

# **Eastern Uruguay, Northwestern Patagonia & Buenos Aires**

**12 Jan – 8 Feb 2019**



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As I mentioned in my 2018 trip report “Eastern Uruguay, Buenos Aires & Iguazu”, Argentina and Uruguay were to become our destinations for 2019 too. This year we included the Andes, prompted by our strong wish to drive the very scenic “Ruta de los 7 Lagos” (7 lakes route) in the northwestern corner of Patagonia. In Uruguay, we chose to stay at another *estancia* than in 2018, adding the towns of Chuy, for easy access to the wetlands, and Piriapolis, for beaching, and also returning to the wonderful Posada de San Antonio. Birdwise, aiming for some regional specialties, we also booked a guided half day at PN Pantanos, formerly known as Reserva Natural Otamendi. Hopefully you will find this report useful, keeping in mind this was not a hardcore birding trip.

## **Accommodation**

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 La Amorosa, in Flores province, roughly a three hour drive northwest from Montevideo. 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* is located 20 minutes driving time from the town of Trinidad, has three rooms, and was a truly excellent place to stay. Being a ranch, it held cattle, sheep, horses, and a couple of 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 come 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 Uruguayan 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 Nacional 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 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 the airport bus to the city centre.

Domestic flights between Buenos Aires (Jorge Newberry airport) and San Carlos de Bariloche were with Aerolineas Argentinas. The airport of Jorge Newberry is conveniently located quite close to the Palermo area of Buenos Aires, which is where we stayed.

Between Buenos Aires and Montevideo, we went by the speedferry, crossing Rio de la Plata, a journey just short of two and a half hours.

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 13 days was USD 843 (after tax reduction) including insurance and GPS. Other than to smoothly get out of, and back in to, Montevideo, a GPS is not really necessary.

### **Money matters**

As Argentine and Uruguayan currency cannot be obtained in Sweden, we brought USD. Other than at the international airport, we found one or two money exchange offices in the city of Buenos Aires. Along the streets in the vicinity of Plaza de Mayo in central Buenos Aires, there were quite a number of persons offering money exchange services, these are probably better avoided.

In both countries, the ATM's annoyingly allowed only for small withdrawal amounts, however, this could probably vary depending on what card you have, we use Mastercard. In Uruguay, it is more or less a lottery whether or not you will be able to make a withdrawal at all – in Piriapolis, we tried the three ATM's outside the bank office in the main street along the beach, and only in one of them did we succeed! On the other hand, using your credit card in Uruguay means the VAT is automatically deducted from the bill.

### **Literature and recordings**

I brought the latest edition of Birds of Argentina and Uruguay by Narosky & Yzurieta, which also includes a CD with voices (conveniently downloaded to my smartphone) of almost all species covered in the book, and also the excellent 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, - for birding in Uruguay, this is the only field guide you need to carry.

### **Sites and areas visited**

**Reserva Ecológica Costanera Sur** in Buenos Aires is an area that was originally intended for expanding the port, a development plan 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. Between the northern and southern entrances, outside the park, are numerous small shacks serving food and beverages (the southernmost has superb chorizos). More than 300 species have been recorded in the park.

### **Parque Nacional Ciervo de Las Pantanos (or simply Los Pantanos)**

This site was formerly known as Reserva Natural Otamendi, but its name has changed to better reflect its higher protection level. The area is located 75 kms north of Buenos Aires city centre. The visit here was hosted by Marcelo Gavensky, founder and owner of Birding Buenos Aires ([www.birdingbuenosaires.com](http://www.birdingbuenosaires.com)), who picked us up at our hotel at 6 a.m. Shortly after arriving to the site, it started to rain, at times so heavy as to preventing any birding effort at all. However, it was a rewarding half day, returning to the hotel around 2 p.m.

### **Laguna Los Juncos**

This site is located along Ruta 23, in Perito Moreno, about 30 kms from San Carlos de Bariloche. Sadly, the lake was completely dried out, a major disappointment of course! There is an observation platform here, which I did not enter for obvious reasons. I took a stroll along the railway track, and also birded randomly in the area between the lake and the nearby quarry east of the lake.

