Eastern Uruguay, Buenos Aires & Iguazú

6 – 26 January 2018



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During the years discussing where to go on our next holiday trip, Argentina has often been mentioned, but somehow we have always ended up going to another country. This time, however, we decided to make it happen. An important factor in the decision process was that Camilla wanted to learn to dance a little tango, and where better to do so than in Argentina? And of course, getting to eat grilled beef with a nice wine added to the desire to go there. Having visited the incredible Iguazú Falls on the Brazilian side many years ago, this was a perfect opportunity for a return, and to see the falls from the Argentinian side. We also wanted to stay at an *estancia* and after some searching on the internet, we found a nice-looking one in Uruguay. Punta del Este was regarded a must visit, and adding a couple of areas along the Atlantic coast completed the itinerary.

The only birding decided beforehand was a half day in Reserva Ecologica Costanera Sur in Buenos Aires, and early morning outings in Iguazú. For birding in Uruguay, I did no planning. Very few birders seem to go there, and as a result finding useful information was a challenge. Therefore, I soon came to the conclusion I would not bother to plan anything in this respect, and thus simply bird "randomly".

As was expected, daytime temperatures were baking hot, dry in Buenos Aires and on the Uruguayan *campos*, but humid in Iguazú. Some evenings, especially in Buenos Aires, were a bit on the cooler side and long-legged pants were useful. Lastly, I should remind the reader that this was not a hard core birding trip.

Accomodation

For most of the trip, we stayed in hotels of generally good or very good standard. As mentioned above, we stayed at an *estancia* in Uruguay. We chose Estancia Los Plátanos near Cerro Chato in the Uruguayan *campos*. The room rate included breakfast, and lunch and/or dinner could be added upon agreement with the hosts. There were also optional activities, such as horse-riding, which we chose for two mornings. The *estancia* has three rooms, and was a truly excellent place to stay. Being a ranch, iheld cattle, sheep, horses, cats and half a dozen joyful dogs.

Another great spot where we stayed was Posada de San Antonio on the Atlantic coast of Uruguay, roughly 120 kilometers north of Punta del Este. The *posada* has four rooms, a swimming pool and a restaurant. Breakfast is included in the room rate, while lunch and dinner comes at a cost. The *posada* is beautifully located inside forest with the beach within walking distance.

Our trip coincided with the peak period of the summer holidays, meaning each and every village along the coast is very crowded, and accommodation can be hard to find unless you book well in advance. This is especially true for the cheaper places which are the prime targets for the many back-packers and hippies. In Parque Santa Teresa

just north of Punta del Diablo is a large camping area, and this could perhaps be an option for the budget traveller. Judging from the hordes of people we saw there, camping is popular.

Transportation

Our international flights from Gothenburg to Buenos Aires were booked with Air Farnce, via Paris Charles De Gaulle. The overseas flight had a take off close to midnight, thus we arrived Buenos Aires in mid morning. From there we took a bus to the city centre, jumping off quite close to our hotel.

Domestic flights were with Aerolineas Argentinas. The flight to Iguazú departed from Ezeiza, the international airport, while the return flight took us to Jorge Newberry airport, which is located on the coast in the northern parts of Buenos Aires, and a short taxi ride from our hotel in Palermo area.

From Buenos Aires, we took an early morning speedferry, crossing Rio de la Plata to Montevideo, a journey just short of two and a half hours. Going back was a different matter, first a four hour bus ride from Montevideo to Colonia del Sacramento, followed by a ferry ride lasting roughly an hour and a half. Although considerably more time consuming than the speedferry, this arrangement fitted well in to our schedule.

We had pre-booked a rental car from Multicar in Montevideo, and upon arrival to the city, we took a taxi to the rental office, where we received our VW Gol Sedan. The rate for 10 days was USD 660 (after tax reduction) including insurance and GPS. Despite booking the latter several months ahead, the staff actually had to go and buy the GPS for our car while we waited! Other than to smoothly get out of, and back in to, Montevideo, a GPS is not really necessary.

Money matters

It was our intention to bring Argentinian and Uruguayan pesos, but supply in Sweden of the former was uncertain, and for the latter appeared non-existent, so we ended up bringing US Dollars to cover part of the expenses. Although they apparently should exist, we were unable to find any money exchange offices in the city of Buenos Aires, why the only option of getting pesos for our dollars was to go to a bank office. In the streets of Boca, we were approached by a guy who could arrange for money exchange, a possibility we chose to decline.

Yes, there are ATM's, but annoyingly they allowed only small amounts for withdrawal on each occasion. In Argentina, the maximum withdrawal was 2000 pesos, and in Uruguay 3000 (roughly USD 120 in both cases). This could probably vary depending on what card you have, we use Mastercard. It should also be noted that ATM's are quite far in between in Uruguay. In the smaller coastal villages, mobile ATM's are available during the summer holidays.

Literature and recordings

I brought the latest edition of Birds of Argentina and Uruguay by Narosky & Yzurieta, which also includes voices of almost all species covered in the book. In Posada de San Antonio, they had a photographic field guide I had never heard of before, the bilingual Aves de las Pampas y Campos de Argentina, Brasil y Uruguay (or Birds of the Pampas and Campos of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay), by Uruguayan Adrián B. Aspiroz. Luckily, I found it in a bookstore in La Paloma. For birding in Uruguay, this is the only field guide you need to carry, it is truly excellent!

