefly earlier in the trip. We started birding around the village of Palomitas, which is located east of Salta and on an elevation considerably lower. The area produced many new birds including two species of tinamou: **Tataupa** and **Brushland Tinamous**. One of the most colorful birds of the location, the well named **Many-colored Chaco Finch**, did not make us wait and responded well, but we had to enjoy it from a distance. We also found **Suiriri Flycatcher**, **Checkered Woodpecker**, **Chaco Chachalaca**, **Little Thornbird**, **Variable Antshrike**, **Narrow-billed Woodcreeper**, **Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant**, **Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant**, **Brown-crested Flycatcher**, **Saffron-billed Sparrow** and a few others.

It was a quite entertaining morning, and we were just about to leave when Sam spotted an inconspicuous **Cinereous Tyrant** female, and while looking at it we saw **Turquoise-fronted Parrots** fly by. We drove to the small town of General Guemes for one of the best meals of the trip in a local restaurant; they even served good soup, something this Ecuadorian had been missing big time!

The afternoon was surprisingly great. On the way back to Salta we stopped at a wetland that I had done some research on and managed to get permission to access, since it is on private land. This was a proper natural wetland and not an artificial reservoir. so the habitat was better and it had extensive patches of rushes surrounding the lake. It was pumping; literally thousands of birds dotted the water. We managed to fill in some gaps on the list with some species that we had not seen up until then. We saw dozens of **Comb Ducks**, a couple hundred **Lake Ducks**, several **Red-fronted Coots**, a lone **Bare-faced Ibis**, over a hundred **Coscoroba Swans**, a few **Southern Screamers**, and many **White-cheeked Pintails**, but the real star of the afternoon was a pair of the scarce **Black-headed Duck**, which is a brood parasite.



The reeds around the lake were also very productive. Many **Wren-like Rushbirds** (photo above, Sam W.) were heard and we managed to see a couple of them quite well. We found a few **Great Pampa-Finches** (photo below, Sam W.) flying above the rushes and then disappearing by diving inside them. With a little help of playback we managed to call in a pair of **Rufous-sided Crakes** and got unmatched, repeated views of them. At the end of the afternoon Sam found a single **Yellow-chinned Spinetail** and we heard a couple **Plumbeous Rails**.



Day 12 – Salta outskirts and departure: we only had a couple hours to bird that morning before our flight back to Buenos Aires. I decided to go visit a nearby area with the hope of one or two new birds. It ended up being a great finale for the trip. We had an early breakfast at the hotel and departed before dawn with all our stuff. After about 45 minutes of driving, we took a side road and got surprised by a couple of **Scissor-tailed Nightjars** resting on the road. Soon after sunrise we started walking a forested road where we saw the beautiful black-and-chestnut version of **Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch**. Other notable species of the morning were **Great Rufous Woodcreeper**, **Blue-crowned Parakeet**, **Mottled-cheeked Tyrannulet**, **Rufous-capped Antshrike** and a male **Hook-billed Kite**.

We had a noon flight back to Buenos Aires, so we closed the trip at midmorning and drove to the airport. After the relaxed flight, Sam and I said good bye to Rick who needed to connect with his international flight that night whereas we would only fly out the next day.

When we found ourselves with not much to do after checking into the hotel in downtown Buenos Aires, we decided that with just about one and a half hours of light we would hurry to the well-known Costanera Sur reserve to see if we would get some extra birds for us; it was a great decision. From the sidewalk outside the reserve, we found a pair of **Spot-flanked Gallinules**, a few **Ringed Teals**, and several **Silver Teals**. Inside the reserve we got a handful of new birds starting with flyby **Nanday Parakeets** and ending with a **Long-winged Harrier**. In the middle, the small trees and rushes around the dried-up ponds produced the rufous version of **Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch**, **Gilded Hummingbird**, **Green-barred Woodpecker**, **Freckle-breasted Thornbird**, **Sulphur-throated Spinetail** and a nightjar species that reviewing Sam's photos of it, does not really match any nightjars in range so we are still researching it.