### **Cerro Catedral**

A short drive from San Carlos de Bariloche is Cerro Catedral, a skiing and hiking area. An aerial tram and a lift took us to the higher elevations, finishing at around 2000 meters asl. We visited the area in late afternoon, so we were not allowed much time here, but the area should be rewarding for birding.

### **Parque Nacional Los Arrayanes, Villa La Angostura**

From the small village of Villa La Angostura, Peninsula Quetihue stretches well into Lago Nahuel Huapi, the large lake where San Carlos de Bariloche is situated on the southeastern shore. Villa La Angostura is located in the northwestern parts of the lake. The peninsula is declared a national park, Los Arrayanes, and a wide trail runs through it from the entrance in the outskirts of Villa La Angostura to the very tip. A passenger boat runs from the town port, and the ride is about 55 minutes to the dock at the far end of the peninsula. From here it is an 11 km walk back to town. The trail is popular also with mountainbikers.

### **La Bellunese**

I happened to make a random stop at this spot while morning birding during our stay in Villa La Angostura. The place itself is a camping site at a small ranch, very shortly after the start of "Ruta de los 7 Lagos". I parked the car at the turn-off for the ranch, which is signposted opposite the access road to Balneario Lago Espejo, and then birded the surrounding area. I found the area quite rewarding, and returned there the following morning.

The areas described below are all located in Uruguay.

### **Estancia La Amorosa**

Definitely one of the highlights of the trip, about a three-hour drive from central Montevideo. The ranch is situated outside the town of Trinidad, and overlooking vast grasslands, or *campos* as they are also called. A small creek runs through the cattleland, attracting a good set of birds. Two late mornings we went horseback riding, driving sheep and cattle into pinfolds to check for calves and lambs in need of medical treatment against parasites. To stay here, booking ahead is necessary.

### **Bañados del Indio**

An important site to visit, located along Ruta 14, not far from Punta del Diablo. There is a small observation platform on the south side of the road. Visibility, though, is a bit of a challenge from the platform, and you will find birding from the road in both directions rather more useful. I concentrated my birding efforts from km 486 to km 490, which covers ground east and west of the platform.

### **Fortín de San Miguel**

This is an old fortress found 9 kilometers west of Chuy on the Brazilian border. From here a 5 kilometer trail named Cerros de Picudo y Vigía takes off, and I birded, roughly, the first 1,5 kms of this trail. Birding here was good, and time spent here was worthwhile.

### **Km 16-17, Ruta 19**

I made a "scouting" drive on afternoon to try to locate a decent area for early morning birding near Chuy. This area is slightly further west than Fortín de San Miguel, and is recognised by dirt roads taking off to the northwest and southwest shortly after a small bridge. There is no access to an elevated spot overlooking the wetlands here.

### **Laguna Negra**

Opposite the main entry to PN 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, most of them summer residencies. From the *posada*, it is a few minutes walk to the beach.

### **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. The restaurant along the access road seems to have closed down since last year.

The southern part of the “mouth” can be reached via a rather boring drive on gravel roads from south of Rocha town. Although it is indeed possible to walk there from the northern part described above, this is effectively prevented by water levels at times. On my first visit here, the “mouth” was impassable, while when visiting the southern part a few days later would have posed no problems in this respect. I met a warden here who suggested me a short walk westwards along the lake shore to reach some more vegetated areas, I guess the walk was no more than 300 meters (but useful, as this is where I found the only Buff-breasted Sandpiper of the trip).

### **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. Birding the forested stretch starting 6.6 km from Ruta 10, between ranches Las Palmeras (to the south of the road) and Don Floro (to the north of the road), is well worth it.

### **Daily log**

**Jan 12:** Travel day

**Jan 13:** Late morning arrival in Buenos Aires, slow afternoon getting acquainted with the area around our hotel.

**Jan 14:** Sightseeing in Buenos Aires.

**Jan 15:** Half day guided birding at Parque Nacional Los Pantanos.

**Jan 16:** Late morning flight to San Carlos de Bariloche, drive to our hotel in Puerto Manzano near Villa La Angostura.