Sites visited

As already mentioned, the only planned site visit was to **Reserva Ecológica Costanera Sur** in Buenos Aires, an area originally intended for expanding the port, a development plan that was soon abandoned. It holds three lakes, which are well vegetated, and the park is traversed by gravel walkways. Opening hours are from 8 am to 7 pm (November-March) or 6 pm (April to October), closed completely on Mondays, and apparently also so after heavy rains. Near the southern entrance, outside the park, are some small shacks serving food and beverages (the southernmost has superb chorizos). More than 300 species have been recorded in the park.

Parque Nacional Iguazú

We stayed at Hotel Melia Iguazú, located inside Parque Nacional Iguazú (which requires a visitors fee of ARP 500/person), with the tremendous Iguazú Falls in view from the hotel (in fact, about half of the rooms overlook the falls). Apart from the walkways along the various falls (the total number including those on the Brazilian side exceeds a staggering 275!), there are a few trails that are good for birding. Walkways and trails are open only from 8.00 to 18.00.

For forest birds, Sendero Macuco is the preferred trail, and I spent two mornings here (without seeing any other person). My guess is you would not meet many people here at any time of the day, which, of course, is in stark contrast to the hordes, and I mean hordes, of people visiting the falls. The first morning I entered the trail shortly after sunrise, the second morning I got there a while later having lost some time trying to locate another trail, Sendero Yacaratia, only to find out it is now a private area and therefore no longer within reach.

The final morning I walked along the tourist railway track from Cataratas Station to Garganta Station, which is where you access the largest of the falls, the impressive Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat). Naturally, I did not wait till 8 o'clock before entering the trail, but got there shortly after sunrise. However, the park ranger I met when heading back towards the hotel was not at all happy about my presence in the area when it was officially closed, and although I am not fluent in Spanish, I did understand he told me to walk back without stopping on the way.

There is a trail between the Visitors Centre and Cataratas Station, named Sendero Verde, or Green Trail. This trail goes through some quite open forest and also crosses a marshy area, both which might prove interesting birdwise

In the town of Iguazú, roughly a half hour bus ride from the National Park, is the charming Jardin de los Picaflores, or Hummingbird Garden (admission ARP 80). It is run by the Castillo family, and Leandro, who hosted us, will happily tell you what hummingbirds you can expect here. He is also available for bird guiding in the National Park.

The areas described below are all located in Uruguay.

Estancia Los Plátanos

Definitely one of the highlights of the trip. It took about five hours to drive here from central Montevideo, including a few stops for birding and lunch. The ranch is situated on a small hill, overlooking the vast grasslands, or *campos*. Adjacent to the main buildings is a grove teeming with Monk Parakeets, and this is where I concentrated my birding the first morning. The two following mornings were spent in the open areas where the cattle is held. A small creek runs through the cattleland, attracting a good set of birds. Water level in the creek was very low as inland areas of Uruguay had seen no rain for almost two months when we visited. Late morning the last day of our stay here, we went horseback riding in the *sierra* downstream the main buildings. Vegetation was very different here, with bushes and smaller trees. This would certainly have been an interesting area to check for birds, but sadly there was no time left. To stay here, booking ahead is necessary.

Not far from the ranch, about 15 kilometers or so, is the small village of Cerro Chato, which holds a bank office, two restaurants with apparently limited opening hours, a small grocery store and some other shops. At the far end of the village is a turn-off to the right (coming from the ranch), which leads to Salto de Agua, a small camping area with swimming pools and a bar. Opposite the camping area is a water reservoir, and I did some birding in this area, adding a few species not seen elsewhere.

Quebrada de los Cuervos

This small reserve is located some 20 kilometers northwest of the town of Treinta-y-tres. From the main road it is a rather boring 20 kilometer drive on gravel to the *quebrada*. The forest here is moist, and is traversed by a canyon (=quebrada). The trail is extremely steep in places, but eventually you will reach the river which is perfect for a swim – after which you will have to take on the ascent, and that swim becomes memory only...We were here early afternoon, which of course was far from ideal from a birding perspective.

Ruta 14 from Lascano

Finding Ruta 14 in Lascano was a bit of a challenge, and we did not expect it to be gravel all the way to the coast. Don't let this fact put you off from driving this road. Sadly, we were in a time constraint to reach the coast before dark to allow for any extensive birding, and so had to settle for some short stops. The last 30 kilometres or so of this road runs through interesting wetlands, more precisely the southern parts of Bañados de los Indios, which are part of the vast Bañados del Este, a huge, protected area. Some parts, though, showed clearly to be drying out. As a matter of fact, we could see the smoke from a huge fire in the drying grasslands at a distance (we had seen it on TV a few days earlier). It is my strong belief that a full days birding driving from the main coastal road (Ruta 10) to Lascano and back could be very rewarding. If you try it, be sure to bring food and drinks - between Lascano and the coastal villages there are no stores at all.

Parque Nacional Santa Teresa

Going south coming from Ruta 14, you will soon have this area on your left. It is a forested area holding an ancient fort and some extensive camping areas that are, to say the least, crowded. If you are not camping here, you are unlikely to be allowed in before 8 o'clock. Apparently, the birding can be good, we did not spend much time here, however.

Laguna Negra

Opposite to the entrance to P N Santa Teresa begins a 5-kilometer dead end gravel road, which in part runs along the Laguna Negra. There is some nice forest along the last kilometer or so.

Posada de San Antonio

The *posada* is beautifully set in the forest, about 2 kilometers from the main road (the turn off is at Km 234 on Ruta 10). San Antonio is the name of the whole area, with widely scattered houses, some of them almost certainly used only during the summer. From the *posada*, it is only a few minutes walk to the beach. I birded the surroundings one morning from pre-dawn.