Spot-flanked Gallinule tamely in the open in downtown Buenos Aires; photo by Sam Woods.



Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch singing away; photo by Sam Woods

Final List:

During the 12 days of the tour in Northwest Argentina we recorded a total of **338 species**, out of which just 9 were heard only (marked H); additionally we recorded 10 species of mammals. During the afternoon in Buenos Aires we recorded 10 extra species (marked BA). Bird taxonomy follows Clements/eBird (2014 version).

	RHEAS		RHEIDAE
	1 Lesser (Puna) Rhea		<i>Rhea pennata garleppi</i>
	TINAMOUS		TINAMIDAE
	2 Tataupa Tinamou		<i>Crypturellus tataupa</i>
	3 Huayco Tinamou		<i>Rhynchotus maculicollis</i>
	4 Ornate Tinamou		<i>Nothoprocta ornata</i>
	5 Brushland Tinamou		<i>Nothoprocta cinerascens</i>
H	6 Andean Tinamou		<i>Nothoprocta pentlandii</i>
	7 Elegant Crested-Tinamou		<i>Eudromia elegans</i>
	SCREAMERS		ANHIMIDAE
	8 Southern Screamer		<i>Chauna torquata</i>
	DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL		ANATIDAE
	9 White-faced Whistling-Duck		<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
	10 Fulvous Whistling-Duck		<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
	11 Coscoroba Swan		<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>
	12 Comb Duck		<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
	13 Andean Goose		<i>Chloephaga melanoptera</i>
	14 Crested Duck		<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>
	15 Ringed Teal		<i>Callonetta leucophrys</i>
	16 Brazilian Teal		<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
	17 Torrent Duck		<i>Merganetta armata</i>
	18 Cinnamon Teal		<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
	19 Red Shoveler		<i>Anas platalea</i>
	20 White-cheeked Pintail		<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
	21 Yellow-billed Pintail		<i>Anas georgica</i>
BA	22 Silver Teal		<i>Anas versicolor</i>
	23 Puna Teal		<i>Anas puna</i>
	24 Yellow-billed (Speckled) Teal		<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
	25 Rosy-billed Pochard		<i>Netta peposaca</i>
	26 Black-headed Duck		<i>Heteronetta atricapilla</i>
	27 (Andean) Ruddy Duck		<i>Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea</i>
	28 Lake Duck		<i>Oxyura vittata</i>
	GUANS AND CHACHALACAS		CRACIDAE
	29 Chaco Chachalaca		<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>
	30 Red-faced Guan		<i>Penelope dabbeni</i>
	31 Dusky-legged Guan		<i>Penelope obscura</i>
	GREBES		PODICIPEDIDAE
	32 White-tufted Grebe		<i>Rollandia rolland</i>
	33 Pied-billed Grebe		<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
	34 Great Grebe		<i>Podiceps major</i>
	35 Silvery Grebe		<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>

FLAMINGOS

- 36 Chilean Flamingo
 37 Andean Flamingo
 38 James's (Puna) Flamingo

STORKS

- 39 Wood Stork

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS

- 40 Neotropic Cormorant

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNs

- 41 Cooi Heron
 42 Great Egret
 43 Snowy Egret
 44 Cattle Egret
 45 Striated Heron
 46 Black-crowned Night-Heron

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

- 47 White-faced Ibis
 48 Puna Ibis
 49 Bare-faced Ibis
 50 Buff-necked Ibis
 51 Roseate Spoonbill

NEW WORLD VULTURES

- 52 Black Vulture
 53 Turkey Vulture
 54 Andean Condor

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES

- 55 White-tailed Kite
 56 Hook-billed Kite
 57 Swallow-tailed Kite
 58 Snail Kite
 BA 59 Long-winged Harrier
 H 60 Great Black-Hawk
 61 Crowned Eagle
 62 Roadside Hawk
 63 Harris's Hawk
 64 Variable Hawk
 65 Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS

- 66 Rufous-sided Crake
 67 Gray-necked Wood-Rail
 BA 68 Spot-flanked Gallinule
 69 Plumbeous Rail
 70 Common Gallinule
 71 Red-gartered Coot
 72 Red-fronted Coot
 73 Giant Coot

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

- Phoenicopterus chilensis*
Phoenicoparrus andinus
Phoenicoparrus jamesi

CICONIIDAE

- Mycteria americana*

PHALACROCORACIDAE

- Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

ARDEIDAE

- Ardea cocoi*
Ardea alba
Egretta thula
Bubulcus ibis
Butorides striata
Nycticorax nycticorax

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

- Plegadis chihi*
Plegadis ridgwayi
Phimosus infuscatus
Theristicus caudatus
Platalea ajaja

CATHARTIDAE

- Coragyps atratus*
Cathartes aura
Vultur gryphus

ACCIPITRIDAE

- Elanus leucurus*
Chondrohierax uncinatus
Elanoides forficatus
Rostrhamus sociabilis
Circus buffoni
Buteogallus urubitinga
Buteogallus coronatus
Rupornis magnirostris
Parabuteo unicinctus
Geranoaetus polyosoma
Geranoaetus melanoleucus

RALLIDAE

- Laterallus melanophaius*
Aramides cajaneus
Porphyriops melanops
Pardirallus sanguinolentus
Gallinula galeata
Fulica armillata
Fulica rufifrons
Fulica gigantea

74	Horned Coot	<i>Fulica cornuta</i>
75	Slate-colored (Andean) Coot	<i>Fulica ardesiaca</i>
76	White-winged Coot	<i>Fulica leucoptera</i>
	STILTS AND AVOCETS	RECURVIROSTRIDAE
77	Black-necked (White-backed) Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus melanurus</i>
78	Andean Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra andina</i>
	PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS	CHARADRIIDAE
79	Tawny-throated Dotterel	<i>Oreopholus ruficollis</i>
80	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
81	Andean Lapwing	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>
82	Puna Plover	<i>Charadrius alticola</i>
	SEEDSNIPES	THINOCORIDAE
83	Gray-breasted Seedsnipe	<i>Thinocorus orbignyianus</i>
84	Least Seedsnipe	<i>Thinocorus rumicivorus</i>
	JACANAS	JACANIDAE
85	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
	SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES	SCOLOPACIDAE
86	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
87	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
88	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
89	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
90	South American Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraguaiiae</i>
91	Puna Snipe	<i>Gallinago andina</i>
92	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
	JAEGERS AND SKUAS	STERCORARIIDAE
93	Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
	GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS	LARIDAE
94	Andean Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus serranus</i>
	PIGEONS AND DOVES	COLUMBIDAE
95	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
96	Picazuro Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>
97	Spot-winged Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas maculosa</i>
98	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
99	Picui Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>
100	Bare-faced Ground-Dove	<i>Metriopelia ceciliae</i>
101	Bare-eyed (Moreno's) Ground-Dove (E)	<i>Metriopelia morenoi</i>
102	Black-winged Ground-Dove	<i>Metriopelia melanoptera melanoptera</i>
103	Golden-spotted Ground-Dove	<i>Metriopelia aymara</i>
104	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
105	Large-tailed (White-faced/Yungas) Dove	<i>Leptotila megalura</i>
	CUCKOOS	CUCULIDAE
106	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
107	Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>
108	Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>
	BARN-OWLS	TYTONIDAE
109	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>