**Jan 17:** Morning birding in Puerto Manzano. Driving Ruta de los Siete Lagos.

**Jan 18:** Morning birding in Villa La Angostura vicinity. Boat ride to the tip of Peninsula Quetihue, to walk back through Parque Nacional Los Arrayanes.

**Jan 19:** Morning birding in Villa La Angostura vicinity. Drive to San Carlos de Bariloche.

**Jan 20:** Driving the scenic Circuito Chico, including visit to Colonia Suiza. Afternoon at Cerro Catedral.

**Jan 21:** Birding at the dried out Laguna Los Juncos. Slow afternoon in San Carlos de Bariloche.

**Jan 22:** Mid day flight back to Buenos Aires. In the evening we visited a *milonga* (for tango dancing) in San Telmo area of B.A.

**Jan 23:** Speedferry from Buenos Aires to Montevideo, drive to Estancia La Amorosa.

**Jan 24:** The morning was spent birding the *estancia*, followed by horseback riding for two and a half hours. Visited the town of Trinidad as well as Ecoparque Talice (more or less a zoo) just outside town.

**Jan 25:** Early morning birding at the *estancia*, again followed by horseback riding for several hours.

**Jan 26:** Birding the *estancia* in the morning. Long drive to Chuy near the Atlantic coast, on the Brazilian border.

**Jan 27:** Visit to Bañados del Indio. Beaching in La Coronilla.

**Jan 28:** Morning birding at km 16-17 along Ruta 19. Beaching in Santa Teresa.

**Jan 29:** The morning was spent birding the Cerros de Picudo y Vigia trail. Short visit to Bañados del Indio. Drive to San Antonio.

**Jan 30:** Morning birding at Laguna de Rocha, otherwise a slow day.

**Jan 31:** A relaxed day spent in San Antonio and La Pedrera.

**Feb 1:** Birded the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10, before driving to the beach town of Piriapolis.

**Feb 2:** Slow day in Piriapolis.

**Feb 3:** The intention today was to visit Sierra de las Ánimas near Piriapolis, however, being a private reserve (to which we were unaware) it required advance arrangements, and we were thus not allowed in. So this ended up to become a slow day in Piriapolis.

**Feb 4:** Beaching in Piriapolis, before driving to Montevideo.

**Feb 5:** Speedferry from Montevideo to Buenos Aires. Another *milonga* visit in late evening.

**Feb 6:** Birding in Costanera Sur till early afternoon, followed by some shopping.

**Feb 7:** A relaxed day in Buenos Aires, which included a visit to Plaza del Mayo to watch the Madres Blancas weekly protest march.

**Feb 8:** Mid day flight back to Europe.

## Species list

The trip scored 225 species, with 145 in Argentina, and 161 in Uruguay. Below are listed all species found, including its subspecies. 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.

### **Greater Rhea** *Rhea americana*

Uruguay: Few observations, seen only at Estancia La Amorosa (up to 8 individuals) and a single close to Bañados del Indio.

Ssp: *intermedia*, a *pampas* ssp occurring in extreme southeastern Brazil and Uruguay.

### **Spotted Nothura** *Nothura maculosa*

Uruguay: Readily observed at Estancia La Amorosa, few additional observations.

Ssp: nominate *maculosa*

### **Dusky-legged Guan** *Penelope obscura*

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 2 Estancia La Amorosa.

Ssp: nominate

### **California Quail** *Callipepla californica*

Argentina: 2 at La Bellunese and 5 near Laguna Los Juncos.

Introduced.

### **Southern Screamer** *Chauna torquata*

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 8 at Bañados del Indio 27/1 was the highest daily count, otherwise occasionally seen in ones or twos.

### **White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*

Argentina: 2 Los Pantanos and 10 Costanera Sur 6/2.

Uruguay: Recorded at Estancia La Amorosa, Bañados del Indio, km 16-17 Ruta 19 and near La Paloma.

### **Coscoroba Swan** *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur 6/2.

Uruguay: ~50 Laguna de Rocha and 1 in the wetlands below Fortin de San Miguel.

### **Black-necked Swan** *Cygnus melancoryphus*

Argentina: A flock of about 40 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: A very distant flock in Laguna de Rocha was difficult to count, but estimated at around 50 individuals.

