

Short birding trip around Buenos Aires 21-26 September 2008

Erik Hirschfeld

I was in Buenos Aires to take part in the BirdLife partnership's World Conference and thought it would be a good idea to some birding as well. I had never been to South America before, so almost everything was likely to be new for me.

The trip was arranged by Seriema and guided by Diego Monteleone. Seriema were excellent to use, quick to respond on email and reliable and professional. They provided good advance material and also checklists for the different portions of the trip. I wished to tweak the itinerary they initially suggested and that was complied with to my full satisfaction. Diego was an excellent and keen guide and the pace was high, as I had wished. Without him, the list would have been much shorter.

I used the Narosky guide, as it was easy to use with plates, text and maps on the same page and had a friendly format. The only comment I can give on the plates is that every brown, dull bird on the plates I saw looked stunning in real life!

The following hotels were used:

Buenos Aires – Hotel Lafayette. Good. Hotel Waldorf. Not so good, a three star hotel I had booked myself for the conference nights. Not service-minded and small rooms. It is probably best to go 4 star in Buenos Aires if the hotel matters.

Gueleguacyhú – Hotel Valdemoro. Simple, but very special in style. Definitely a positive experience.

San Clemente – Hotel Fontainebleau. Perfectly situated and nice hotel, service-minded staff.

I flew Lufthansa Copenhagen-Frankfurt-Buenos Aires. My choice of Lufthansa was due to convenient timings, good price, less intermediate stops and that I have bad experience when it comes to reliability of the cheaper alternative, Iberia, and did not want to risk wasting time as this trip was going to be short.

Itinerary:

21 September early morning start from Buenos Aires to Otamendi and then Perdices. Night in Gueleguacyhú.

22 September early morning depart to Ceibas and then back to Buenos Aires.

23 September: Conference all day.

24 September: Early morning at Costanera Sur and then to San Clemente with birding en route.

25 September: All day around San Clemente.

26 September: return to Buenos Aires and depart in evening.

All in all I recorded 186 species. The systematic order follows the Seriema checklist.

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*

5 Perdices 21.9, 5 General Lavalle 24.9, c. 30 General Lavalle 25.9, 6 from the road 26.9.

Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa*

>3 Perdices 21.9, 1 Gualeguacyhú 22.9, 1 en route when travelling 24.9, 6-7 General Lavallo 25.9, 1 General Lavallo 26.9.

Southern Screamer *Chauna torquata*

>15 Perdices 21.9, c. 30 Ceibas 22.9, >10 General Lavallo 24.9, >40 General Lavallo 25.9, 2 from the road 26.9.

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

C. 50 Perdices 21.9, c. 75 en route 24.9.

Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melanocorypha*

Quite common most sites 24-26.9.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Recorded daily 24-26.9, smaller numbers than Blacknecked.

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

2 Otamendi 21.9, 4 Ceibas 22.9.

Red Shoveler *Anas platylea*

Recorded in small numbers daily.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

2 males 1 female General Lavallo 25.9.

Silver Teal *Anas versicolor*

Singles en route when travelling 24.9, singles General Lavallo 24-25.9.

Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix*

10 at three sites en route when travelling 24.9, 8 General Lavallo 25.9.

Speckled Teal *Anas flavirostris*

Common, recorded daily.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

2 en route when travelling 24.9.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas spinicauda*

Common General Lavallo 24-26.9.

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca*

2 en route when travelling 24.9, 4 General Lavallo 24.9.

Black-headed Duck *Heteronetta atricapilla*

1 en route when travelling 24.9, 1 General Lavallo 24.9.

Lake Duck *Oxyura vittata*

15 en route when travelling 24.9, 5-6 en route when travelling 26.9.

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland*

10-25 en route when travelling 24 and 26.9, singles General Lavalle 25-26.9.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

1 en route when travelling 24.9, 1 General Lavalle 24.9, 3 en route when travelling 26.9.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

1 Costanera Sur 24.9, singles en route when travelling, General Lavalle, San Clemente and Punta Rasa 24-26.9.

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

Common around San Clemente and en route when travelling.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Singles and small flocks recorded daily.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris*

1 male General Lavalle 24.9.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

1 en route when travelling 24.9, 2 General Lavalle 24.9, 1 General Lavalle 25.9.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

2 Otamendi 21.9.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Singles seen daily.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Common, seen daily.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

1 en route when travelling 24.9, 1 Punta Rasa 25.9, 2 General Lavalle 25.9, 7 en route when travelling 26.9.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*

Common, seen all days.

Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus*

1 Otamendi 21.9, 1 en route when travelling 24.9. Ibises not checked in great detail.

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

1 Perdices 21.9, small flocks seen daily 24-26.9.

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari*

Singles seen daily along roads and at birding sites.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

1 Otamendi 21.9.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

At least 10 en route when travelling 24.9.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

3-4 en route when travelling 24.9.

Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni*

Singles Otamendi 21.9, Perdices 21.9, seen daily 24-26.9.

Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus*

1 male and 1 female General Lavalley 25.9.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

1 Otamendi 21.9, 5 Perdices 21.9, 2 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Punta Rasa 25.9, 1 en route when travelling 26.9.

Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus*

Seen daily in good numbers. Less numerous than Chimango.

Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*

Seen daily in good numbers, more common than Southern.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

2 Perdices 21.9, only roadside observations of 1-2 24 and 26.9.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

1 Perdices 21.9.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

2 Ceibas 21.9, 2 General Lavalley 24 and 25.9.

Grey-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides cajanea*

1 Ceibas 21.9.

Giant Wood-Rail *Aramides ypecaha*

Several Ceibas and Perdices and along the road 22.9.

Rufous-sided Crane *Laterallus melanophaius*

Heard Otamendi 21.9.

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

5 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Costanera Sur 24.9, 1 en route when travelling 24.9, 1 General Lavalle 24-25.9.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

1 Costanera Sur 24.9, 1 General Lavalle 24.9, 1 en route when travelling 26.9.

Spot-flanked Gallinule *Gallinula melanops*

>5 en route when travelling 14.9, 4 General Lavalle 25.9.

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

Commonest coot recorded daily 24-26.9.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

Recorded daily 24-26.9, less numerous than White-winged.

Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons*

Recorded daily 24-26.9, scarcest of the three.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Very common, seen daily.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

50 General Lavalle 24.9, 40 Punta Rasa 25.9 25.9, 80 General Lavalle 25.9, 2 General Lavalle 26.9.

(Black-bellied) Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

20 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

30 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus*

3 Punta Rasa 25.9.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

Singles and pairs around Punta Rasa and San Clemente.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Seen daily, largest flocks (up to 100) San Clemente area.

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

150 Punta Rasa 25.9, 1 General Lavalle 25.9.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularis*

2-3 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

>10 Punta Rasa 25.9, 1 General Lavalle 25.9.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

1 Perdices 21.9, 1 Ceibas 22.9, 5 General Lavalle 24.9, 100 Punta Rasa 25.9, 50 General Lavalle 25.9.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

1 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

10 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

50 Punta Rasa 25.9.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

300 Punta Rasa 25.9, 25 General Lavalle 25.9.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

5 General Lavalle 25.9.

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus*

50 General Lavalle 25.9.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

C. 25 General Lavalle 24.9, 14 General Lavalle 25.9.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

1 Perdices 21.9, 20 en route when travelling 26.9.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

3 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Brown-hooded Gull *Larus maculipennis*

Common, recorded daily.

Olrog's Gull *Larus atlanticus*

>10 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

5 Costanera Sur 24.9, singles Punta Rasa 25.9 and San Clemente 25-26.9.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

1-2 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Cayenne Tern *Sterna eurygnatha*

>100 Punta Rasa 25.9.

South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*

>300 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

>50 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui*

Singles en route when travelling 24.9, 10 General Lavalle 24.9, 50 Punta Rasa 25.9, singles elsewhere 25-26.9.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

>1 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maxima*

>50 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

C. 250 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui*

Common 21 and 22.9.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Recorded daily.

Picazuro Pigeon *Columba picazuro*

The commonest dove, recorded daily.

Spot-winged Pigeon *Columba maculosa*

2 Perdices 21.9, common Ceibas 22.9.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

3 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

Quite common, recorded daily.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Common, recorded daily.

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

7 Perdices 21.9, 15 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Costanera Sur 24.9 and 2 General Lavalle 25.9.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

5 General Lavalley 25.9.

Nacunda Nighthawk *Podager nacunda*

3 along the road 21.9, 1 at Valdemoro hotel 22.9.

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon aureoventris*

1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

White-throated Hummingbird *Leucochloris albicollis*

1 inside the park at Punta Rasa 25.9.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Along the road 22.9.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

2 Otamendi 21.9, 1 Ceibas 22.9.

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

Chequered Woodpecker *Picoides mixtus*

2 Otamendi 21.9.

Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*

4 Otamendi 21.9, 5 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*

Common 24-26.9.

Bar-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*

2 Perdices 21.9, 1 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Punta Rasa 25.9 1 General Lavalley 25.9, 1 General Lavalley 26.9.

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*

Very common everywhere.

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops*

1 Otamendi 21.9, singles en route when travelling 24.9, General Lavalley 25-26.9.

Tufted Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura platensis*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail *Spartonoica maluroides*

1 Punta Rasa 25.9.

(Chicli) Spix's Spinetail *Synallaxis spixi*

Heard Otamendi 21.9.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Stripe-crowned Spinetail *Cranioleuca pyrrhophia*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Sulphur-(throated)bearded Spinetail *Cranioleuca sulphurifera*

1 Otamendi 21.9, single birds General Lavalle 25 and 26.9.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Short-billed Canastero *Asthenes baeri*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Hudson's Canastero *Asthenes hudsoni*

1 General Lavalle 26.9.

Freckle-breasted Thornbird *Phacellodomus striaticollis*

Heard Otamendi 21.9, 1 Ceibas 22.9, Costanera Sur 24.9, 1 General Lavalle 25.9.