	OWLS		STRIGIDAE
	110 Tropical Screech-Owl		<i>Megascops choliba</i>
	111 Montane Forest (Hoy's/Yungas) Screech-Owl		<i>Megascops hoyi</i>
	112 Yungas Pygmy-Owl		<i>Glaucidium bolivianum</i>
	113 Burrowing Owl		<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
H	114 Chaco Owl		<i>Strix chacoensis</i>
	NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES		CAPRIMULGIDAE
	115 Band-winged Nightjar		<i>Systellura longirostris</i>
	116 Scissor-tailed Nightjar		<i>Hydropsalis torquata</i>
	POTOOS		NYCTIBIIDAE
H	117 Common Potoo		<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
	SWIFTS		APODIDAE
	118 White-collared Swift		<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
	119 Andean Swift		<i>Aeronautes andecolus</i>
	HUMMINGBIRDS		TROCHILIDAE
	120 Sparkling Violetear		<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
	121 Red-tailed Comet		<i>Sappho sparganura</i>
	122 Andean Hillstar		<i>Oreotrochilus estella estella</i>
	123 White-sided Hillstar		<i>Oreotrochilus leucopleurus</i>
	124 Wedge-tailed Hillstar		<i>Oreotrochilus adela</i>
	125 Slender-tailed Woodstar		<i>Microstilbon burmeisteri</i>
	126 Glittering-bellied Emerald		<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>
	127 White-bellied Hummingbird		<i>Amazilia chionogaster</i>
BA	128 Gilded Hummingbird		<i>Hylocharis chrysura</i>
	KINGFISHERS		ALCEDINIDAE
	129 Ringed Kingfisher		<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>
	PUFFBIRDS		BUCCONIDAE
	130 Spot-backed (Chaco) Puffbird		<i>Nystalus maculatus striatipectus</i>
	TOUCANS		RAMPHASTIDAE
	131 Toco Toucan		<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
	WOODPECKERS		PICIDAE
	132 White-barred Piculet		<i>Picumnus cirratus</i>
	133 White-fronted Woodpecker		<i>Melanerpes cactorum</i>
H	134 Smoky-brown Woodpecker		<i>Picoides fumigatus</i>
	135 Checkered Woodpecker		<i>Veniliornis mixtus</i>
	136 Dot-fronted Woodpecker		<i>Veniliornis frontalis</i>
	137 Golden-olive Woodpecker		<i>Colaptes rubiginosus tucumanus</i>
BA	138 Green-barred Woodpecker		<i>Colaptes melanochloros leucofrenatus</i>
	139 Andean Flicker		<i>Colaptes rupicola rupicola</i>
	140 Cream-backed Woodpecker		<i>Campephilus leucopogon</i>
	SERIEMAS		CARIAMIDAE
	141 Red-legged Seriema		<i>Cariama cristata</i>
H	142 Black-legged Seriema		<i>Chunga burmeisteri</i>
	FALCONS AND CARACARAS		FALCONIDAE
	143 Mountain Caracara		<i>Phalcoboenus megalopterus</i>
	144 Southern Caracara		<i>Caracara plancus</i>
	145 Chimango Caracara		<i>Milvago chimango</i>