### **Flying Steamer-Duck** *Tachyeres patagonichus*

Argentina: A female with four young in Puerto Manzano.



**Ashy-headed Goose Teal *Chloephaga poliocephala***



Argentina: Up to 8 of this beautiful goose were in Puerto Manzano.

**Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis***

Argentina. ~10 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Observed six days, e.g. at Bañados del Indio.

Ssp: *ipecutiri*

**Ringed Teal *Calloneta leucophrys***

Argentina: 3 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 at Bañados del Indio.

**Silver Teal *Spatula versicolor***

Argentina: Seen at Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: A single individual in a pond near La Paloma.

Ssp: nominate *versicolor*

**Chiloe Wigeon *Mareca sibilatrix***

Uruguay: 3 in a pond near La Paloma.

**Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica***

Uruguay: 2 in the same pond as preceding two species.

Ssp: *spinicauda*

**Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris***

Argentina: Seen near Laguna Los Juncos and in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Few, scattered records.

Ssp: *flavirostris* in lowland areas, *oxyptera* in the Andes.

**Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca***

Argentina: Up to 10 in Costanera Sur.

**Nacunda Nighthawk *Chordeiles nacunda***



Uruguay: Easily seen at Estancia La Amorosa, e.g. 7 flushed one late afternoon, and of course also when night-birding. Other than those, 1 at San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate

**Little Nightjar *Setopagis parvula***

Uruguay: 1 conveniently landed just feet away from me one early morning at Estancia La Amorosa, presumably the same individual was seen two days later.

**Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydrosalis torquata***

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia La Amorosa, 2 at San Antonio and 1 along the transit road between Ruta 9 and 10.

Ssp: *furcifer*

**Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon lucidus***

Argentina: Easily seen at Los Pantanos, where about 15 were observed. 1 also in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: *berlepschi*

**Gilded Sapphire *Hylocharis chrysura***

Argentina: 3-4 Los Pantanos and 1 Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 1 Fortín de san Miguel and 1 San Antonio.

**Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira***

Recorded almost daily in Uruguay.

**Rock Dove *Columba livia***

One day I managed to *not* to see one single individual.

**Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro***

A lowland bird common in both countries.

Ssp: nominate *picazuro*



**Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa***



Recorded almost daily in Uruguay.

Ssp: nominate.

**Chilean Pigeon *Patagioenas araucana***

Argentina: 9 seen at La Bellunese, and singles in the near vicinity.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti***

Uruguay: 2 at Fortín de San Miguel.

Ssp: nominate *talpacoti*

**Picui Gound-Dove *Columbina picui***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos and 1 Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Readily seen at Estancia La Amorosa, otherwise infrequently encountered.

Ssp: *picui*

**White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi***

Argentina: 2 Los Pantanos, 2 Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Many heard, e.g. at Estancia La Amorosa and in San Antonio.

Ssp: *chalcauchenia*

**Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata***

Recorded daily in Uruguay and lowland Argentina, a few also in the Andes.

Ssp: *chrysauchenia*

**Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos

ssp: nominate

**Red-and-white Crake *Laterallus leucopyrrhus***

Argentina: 4-5 in Los Pantanos.



**Grey-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides cajaneus***

Uruguay: 2 Fortín de San Miguel, 1 in Reserva Pan de Azucar, Piriapolis.

Ssp: nominate *cajaneus*

**Giant Wood-Rail *Aramides ypecaha***

Argentina: 1 in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Seen at La Coronilla, Fortín de San Miguel and Km 16-17 Ruta 19.

**Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus***

Argentina: 2 Los Pantanos

ssp: nominate

**Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata***

Argentina: Many in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 2 en route to Chuy.

Ssp: nominate *galeata*

**White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera***

Argentina: 1 Costanera Sur.

**Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata***

Argentina: In the Andes, seen in Lago Falkner along Ruta 40, and in San Carlos de Bariloche harbour. Common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 7 Laguna de Rocha.

**Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons***

Argentina: It took some searching, but finally a single individual was found in Costanera Sur 6/2.

**Limpkin *Aramus guarauna***

Argentina: Observed in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Recorded at Estancia La Amorosa, Bañados del Indio and km 16-17 Ruta 19.