Little Thornbird *Phacellodomus sibilatrix*

2 Ceibas 22.9.

Firewood-gatherer *Anumbius annumbi*

1 Perdices 21.9, a few General Lavalle 25.9.

Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper *Drymornis bridgesii*

2 Perdices 21.9.

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*

2 Otamendi 21.9, 2 Ceibas 22.9 and 1 Costanera Sur 24.9,.

Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*

2 Otamendi 21.9 and 1 Ceibas 22.9.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Heard Otamendi 21.9.

Suiriri Flycatcher *Suiriri suiriri*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Sooty Tyrannulet *Serpophaga nigricans*

2 Otamendi 21.9 and 2 Ceibas 22.9.

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

2 Otamendi 21.9.

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra*
1 en route when travelling 24.9, >3 General Lavalle 24-25.9.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
Regularly seen in small numbers every day.

Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa*
6 Ceibas 22.9, 2 General Lavalle 25.9.

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus*
Regularly seen in small numbers every day.

Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*
2 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Costanera Sur 24.9, 1 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Grey Monjita *Xolmis cinereus*
1 Perdices 21.9 and 2 Ceibas 22.9.

White Monjita *Xolmis irupero*
5 Perdices 21.9 and single Ceibas 22.9.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosus*
Regularly seen in small numbers every day.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*
Regularly seen in small numbers every day.

White-tipped Plantcutter *Phytotoma rutila*
3 Ceibas 22.9.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*
1 Ceibas 22.9.

Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops*
1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*
2 Otamendi 21.9 and singles Costanera Sur 24.9.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*
Small numbers in San Clemente, Punta Rasa 25.9 and the park at Punta Rasa 25.9.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*
10 Otamendi 21.9, 2 Ceibas 22.9

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*
Commonest swallow, recorded daily.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Common Otamendi 21.9, Perdices 21.9, Ceibas 22.9 and Costanera Sur 24.9.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*

1 Punta Rasa 25.9.

Masked Gnatcatcher *Polioptila dumicola*

2 Otamendi 21.9, 2 Ceibas 22.9 and 1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

Quite common, seen most days.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

Slightly less common, only recorded 21-24.9.

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

Common, recorded daily.

White-banded Mockingbird *Mimus triurus*

2 Perdices 21.9.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Singles from the road Buenos Aires.

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutesacens*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*

1 Ceibas 22.9, very common General Lavalle 23-26.9. Worked hard on pipits, around General Lavalle, but did not find any other species.

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*

Common, especially 21-23.9 and at Costanera Sur 24.9.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*

1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*

Heard Otamendi 21.9, 1 Ceibas 22.9, 1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis*

1 General Lavalle 26.9.

Diademed Tanager *Stephanophorus diadematus*

1 Otamendi 21.9.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*

1 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantiirostris*

1 Ceibas 22.9.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Very common and recorded daily.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*

Several seen at Perdices 21.9.

Long-tailed Reed-Finch *Donacospiza albifrons*

2 Otamendi 21.9, 1 Perdices 21.9, 1 Ceibas 22.9 singles General Lavalles 25.9.

Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch *Poospiza nigrorufa*

2 Otamendi 21.9, 1 Perdices 21.9, 1 Ceibas 22.9

Black-capped Warbling-Finch *Poospiza melanoleuca*

5 Ceibas 22.9.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

10 Ceibas 22.9, singles Costanera Sur 24.9, singles General Lavalles 24-25.9.

Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola*

Common in Otamendi 21.9, Ceibas 22.9 and Perdices 21.9. Did not pay much attention to *Sicalis* after that.

Great Pampa-Finch *Embernagra platensis*

Singles recorded almost daily, most common 21-22.9.

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*

2 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*

1 Otamendi 21.9.

Solitary Black Cacique *Cacicus solitarius*

Heard Otamendi 21.9, 3 Costanera Sur 24.9.

Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis*

5 Otamendi 21.9 and 3 Ceibas 22.9.

Scarlet-headed Blackbird *Amblyramphus holosericeus*

Small numbers Otamendi 21.9, Ceibas 22.9 and General Lavalles 24-25.9.

Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius*

Small numbers recorded daily.

Chestnut-capped Blackbird *Chrysomus ruficapillus*

30 Perdices 21.9, singles Ceibas 22.9 and singles Costanera Sur 24.9.

Brown-and-yellow Marshbird *Pseudoleistes virescens*

Common, recorded daily.

Bay-winged Cowbird *Agelaioides badius*

Recorded Perdices 21.9 and Ceibas 22.9.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Common, recorded daily.

White-browed Blackbird *Leistes superciliaris*

10 Perdices 21.9.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Heard at San Clemente.

Hooded Siskin *Carduelis magellanica*

Singles seen in most wooded places.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common in cities.