	146	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
	147	Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>
	148	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
		PARROTS	PSITTACIDAE
	149	Gray-hooded Parakeet	<i>Psilopsiagon aymara</i>
	150	Mountain Parakeet	<i>Psilopsiagon aurifrons</i>
	151	Scaly-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
	152	Tucuman Parrot	<i>Amazona tucumana</i>
	153	Burrowing Parakeet (Parrot)	<i>Cyanoliseus patagonus</i>
BA	154	Nanday Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nenday</i>
	155	Blue-crowned Parakeet	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudatus</i>
	156	Mitred Parakeet	<i>Psittacara mitratus</i>
		TYPICAL ANTBIRDS	THAMNOPHILIDAE
	157	Giant Antshrike	<i>Batara cinerea argentina</i>
H	158	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>
	159	Rufous-capped Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus ruficapillus cochabambae</i>
	160	Variable Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens dinellii</i>
		TAPACULOS	RHINOCRYPTIDAE
	161	Sandy Gallito (E)	<i>Teledromas fuscus</i>
	162	Zimmer's Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus zimmeri</i>
	163	White-browed Tapaculo (E)	<i>Scytalopus superciliaris superciliaris</i>
		OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS	FURNARIIDAE
	164	Common Miner	<i>Geositta cunicularia titicacae</i>
	165	Slender-billed Miner	<i>Geositta tenuirostris</i>
	166	Puna Miner	<i>Geositta punensis</i>
	167	Rufous-banded Miner	<i>Geositta rufipennis</i>
	168	Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>
	169	Rock Earthcreeper	<i>Ochetorhynchus andaecola</i>
	170	Straight-billed Earthcreeper	<i>Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus</i>
	171	Chaco Earthcreeper	<i>Tarphonomus certhioides</i>
	172	Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
	173	Wren-like Rushbird	<i>Phleocryptes melanops</i>
	174	Scale-throated Earthcreeper	<i>Upucerthia dumetaria</i>
	175	Buff-breasted Earthcreeper	<i>Upucerthia validirostris validirostris</i>
	176	Buff-breasted (Plain-breasted) Earthcreeper	<i>Upucerthia validirostris jelskii</i>
	177	Cream-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes albiventris</i>
	178	White-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes atacamensis</i>
	179	Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla rufosuperciliata</i>
	180	Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura fuliginiceps</i>
	181	Tufted Tit-Spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura platensis</i>
	182	Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura aegithaloides berlepschi</i>
H	183	Rufous-fronted Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus rufifrons sincipitalis</i>
	184	Little Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus sibilatrix</i>
	185	Streak-fronted Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus striaticeps</i>
	186	Spot-breasted Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus maculipectus</i>
BA	187	Freckle-breasted Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus striaticollis</i>
	188	Creamy-breasted Canastero	<i>Asthenes dorbignyi dorbignyi</i>

189	Short-billed Canastero	<i>Asthenes baeri</i>
190	Puna Canastero	<i>Asthenes sclateri lilloi</i>
191	Cordilleran Canastero	<i>Asthenes modesta</i>
192	Sharp-billed Canastero	<i>Asthenes pyrrholeuca</i>
193	Maquis (Iquico) Canastero	<i>Asthenes heterura</i>
BA 194	Sulphur-throated Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca sulphurifera</i>
195	Stripe-crowned Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca pyrrhophia</i>
196	Steinbach's Canastero (E)	<i>Pseudasthenes steinbachi</i>
197	White-throated Cacholote (E)	<i>Pseudoseisura gutturalis</i>
198	Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>
199	Sooty-fronted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis frontalis</i>
200	Azara's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis azarae superciliosa</i>
	TYRANT FLYCATCHERS	TYRANNIDAE
201	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum obsoletum</i>
202	Suiriri Flycatcher	<i>Suiriri suiriri suiriri</i>
203	Buff-banded Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus hellmayri</i>
204	White-throated Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus leucophrys leucophrys</i>
205	Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes flavirostris</i>
206	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>
207	Large Elaenia	<i>Elaenia spectabilis</i>
208	White-crested (Chilean) Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps chilensis</i>
209	Small-billed Elaenia	<i>Elaenia parvirostris</i>
210	Slaty Elaenia	<i>Elaenia strepera</i>
211	Highland Elaenia	<i>Elaenia obscura</i>
212	White-bellied Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga munda</i>
213	Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes ventralis tucumanus</i>
214	Sclater's Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias sclateri</i>
215	Southern Scrub-Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus modestus</i>
216	Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Euscarthmus meloryphus meloryphus</i>
217	Greater Wagtail-Tyrant	<i>Stigmatura budytoides inzonata</i>
218	Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>
219	Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus cinnamomeus</i>
220	Cliff Flycatcher	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea pallidior</i>
221	Bran-colored Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
222	Euler's Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>
223	Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
224	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>
225	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
226	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
227	Andean Negrito	<i>Lessonia oreas</i>
228	Plumbeous Black-Tyrant (Andean Tyrant)	<i>Knipolegus cabanisi</i>
229	Cinereous Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus striaticeps</i>
230	White-winged Black-Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus aterrimus</i>
231	Spectacled Tyrant	<i>Hymenops perspicillatus</i>
232	Yellow-browed Tyrant	<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>
233	Puna Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola juninensis</i>
234	Cinereous Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola cinereus</i>