Ssp: nominate *guaruana*

**Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps***

Uruguay: 1 in a pond near La Paloma.

Ssp: *antarcticus*

**White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland***

Argentina: 3-4 Costanera Sur.

Ssp: *chilensis*

**Great Grebe *Podiceps major***

Argentina: Along Ruta 40, 1 in Lago Villarino and 2 in Lago Falkner, also 1 in Bariloche harbour.

Ssp: nominate

**Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis***

Argentina: 2 Puerto Manzano and 3 Bariloche harbour.

Ssp: nominate *occipitalis*. It has been suggested that southern *occipitalis* and northern *juninensis* may represent two species – there are indeed morphological differences that support this, coupled with the fact that nominate is migratory, while northern birds are resident.

**American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus***

Uruguay: Recorded in Laguna de Rocha and on the beach in San Antonio,

Ssp: nominate

**White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus***

Uruguay: Easily seen in Laguna de Rocha, a couple also in Bañados del Indio.

Monotypic following the split of Black-winged Stilt in to five species.

**Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis***

Recorded almost daily. In the long run, this is a somewhat tiresome species.

Ssp: *lampronotus*

**American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica***

Uruguay: Pleasantly common in Laguna de Rocha.

**Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris***

Uruguay: 2 in Laguna de Rocha.

**Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus***

Uruguay: A handful in Laguna de Rocha.

**Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana***

Argentina: Fairly common in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Only a few seen.

Ssp: nominate

**Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda***

Uruguay: Daily sightings at Estancia La Amorosa, with 5 the highest daily count.

**Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa hudsonica***

Uruguay: 2 in Laguna de Rocha.

**Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii***

Uruguay: Patient searching amongst the many White-rumps in Laguna de Rocha revealed two individuals.

**White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis***

Uruguay: Common in Laguna de Rocha.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis***

Uruguay: 1 was found on the southern shore of Laguna de Rocha.

**Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos***

Uruguay: A single bird in Bañados del Indio.

**Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes***

Uruguay: Recorded in Bañados del Indio and Laguna de Rocha.

**Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca***

Uruguay: Singles in Bañados del Indio and Laguna de Rocha.

**Black Skimmer *Rhyncops niger***

Uruguay: Only one seen, in Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: *intercedens*

**Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis***

Uruguay: Readily seen along the coast.

**Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus***

Argentina: Seen daily in Lago Nahuel Huapi in the Andes.

Uruguay: Easy to find in coastal areas.

**Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus***

Uruguay: Singles in La Coronilla and Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: *eurygnathus*

**Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris***

Uruguay: Singles in Laguna de Rocha and on the beach in San Antonio.

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***

Uruguay: About 50 flying past La Coronilla 27/1, and a handful in Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: nominate *hirundo*

**Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui***

Uruguay: Observed at La Coronilla and Laguna de Rocha.

**Wood Stork *Mycteria americana***

Uruguay: A single individual near Chuy.

**Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari***

Uruguay: Recorded five days, e.g. at Bañados del Indio.

**Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus***

Argentina: Few records.

Uruguay: Recorded nine days.

**Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens***

Uruguay: 3 at Bañados del Indio 27/1.

**Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis***



Argentina: Readily seen in the Andes.

**Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus***

Argentina: Seen in Los Pantanos only.

Uruguay: Scattered records, e.g. at Bañados del Indio.

Ssp: nominate *infuscatus*



**White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi***

Argentina: Only recorded at Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Very common in wetlands around Chuy, where large flocks were seen in flying to the feeding areas in early morning.

**Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja***

Uruguay: Observed five days, e.g. at Laguna de Rocha and Bañados del Indio.

**Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum***

Argentina: A single individual in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Only seen in Bañados del Indio.

Ssp: *marmoratum*

**Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax***

Argentina: One in Puerto Manzano.

Uruguay: One in Bañados del Indio, and one at km 16-17 Ruta 19.

Ssp: *obscurus* in Argentina, *hoactli* in Uruguay.

**Striated Heron *Butorides striata***

Uruguay: Seen at Estancia La Amorosa and Reserva Pan de Azucar.

Ssp: nominate *striata*

**Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi***

Uruguay: Few records, in Laguna de Rocha and Ecoparque Tacile only.