Laguna de Rocha

This site is located slightly south of La Paloma, and within easy reach also from San Antonio and nearby La Pedrera. The lagoon is separated from the Atlantic by a sand bar. The lagoon was formed by land rise, but still today under certain circumstances does the lagoon mingle temporarily with the ocean, and therefore have a concentration of salt which influences the fauna. At the end of the access road it is only a short walk to an observation platform. I am unaware of how to access other parts of the lake, which could potentially be of interest, especially if one could get close to the lakeshore reedbeds. It might be worth spending two mornings here (I had one). There is a restaurant along the access road.

Transit road between Ruta 9 and 10

This is roughly a 10 kilometer stretch of gravel road connecting the two main roads in southeastern Uruguay, Ruta 9 and 10. Driving Ruta 10, the transit road is clearly signed around Km 237. I did random stops along this road, although I did not drive all the way to reach Ruta 9. It was quite a productive road to bird.

Daily log

Jan 6: Travel day

Jan 7: Late morning arrival in Buenos Aires, slow afternoon getting acquainted with the area around our hotel.

Jan 8: Visit to the famous, richly coloured, Boca part of Buenos Aires. In the evening we went to a *milonga*, which is where people go tango dancing. The entry fee included a few hours of tango lessons for beginners, which we attended, and in late evening the locals showed up, making us realize we'd better stay away from the dance floor...

Jan 9: Birding Reserva Ecologica Costanera Sur

Jan 10: Speedferry from Buenos Aires to Montevideo, collected our rental car, and then drove to Estancia Los Plátanos, roughly a 5-hour drive including short stops for birding and lunch.

Jan 11: Morning and afternoon birding at the Estancia. A few hours at the camping area in Salto de Agua.

Jan 12: Same activities as the previous day, and also a horse-riding tour in late morning.

Jan 13: Morning birding at the Estancia, followed by a couple of hours horseback riding. Long drive to Punta del Diablo on the Atlantic coast, with a detour for birding in Quebrada de los Cuervos.

Jan 14: No alarm clock this morning. Short visit to Santa Teresa. Being a cloudy day not suitable for beach activities, we headed for Cabo Polonio. Shortly after arrival there it started to rain, lasting the rest of the day.

Jan 15: Morning birding at Laguna Negra. Drove south to San Antonio, arriving there by lunch time, and then having a very relaxed afternoon and evening.

Jan 16: Morning birding in San Antonio, mid day birding at Laguna de Rocha.

Jan 17: Morning birding at Laguna de Rocha. Afternoon drive to hills above Rocha town.

Jan 18: The morning was spent birding the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10. Drive to Punta del Este.

Jan 19: Slow day in Punta del Este, apart from a short visit to Laguna Garzón.

Jan 20: A travel day, leaving Punta del Este for Montevideo and subsequently Buenos Aires.

Jan 21: Early flight to Puerto Iguazú, checking in at Hotel Melia Iguazú around 11 o'clock. Spent the rest of the day admiring the waterfalls and walking various walkways and trails.

Jan 22: Morning birding along Sendero Macuco. Went to Puerto Iguazú town in the afternoon.

Jan 23: Birded the access road between the park entrance and the hotel, and Sendero Macuco, during the early morning hours. A pre-booked tour took us to the Brazilian side of the waterfalls – the crowd here is almost beyond belief.

Jan 24: Morning birding along the railway track to Garganta Station. Again went to Puerto Iguazú town, to visit Jardin de los Picaflores. In the afternoon, we took the flight back to Buenos Aires.

Jan 25: Primarily a shopping day in Buenos Aires.

Jan 26: Commencing the long trip back to Sweden.

Species list

The trip tally ended up at 216 species, with 128 in Argentina, and 151 in Uruguay. Below are listed all species found, including its subspecies where known. Brief notes on distribution are given for species or subspecies with limited ranges, and other comments are made where appropriate. IOC taxonomy is followed.

Even though Argentina is by far the better known ornithological destination, and a considerably more species-rich country, I can thoroughly recommend Uruguay for birding. Uruguay is cheaper, slightly less developed, but

every bit as friendly as its larger neighbour. As a matter of fact, at the time of writing this report, my wife and I have just decided the itinerary for our 2019 return visit to both countries.

Greater Rhea Rhea americana

Uruguay: 2 en route northeast of Cerro Colorado village, daily records of up to 15 individuals at Estancia Los Plátanos, and 2 at Laguna Negra.

Ssp: intermedia, a campos ssp occuring in extreme southeastern Brazil and Uruguay.



Two of the more spectacular species seen were Greater Rhea (left) and Southern Screamer.



Uruguay: At least 10 daily at Los Platanos, and 1 at Laguna de Rocha. Ssp: nominate *maculosa*

Southern Screamer Chauna torquata

Argentina: 5 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Observed five days, e.g. at Salto de Agua and Laguna de Rocha.

White-faced Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna viduata

Argentina: At least 50 Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 at Laguna Negra.

${\bf Fulvous\ Whistling-Duck\ } {\it Dendrocygna\ bicolor}$

Argentina: Common in Costanera Sur.

Coscoroba Swan Coscoroba coscoroba



Argentina: ~20 Costanera Sur

Uruguay: ~50 Laguna de Rocha and 2 Laguna Garzón

Black-necked Swan Cygnus melancoryphus

10 individuals of this beautiful swan were at Costanera Sur (Argentina), and 6 were seen in Laguna de Rocha (Uruguay).

Brazilian Teal Amazonetta brasiliensis

Argentina: Common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Scattered records, e.g. at Laguna de Rocha and Laguna Garzón.

Ssp: ipecutiri

Silver Teal Spatula versicolor

Argentina: Common in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: nominate versicolor

Chiloe Wigeon Mareca sibilatrix

Uruguay: 10 in a small pond at km 247 Ruta 10 (north of San Antonio).