235	Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola rufivertex</i>
236	Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola frontalis</i>
237	Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis montanus</i>
238	Gray-bellied Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis micropterus</i>
239	White Monjita	<i>Xolmis irupero irupero</i>
240	Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant	<i>Polioxolmis rufipennis</i>
241	d'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca oenanthoides</i>
242	White-browed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca leucophrys tucumana</i>
243	Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
244	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
245	Swainson's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus swainsoni ferocior</i>
246	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
247	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
248	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus solitarius</i>
249	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaius</i>
250	Variiegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
251	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus</i>
252	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
253	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
	COTINGAS	COTINGIDAE
254	White-tipped Plantcutter	<i>Phytotoma rutila</i>
	TITYRAS AND ALLIES	TITYRIDAE
255	Green-backed Becard	<i>Pachyramphus viridis viridis</i>
256	White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus spixii</i>
257	Crested Becard	<i>Pachyramphus validus</i>
	VIREOS	VIREONIDAE
258	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus chivi</i>
259	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
	CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES	CORVIDAE
260	Plush-crested Jay	<i>Cyanocorax chrysops</i>
	SWALLOWS	HIRUNDINIDAE
261	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
262	Tawny-headed Swallow	<i>Alopochelidon fucata</i>
263	Andean Swallow	<i>Orochelidon andecola</i>
264	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
265	Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
266	Southern Martin	<i>Progne elegans</i>
267	Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>
268	White-rumped Swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucorroha</i>
269	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
	WRENS	TROGLODYTIDAE
270	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
271	Mountain Wren	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis auricularis</i>
	GNATCATCHERS	POLIOPTILIDAE
272	Masked Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila dumicola</i>
	DIPPERS	CINCLIDAE
273	Rufous-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus schulzi</i>

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

- 274 Swainson's Thrush
 275 Rufous-bellied Thrush
 276 Creamy-bellied Thrush
 277 (Andean) Slaty Thrush
 278 Chiguanco Thrush

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

- 279 Patagonian Mockingbird
 280 Chalk-browed Mockingbird
 281 White-banded Mockingbird
 282 Brown-backed Mockingbird

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

- 283 Yellowish Pipit
 284 Short-billed Pipit
 285 Hellmayr's Pipit

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

- 286 Masked Yellowthroat
 287 Tropical Parula
 288 Golden-crowned Warbler
 289 Two-banded Warbler
 290 Brown-capped Redstart

TANAGERS AND ALLIES

- 291 Orange-headed Tanager
 292 Rust-and-yellow Tanager
 293 Blue-and-yellow Tanager
 294 Sayaca Tanager
 295 Fawn-breasted Tanager
 296 Rusty Flowerpiercer
 297 Black-hooded Sierra-Finch
 298 Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch
 299 Mourning Sierra-Finch
 300 Plumbeous Sierra-Finch
 301 Red-backed Sierra-Finch
 302 Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch
 303 Band-tailed Sierra-Finch
 304 Common Diuca-Finch
 305 Black-crested Finch
 306 Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch
 307 Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch
 BA 308 Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch
 309 Black-and-rufous (Black-and-chestnut) Warbling-Finch
 310 Ringed Warbling-Finch
 311 Black-capped Warbling-Finch
 312 Tucuman Mountain-Finch (E)
 313 Puna Yellow-Finch
 314 Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch
 315 Citron-headed Yellow-Finch