Yellow-billed Teal Anas flavirostris

Argentina: Common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 2 in a pond close to Quebrada de los Cuervos, 5 in the same pond as the previous species, and 1 en route to Punta del Este were the only records.

Ssp: flavirostris.

Rosy-billed Pochard Netta peposaca

Argentina: About 50 in Costanera Sur.

Dusky-legged Guan Penelope obscura

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 near Quebrada de los Cuervos and 1 in the hills above Rocha town.

Ssp: obscura

Pied-billed Grebe Podilymbus podiceps

Uruguay: 2 Salto de Agua, 1 Laguna de Rocha and 2 Laguna Garzón.

Ssp: antarcticus

White-tufted Grebe Rollandia rolland

Argentina: 2-3 Costanera Sur. Uruguay: 3 in Laguna Garzón.

Ssp: chilensis

Great Grebe Podiceps major

Uruguay: Seen in Punta del Este harbour only, with a maximum of 8 individuals.

Ssp: nominate *major*

Chilean Flamingo Phoenicopterus chilensis

Uruguay: 2 in Laguna de Rocha.

Wood Stork Mycteria americana

Uruguay: 1 seen en route from Lascano to Punta del Diablo.

Maguari Stork Ciconia maguari

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Observed six days, maximum count 10 in Laguna de Rocha.

Green Ibis Mesembrinibis cayannensis

Argentina: 1 at Garganta Station, Iguazú.

Bare-faced Ibis Phimosus infuscatus

Argentina: About 50 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 in Cerro Chato. Ssp: nominate *infuscatus*

White-faced Ibis Plegadis chihi

Argentina: Fairly common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 in San Antonio area, and 4 Laguna Garzón.

Roseate Spoonbill Platalea ajaja

Uruguay: About 10 Bañados de Los Indios, a fly-by near Rocha town, and 1 along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron Tigrisoma lineatum



Argentina: 3 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 en route from Lascano to Punta del Diablo.

Ssp: marmoratum

Black-crowned Night-Heron Nycticorax nycticorax

Argentina: 2 in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: hoactli

Striated Heron Butorides striata

Uruguay: Very few seen, totalling only 6 individuals.

Ssp: striata

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Uruguay: Small flocks in various spots, not very numerous, though.

Monotypic as its eastern counterpart *B.coromandus* is regarded a separate species.

Cocoi Heron Ardea cocoi

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 15+ in Laguna de Rocha, three further individuals seen at various loactions.

Great Egret Ardea alba

Argentina: 5 in Costanera Sur and 1-2 Iguazú Falls.

Uruguay: Very few seen.

Ssp: *egretta*

Whistling Heron Syrigma sibilatrix

Uruguay: 2 at Laguna Negra, 1 in the pond at km 247 Ruta 10, and near San Antonio.

Ssp: sibilatrix

Snowy Egret Egretta thula

Argentina: 2 in Boca harbour, Buenos Aires, 1 in Costanera Sur and 1 at Iguazú Falls.

Uruguay: Recorded five days.

Ssp: nominate thula

Neotropic Cormorant Phalacrocorax brasilianus

Argentina: A few in Costanera Sur and P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: Observed seven days. Ssp: nominate *brasilianus*

Anhinga Anhinga anhinga

Argentina: 1 flying over the waterfalls in Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate anhinga

Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura

Argentina. 1-2 in P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: Common, seen every day. Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture is supposed to be fairly common in the *campos*, and may have been overlooked.

Ssp: ruficollis

Black Vulture Coragyps atratus

Seen in Iguazú (Argentina) only, where common.

White-tailed Kite Elanus leucurus

Uruguay: 1 near Bañados de Los Indios.

Ssp: nominate *leucurus*

Rufous-thighed Hawk Accipiter erythrnemius

Uruguay: A single bird in flight above Posada de San Antonio.

Monotypic, previously included in A. striatus, Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Long-winged Harrier Circus buffoni

Uruguay: Scattered records of singles, totalling six individuals.

Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus*

Uruguay: 1 near Bañados de Los Indios and 1 at Laguna Negra.

Plumbeous Kite Ictinia plumbea

Seen in Iguazú area; a single perched near the waterfalls on the Argentinian side, and a flock of about 40 soaring high above the park entrance on the Brazilian side.

Snail Kite Rostrhamus sociabilis

1 at Laguna Negra (Uruguay), and 1 in P N Iguazú (Argentina).

Ssp: nominate sociabilis

Roadside Hawk Rupornis magnirostris

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 2 en route from Montevideo to Los Platanos, and 3 along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

Ssp: pucherani, ranging through Uruguay northeastern Argentina.

Harris's Hawk Parabuteo unicinctus

Argentina: 2 at Costanera Sur. Ssp: nominate *unicinctus*

White-tailed Hawk Geranoaetus albicaudatus

Uruguay: At least 15 along Ruta 14 and 5 near San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate albicaudatus

Swainson's Hawk Buteo swainsoni

Uruguay: 1 with White-tailed Hawks near San Antonio.

Gray-necked Wood-Rail Aramides cajaneus



Uruguay: 2 in P N Santa Teresa and 3 at Laguna Negra.

Ssp: nominate cajaneus

Giant Wood-Rail Aramides ypecaha

Uruguay: 3 at Salto de Agua, 2 in P N Santa Teresa and 2 at Laguna Negra.

Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail Aramides saracura

Argentina: 1 in P N Iguazú.

Common Gallinule Gallinula galeata

Argentina: Common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Few seen. Ssp: nominate *galeata*

${\bf Spot\text{-}flanked} \,\, {\bf Gallinule} \, {\it Porphyriops} \,\, {\it melanops} \,\,$

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 in a pond in San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate *melanops*

White-winged Coot Fulica leucoptera

Argentina: 3-4 in Costanera Sur.

Red-gartered Coot Fulica armillata

Uruguay: 1 in a pond opposite Finca José Ignacio along Ruta 9, and about 10 in Laguna Garzón.

Red-fronted Coot Fulica rufifrons

Argentina: Fairly common in Costanera Sur.

Limpkin Aramus guarauna

Argentina: 4-5 in Costanera Sur, and 1 in P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: 1 at Laguna Negra. Ssp: nominate *guarauna*

American Oystercatcher Haematopus palliatus

Uruguay: Observed five days, e.g. at Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: nominate *palliatus*

White-backed Stilt Himantopus melanurus

Argentina: 2 Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Fairly common at Laguna de Rocha.

Monotypic. Traditionally included in H.himantopus, Black-winged Stilt, which is now, according to IOC

taxonomy, split into four species.

Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis

Recorded almost daily in both countries.

Ssp: lampronotus

American Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica

Uruguay: ~10 in Laguna de Rocha.

Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus

Uruguay: 3 at Laguna de Rocha.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

Uruguay: At least 40 Laguna de Rocha.

Two-banded Plover Charadrius falklandicus



Uruguay: 2 at Laguna de Rocha was a pleasant surprise..

Wattled Jacana Jacana jacana

Argentina: Common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Scattered records. Ssp: nominate *jacana*

Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica

Uruguay: A single bird at Laguna de Rocha.

White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis

Uruguay: Common at Laguna de Rocha.

Pectoral Sandpiper Calidris melanotos

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

South American Snipe Gallinago paraguaiae

Uruguay: 1 at Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: nominate paraguaiae. Has been included in Common Snipe, Ggallinago.

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes

Uruguay: About 10 seen at Laguna de Rocha, singles elsewhere.

Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca

Uruguay: Like preceding species, about 10 at Laguna de Rocha.

Black Skimmer Rynchops niger

Uruguay: A flock of 20 at Laguna Negra, and 4 at Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: intercedens

Brown-hooded Gull Chroicocephalus maculipennis

Uruguay: Readily seen along the Atlantic coast.

Kelp Gull Larus dominicanus

Uruguay: A can't miss bird in coastal waters.

Ssp: nominate dominicanus

Cabot's Tern Thalasseus acuflavidus

Uruguay: Fairly common at Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: *eurygnathus*. The birds were not studied in order to try to establish whether they were of Argentinian or Brazilian origin. This subject is treated in depth in an excellent article in Neotropical Bird Club's birding magazine Neotropical Birding, number 19, autumn 2016.

Yellow-billed Tern Sternula superciliaris

Uruguay: 2 San Antonio shore, 5-6 Laguna de Rocha and 1 near Laguna Garzón.

Snowy-crowned Tern Sterna trudeaui

Uruguay: ~25 Laguna de Rocha.

Rock Dove Columba livia domest.

Seen in both countries.

Picazuro Pigeon Patagioenas picazuro

Common in Buenos Aires and Uruguay, none seen in Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate picazuro

Spot-winged Pigeon Patagioenas maculosa

Fairly common to common in Uruguay.

Ssp: nominate *maculosa*



Commonly encountered: Picazuro Pigeon (left), and the aptly named Spot-winged Pigeon.

Ruddy Ground-Dove Columbina talpacoti

Argentina: 2 in Jardin de los Picaflores in Iguazú town.

Ssp: nominate talpacoti

Picui Ground-Dove Columbina picui

Uruguay: Recorded only in San Antonio area and in Punta del Este. Almost certainly overlooked.

Ssp: nominate *picui*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Argentina: Singles in Costanera Sur, frequently heard in P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: Few records, only five in total.

Ssp: chalcauchenia

Gray-fronted Dove Leptotila rufaxilla

Argentina: 1 heard P N Iguazú.

Ssp: reichenbachii

Eared Dove Zenaida auriculata

Recorded virtually throughout, except inside P N Iguazú.

Ssp: chrysauchenia

Guira Cuckoo Guira guira

Uruguay: Recorded almost daily.

Greater Ani Crotophaga major

Argentina: Noisy, and easily seen, in P N Iguazú.

Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani

Argentina: Small numbers in P N Iguazú.

Squirrel Cuckoo Piaya cayana

Uruguay: 2 in Quebrada de los Cuervos.

Ssp: macroura

Tropical Screech-Owl Megascops choliba

Argentina: 1 P N Iguazú. Uruguay: 1 in San Antonio.

Ssp: uruguaii, present in northeastern Argentina, southeastern Brazil and Uruguay.

Burrowing Owl Athene cunicularia

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Ssp: nominate cunicularia

Nacunda Nighthawk Chordeiles nacunda

Uruguay: 1 near La Pedrera. Ssp: nominate *nacunda*

Scissor-tailed Nightjar Hydropsalis torquata

Uruguay: 2 near La Pedrera.

Ssp: furcifer

Great Dusky Swift Cypseloides senex

Argentina: Fairly common at Iguazú Falls.

Sick's Swift Chaetura meridionalis

Argentina: A flock of 10 observed one evening over the hotel garden in P N Iguazú.

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird Eupetomena macroura

Argentina: 1 of this spectacular hummingbird in Jardin de Los Picaflores, Iguazú town.

Ssp: nominate *macroura*. A rare hummingbird in Argentina, Iguazú being the area in the country where it is most likely to be found.

Black Jacobin Florisuga fusca

Argentina: 2 in Jardin de Los Picaflores.

Black-throated Mango Anthracothorax nigricollis

Argentina: Up to 5 in Jardin de Los Picaflores.