TURDIDAE

- Catharus ustulatus*
Turdus rufiventris
Turdus amaurochalinus
Turdus nigriceps nigriceps
Turdus chiguanco

MIMIDAE

- Mimus patagonicus*
Mimus saturninus
Mimus triurus
Mimus dorsalis

MOTACILLIDAE

- Anthus lutescens*
Anthus furcatus
Anthus hellmayri hellmayri

PARULIDAE

- Geothlypis aequinoctialis velata*
Setophaga pitiayumi
Basileuterus culicivorus
Myiothlypis bivittata argentinae
Myioborus bruniceps

THRAUPIDAE

- Thlypopsis sordida*
Thlypopsis ruficeps
Thraupis bonariensis
Thraupis sayaca
Pipraeidea melanonota
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 nigrorufa whitii
Poospiza torquata
Poospiza melanoleuca
Compsospiza baeri
Sicalis lutea
Sicalis uropygialis
Sicalis luteocephala

	316	Greenish Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis olivascens</i>
	317	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
	318	Great Pampa-Finch	<i>Embernagra platensis olivascens</i>
	319	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
BA	320	Double-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>
	321	Band-tailed Seedeater	<i>Catamenia analis</i>
	322	Plain-colored Seedeater	<i>Catamenia inornata</i>
	323	Red-crested Finch	<i>Coryphospingus cucullatus</i>
	324	Rufous-bellied Saltator	<i>Saltator rufiventris</i>
H	325	Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
	326	Golden-billed Saltator	<i>Saltator aurantirostris</i>
	327	Many-colored Chaco Finch	<i>Saltatricula multicolor</i>
		BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS	EMBERIZIDAE
	328	Saffron-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon flavirostris dorbignii</i>
	329	White-browed (Stripe-headed) Brush-Finch	<i>Arremon torquatus</i>
	330	Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes fulviceps</i>
	331	Yellow-striped Brush-Finch (E)	<i>Atlapetes citrinellus</i>
	332	Stripe-capped Sparrow	<i>Rhynchospiza strigiceps</i>
	333	Grassland Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus humeralis</i>
	334	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
	335	Common Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus argentinus</i>
		CARDINALS AND ALLIES	CARDINALIDAE
	336	Hepatic (Red) Tanager	<i>Piranga flava flava</i>
	337	Black-backed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus aureoventris</i>
	338	Ultramarine Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa brissonii</i>
		TROUPIALS AND ALLIES	ICTERIDAE
	339	Long-tailed Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella loyca</i>
	340	Bay-winged Cowbird	<i>Agelaioides badius</i>
	341	Screaming Cowbird	<i>Molothrus rufoaxillaris</i>
	342	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
	343	Variable Oriole	<i>Icterus pyrrhopterus pyrrhopterus</i>
	344	Golden-winged Cacique	<i>Cacicus chrysopterus</i>
	345	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
		SISKINS, AND ALLIES	FRINGILLIDAE
	346	Hooded Siskin	<i>Spinus magellanicus</i>
	347	Black Siskin	<i>Spinus atratus</i>
		OLD WORLD SPARROWS	PASSERIDAE
	348	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

MAMMALS

1	Southern (Mountain) Viscacha	<i>Lagidium viscacia</i>
2	Common Yellow-toothed Cavy	<i>Galea musteloides</i>
3	Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>
4	European Hare (I)	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
5	Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>
6	Culpeo (Patagonian Fox)	<i>Lycalopex culpaeus</i>
7	Pampas Fox	<i>Lycalopex gymnocercus</i>
8	Guanaco	<i>Lama glama</i>
9	Vicugna	<i>Vicugna vicugna</i>
10	South A. Brown Brocket (Gray Brocket)	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>

Check out our 2016 Northwest Argentina tour, which is very similar to this trip, at this link:

<http://www.tropicalbirding.com/central-south-america-birding/best-of-northwest-argentina/>



Lesser (Puna) Rheas north of Pozuelos; photo by Sam Woods