Glittering-bellied Emerald Chlorostilbon lucidus

Argentina: 2 in Jardin de Los Picaflores.

Uruguay: Singles at Estancia Los Platanos and San Antonio.

Ssp: berlepschi

Gilded Sapphire Hylocharis chrysura



Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur, and 2 in Jardin de Los Picaflores.

White-throated Hummingbird Leucochloris albicollis

Uruguay: A single bird in San Antonio.

Versicolored Emerald Amazilia versicolor

Argentina: At least 4 in Jardin de Los Picaflores. Ssp: *kubtchecki*

Surucua Trogon Trogon surrucura

Argentina: 3 in P N Iguazú. Ssp: nominate *surrucura*

Black-throated Trogon Trogon rufus



Argentina: 3 in P Iguazú. Ssp: *chrysochloros*

Green Kingfisher Chloroceryle americana

Argentina: 1 at Iguazú Falls. Uruguay: 1 at Salto de Agua.

Ssp: mathewsii

Amazon Kingfisher Chloroceryle amazona

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

${\bf Chest nut-eared\ Aracari\ \it Pteroglossus\ \it cast anotis}$

Argentina: A few seen in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: australis

Toco Toucan Ramphastos toco

Argentina: Fairly easy to spot in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: albogularis

Mottled Piculet *Picumnus nebulosus*

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Occurs in southeastern Brazil, northeastern Argentina and Uruguay.

Checkered Woodpecker Veniliornis mixtus

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: nominate mixtus, this ssp occuring in eastern Argentina, western Uruguay and extreme southeastern Braail.

Green-barred Woodpecker Colaptes melanochloros

Argentina: 1 in Parque Lezama, Buenos Aires, and 2 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Easily seen in San Antonio area, otherwise only 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Ssp: nominate melanochloros

Campo Flicker Colaptes campestris

Uruguay: Recorded seven days, most numerous in San Antonio area.

Ssp: campestroides, which is sometimes considered a separate species, Pampas Flicker.

Blond-crested Woodpecker Celeus flavescens

Argentina: 2 of this gorgeous woodpecker observed in P N Iguazú, one at Sendero Macuco, and one along the railway track to Garganta Station.

Ssp: nominate flavescens



Green-barred Woodpecker

Campo Flicker

Southern Crested Caracara Caracara plancus

Easily seen in both countries.

Yellow-headed Caracara Milvago chimachima

Argentina: 2 in P N Igauzú. Ssp: nominate *chimachima*

Chimango Caracara Milvago chimango

Argentina: A single bird near Ezeiza airport.

Uruguay: Recorded almost daily. Ssp: nominate *chimango*

Collared Forest-Falcon Micrastur semitorquatus

Argentina: 1 heard in P N Iguazú. Ssp: nominate *semitorquatus*

American Kestrel Falco sparverius

Uruguay: Recorded seven days.

Ssp: cinnamominus

Monk Parakeet Myiopsitta monachus



Common in Buenos Aires and Uruguay, none seen in Iguazú. Ssp: nominate *monachus*

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet Brotogeris chiriri

Argentina: 2 in Parque Lezama, Buenos Aires.

Ssp: reasonably nominate *chiriri*. Birds in Buenos Aires are a feral population.



Argentina: 1 in P N Iguazú. Ssp: *melanoblepharus*

Blue-winged Parrotlet Forpus xanthopterygius

Argentina: A flock of 5 in P N Iguazú. Ssp: nominate *xanthopterygius*

White-eyed Parakeet Psittacara leucophthalmus

Argentina: 2 in Buenos Aires, and a few flocks in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate leucophthalmus, those in Buenos Aires represents a feral population.

Common Miner Geositta cunicularia



Uruguay: 5 at Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: nominate cunicularia. Divided into many ssp over its range, and probably more than one species involved.

Rufous Hornero Furnarius rufus

Observed almost daily in both countries.

Ssp: nominate rufus

Spix's Spinetail Synallaxis spixi

Uruguay: Recorded in San Antonio, the hills above Rocha town, and the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

Stripe-crowned Spinetail Cranioleuca pyrrhophia

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos and 1 in P N Santa Teresa.

Ssp: nominate pyrrhophia

Freckle-breasted Thornbird Phacellodomus straitcollis

Uruguay: At least 10 at Estancia Los Platanos, and 2 along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

Wren-like Rushbird Phleocryptes melanops

Uruguay: 2 at Laguna de Rocha. Ssp: nominate *melanops*

Firewood-gatherer Anumbius annumbi



Uruguay: Small numbers at Estancia Los Platanos, 1 at Cabo Polonio and 1 along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

Brown Cacholote Pseudoseisura lophotes

Uruguay: 1 at Salto de Agua.

Ssp: argentina

Black-capped Foliage-gleaner Philydor atricapillus

Argentina: 1 Sendero Macuco, P N Iguazú.

Plain-winged Woodcreeper Dendrocincla turdina

Argentina: 2 Sendero Macuco, P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate turdina

Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper Drymornis bridgesii

Uruguay: 1 of this spectacular woodcreeper at Estancia Los Platanos.

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes angustorostris

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: praedatus

Plain Antvireo Dysithamnus mentalis

Argentina: Common by voice in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate *mentalis*

Variable Antshrike Thamnophilus caerulescens

Argentina: 1 in P N Iguazú. Ssp: nominate *caerulescens*

Rufous-capped Antshrike Thamnophilus ruficapillaus

Uruguay: A few in San Antonio area.

Ssp: nominate ruficapillus

Short-tailed Antthrush Chamaeza campanisoma

Argentina: Readily heard in forested areas of P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate *campanisona*

Small-billed Elaenia Elaenia parvirostris

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Common by voice in San Antonio.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet Camptostoma obsoletum

Uruguay: 1 at Laguna Negra. Ssp: nominate *obsoletum*

Sooty Tyrannulet Serpophaga nigricans

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

White-crested Tyrannulet Serpophaga subcristata

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur, ssp subcristata.

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos, and 2 in San Antonio, ssp straminea

Southern Antpipit Corythopis delalandi

Argentina: 1 at Sendero Macuco, P N Iguazú.

Bran-colored Flycatcher Myiophobus fasciatus

Uruguay: Singles in Salto de Agua, Estancia Los Platanos and San Antonio.

Ssp: flammiceps

Scarlet Flycatcher Pyrocephalus rubinus

Uruguay: Many at Estanica Los Platanos, few elsewhere.

Monotypic after, in my opinion doubtful, split from Vermilion Flycatcher, *P.obscurus*.

Crested Black-Tyrant Knipolegus lophotes



Uruguay: 2 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Spectacled Tyrant Hymenops perspicillatus



Uruguay: 1 near Fray Marcos (along Ruta 7), and 2 along Ruta 14.

Ssp: nominate perspicillatus

Yellow-browed Tyrant Satrapa icterophrys

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Grey Monjita Xolmis cinereus

Uruguay: 1 in Fray Marcos (along Ruta 7) and 1 near Quebrada de Los Cuervos.

Ssp: nominate *cinereus*

White Monjita Xolmis irupero

Uruguay: Recorded seven days. Ssp: nominate *irupero*

Cattle Tyrant Machetornis rixosa

Uruguay: Seen at Estancia Los Platanos and in San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate rixosa

Social Flycatcher Myiozetetes similis

Argentina: A single bird in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: pallidiventris

Great Kiskadee Pitangus sulphuratus

Observed daily in both countries.

Ssp: argentinus

Streaked Flycatcher Miyodynastes maculatus

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: solitarius

Boat-billed Flycatcher Megarynchus pitangua

Argentina: A few in P N Iguaú. Ssp: nominate *pitangua*

Variegated Flycatcher Empidonomus varius

Argentina: 1 in P N Iguazú. Ssp: nominate *varius*

Tropical Kingbird Tyrannus melancholicus

Daily records in both countries. Ssp: nominate *melancholicus*

Fork-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus savana

Recorded daily in Uruguay, and 2 seen in Argentina.

Ssp: nominate savana

Swainson's Flycatcher Myiarchus swainsoni

Uruguay: 1 in Quebrada de Los Cuervos.

Ssp: nominate swainsoni

Blue Manakin Chiroxiphia caudata

Argentina: 4 of this stunner at Sendero Macuco, P N Iguazú.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike Cyclarhis gujanensis

Uruguay: 2 in Quebrada de Los Cuervos.

Ssp: ochrocephala

Red-eyed Vireo Vireo olivaceus

Argentina: Faily common in Costanera Sur and 1 in P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: 1 at a road stop near the village of Valentines.

Ssp: *chivi* in Argentina, *diversus* in Uruguay. South American breeders are sometimes awarded species rank, *V.chivi*, Chivi Vireo.

Plush-crested Jay Cyanocorax chrysops

Argentina: A conspicuous bird in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate chrysops



Plush-crested Jay

White Monjita

Sand Martin Riparia riparia

Uruguay: 2 at Laguna de Rocha was a surprise find.

Ssp: nominate *riparia*

White-rumped Swallow Tachycineta leucorrhoa

Argentina: Common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Many seen at Estancia Los Platanos and Laguna de Rocha.

Gray-breasted Martin Progne chalybea

Common in both countries. Ssp: *macrorhamphus*

Brown-chested Martin Progne tapera

Common in Buenos Aires and throughout Uruguay.

Ssp: fusca

Blue-and-white Swallow Notiochelidon cyanoleuca

Common in Uruguay, none seen in Argentina.

Ssp: nominate cyanoleucoa

Tawny-headed Swallow Alopochelidon fucata

Uruguay: At least one at Estancia Los Platanos.

House Wren Troglodytes aedon

Frequently encountered in both countries.

Ssp: bonariae in Buenos Aires and Uruguay, musculus in Iguazú.

Masked Gnatcatcher Polioptila dumicola

Argentina: 4 or 5 in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: nominate dumicola

Chalk-browed Mockingbird Mimus saturninus

Fairly common to common in both countries.

Ssp: modulator

Common Starling Sturnus vulgaris

Argentina: A large flock in Costanera Sur.

Introduced.

Rufous-bellied Thrush Turdus rufiventris

Argentina: Common in Buenos Aires.

Uruguay: Fairly common in San Antonio area, only other record was 1 in Quebrada de Los Cuervos.

Ssp: nominate rufiventris

Pale-breasted Thrush Turdus leucomelas

Argentina: Fairly common in Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate leucomelas

White-necked Thrush Turdus albicollis

Argentina: Several seen and heard in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: paraguayensis

Creamy-bellied Thrush Turdus amaurochalinus



Uruguay: Recorded in San Antonio area only, where fairly common.

House Sparrow Passer domesticus

Common in both countries.

Introduced.

Short-billed Pipit Anthus furcatus

Uruguay: A handful at Estancia Los Platanos.

Hooded Siskin Spinus magellanicus

Argentina: 4 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: A few seen, e.g. at Posada de San Antonio.

Brazil: 3 in Iguacu.

Ssp: probably *ictericus* in Iguacu, elsewhere nominate *magellanicus*.

Violaceous Euphonia Euphonia violacea

Argentina: 1 in Jardin de Los Picaflores, Iguazú.

Ssp: aurantiicollis

Rufous-collared Sparrow Zonotrichia capensis

Common in both countries.

Ssp: subtorquata

Grassland Sparrow Ammodramus humeralis

Uruguay: 2 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Ssp: xanthornus

White-browed Blackbird Leistes superciliaris

Uruguay: 1 along Ruta 14, between the villages of Jose Pedro Varela and Averias.

Solitary Cacique Cacicus solitarius

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Red-rumped Cacique Cacicus haemorrhous

Argentina: A handful in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: affinis

Variable Oriole Icterus pyrrhopterus

Argentina: Observed in Costanera Sur and P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: 2 only, both along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

ssp: pyrrhopterus

Screaming Cowbird Molothrus rufoaxillaris

Uruguay: 2 near San Antonio were the only ones seen. Almost certainly overlooked.

Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis

Regularly recorded in both countries, common in some places.

Ssp: nominate *bonariensis*

Chopi Blackbird Gnorimopsar chopi

Argentina: Readily seen in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate *chopi*.

Greyish Baywing Agelaioides badius



Argentina: Fairly common in Costanera Sur, none seen in Iguazú. Uruguay: Common at Estancia Los Platanos, few seen elsewhere.

Ssp: nominate *badius*. The disjunct *A.fringillanus* was previously included in present species.

Chestnut-capped Blackbird Chrysomus ruficapillus

Uruguay: 1 at Salto de Agua. Ssp: nominate *ruficapillus*

Brown-and-yellow Marshbird Pseudoleistes virescens

Uruguay: Up to 20 at Estancia Los Platanos and a single bird at Laguna Negra.

Southern Yellowthroat Geothlypis velata

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos, and 1 above Rocha town.

Monotypic. Previously regarded a ssp of Gaequinoctialis, Masked Yellowthroat.

Tropical Parula Setophaga pitiayumi

Argentina: 1 in P N Iguazú. Uruguay: Recorded eight days. Ssp: nominate *pitiayumi*

White-rimmed Warbler Myiothlypis leucoblephara

Uruguay: Half a dozen around Posada de San Antonio.

Ssp: uncertain. Ssp *lemurum* occurs only in a small area in Maldonado department of southeastern Uruguay, while nominate *leucoblephara* occupies the remainder of the species range. Apparently, birds further north in Uruguay and in to southesternmost Brazil appear to be intergrades between the two ssp. Prior to writing this report I was unaware of these facts, and it would be unwise even attempting to categorize the birds recorded either as intergrades and/or pure *leucoblephara*.

Riverbank Warbler Miyothlypis rivularis

Argentina: 1 along the railway track to Garganta station, P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate rivularis

Golden-crowned Warbler Basileuterus culicivorus

Argentina: Easily heard in P N Iguazú, especially along Sendero Macuco.

Uruguay: A couple around Posada de San Antonio.

Ssp: azarae

Red Tanager Piranga flava

Uruguay: 1 immature along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10. Ssp: nominate *flava*. Formerly known as Lowland Hepatic Tanager.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager Habia rubica

Argentina: 2 at Sendero Macuco, P N Iguazú.

Ssp: nominate *rubica*

Glaucous-blue Grosbeak Cyanoloxia glaucocaerulea



Uruguay: A male at Estancia Los Platanos, and a female just outside Rocha town.

Red-crested Cardinal Paroaria coronata

Argentina: 4 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Recorded seven days, most numerous at Estancia Los Platanos.

Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*

Argentina: 1 at Sendero Macuco, P N Iguazú.

Sayaca Tanager Thraupis sayaca

Argentina: Small numbers in Costanera Sur and P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Ssp: nominate *sayaca*

Blue-and-yellow Tanager Thraupis bonariensis

Uruguay: 2 at Estancia Los Platanos, and 1 at Posada de San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate *bonariensis*

Diademed Tanager Stephanophorus diadematus

Uruguay: 1 in beach scrub in San Antonio, 2 above Rocha town, and 5 along the transit road between Ruta 9 and

Green-headed Tanager Tangara seledon

Argentina: 5 at Garganta station, P N Iguazú.

Chestnut-backed Tanager Tangara preciosa

Uruguay: 3 juveniles along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

Red Pileated Finch Coryphospingus cucullatus



Argentina: 3 in P N Iguazú.

Ssp: rubescens. The species is also known as Red-crested Finch.



Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Gray-throated Warbling-Finch Poospiza cabanisi

Uruguay: 1 at a road stop near Valentines (close to the *estancia*). Monotypic, after being split from *P.lateralis*.

Saffron Finch Sicalis flaveola

Readily seen in both countries.

Ssp: pelzelni

Grassland Yellow-Finch Sicalis leteola

Uruguay: Flocks seen at Estancia Los Platanos, Laguna de Rocha and San Antonio area.

Ssp: luteiventris

Great Pampa-Finch Embernagra platensis

Uruguay: Recorded six days. Ssp: nominate *platensis*.

Green-winged Saltator Saltator similis

Argentina: 1 in P N Iguazú. Ssp: nominate *similis*

Golden-billed Saltator Saltator aurantiirostris

Argentina: 4-5 in Costanera Sur, ssp *aurantiirostris*, all with orangey bills. Uruguay: 2 at Estancia Los Platanos, ssp *parkesi*, both showed blackish bills.

Double-collared Seedeater Sporophila carulescens

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur and 1 in P N Iguazú.

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia Los Platanos.

Ssp: nominate *caerulescens*

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*Argentina: A few in P N Iguazú, and likewise in Jardin de Los Picaflores, Iguazú town. Ssp: *chloropyga*