**Great Egret *Ardea alba***

Argentina: 2 only, in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Recorded seven days.

Ssp: *egretta*

**Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix***

Argentina: Singles in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Seen at Estancia La Amorosa and near San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate

**Snowy Egret *Egretta thula***

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Recorded nine days.

Ssp: nominate *thula*

**Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura***

Argentina: Few seen in the Andes.

Uruguay: Fairly common.

Ssp: *jota* in the Andes, and *ruficollis* in Uruguay. Like last year, I failed to find any Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures in Uruguay, where it is supposed to be fairly common.

**Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus***

Argentina: Commonly encountered.

**Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus***

Argentina: A nesting pair at Laguna Los Juncos. As impressive a bird as always.

**Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

Uruguay: A single bird at Laguna de Rocha.

Ssp: *carolinensis*

**White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus***

Uruguay: 1 near Chuy.

**Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni***

Argentina: One seen when driving back to Buenos Aires from Los Pantanos.

**Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus***

Argentina: One during the drive from San Carlos de Bariloche to Puerto Manzano.

**Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis***

Argentina: 6 at Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 1 Bañados del Indio.

Ssp: nominate *sociabilis*

**Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis***

Uruguay: 1 near Chuy was the only record.

**Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris***

Argentina: Singles in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: One only along Transit road Ruta 9-10.

ssp: *pucherani*, this ssp is restricted to Uruguay and northeastern Argentina.

**Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus***

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur and 1 in Palermo, Buenos Aires.

Ssp: nominate

**White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus***

Uruguay: 1 near Trinidad and 1 along Transit road Ruta 9-10 were the only records.

Ssp: nominate

**Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni***

Uruguay: During the long drive to Chuy, 100+ birds were seen soaring above the transit road between Ruta 6 and 7.

**Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia***

Argentina: 2 in the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

Uruguay: 6 at Estancia La Amorosa and 2 at km 16-17 Ruta 19.

Ssp: nominate

**Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 1 Estancia La Amorosa and 1 km 16-17 Ruta 19.

Ssp: *mathewsii*

**Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

Ssp: nominate *torquata*

**White-spotted Woodpecker *Veniliornis spilogaster***

Uruguay: 1 Transit road Ruta 9-10.

**Checkered Woodpecker *Veniliornis mixtus***

Argentina: 2 at Los Pantanos.

Ssp: nominate

**White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus***



Uruguay: 2 at Fortín de San Miguel.

**Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros***

Argentina: 2 at Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Recorded at Estancia La Amorosa and Posada de San Antonio only.

Ssp: nominate *melanochloros*

**Chilean Flicker *Colpates pitius***

Argentina: 3 Cerro Catedral

**Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris***

Frequently encountered in Uruguay.

**Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus***

Argentina: One heard drumming in Los Arrayanes, but could unfortunately not be sighted. This is the largest woodpecker in South America.

**Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata***

Uruguay: 1 shortly after entering the access road to Laguna de Rocha.

**Southern Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus***

Regular sightings in both countries.

**Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango***

Common in both countries.



**American Kestrel *Falco sparverius***

Uruguay: Recorded six days.

Ssp: *cinnamominus*

**Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis***

Uruguay: 1 Fortín de San Miguel.

Ssp: nominate

**Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus***



Common to abundant in Uruguay and Buenos Aires, absent from the Andes.

Ssp: nominate *monachus*. This is the only genuinely wild parrot in Buenos Aires, all other species constitute of feral populations.

**Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri***

Argentina: A maximum of 6 in Palermo, Buenos Aires.

**Maroon-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis***

Argentina: 2 in Palermo, Buenos Aires.

**Nanday Parakeet *Aratinga nenday***

Argentina: 2 in Palermo, Buenos Aires.

**White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus***

Argentina: 3 in Palermo, Buenos Aires.

**Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia***



Argentina: 1 Cerro Catedral.

Uruguay: 2 Laguna de Rocha southern end.

Ssp: *hellmayri* in Argentina and nominate *cunicularia* in Uruguay. It is possible highland forms are a separate species.

**White-throated Treerunner *Pygarrhichas albogularis***

Argentina: 1 Villa La Angostura and 2 in Puerto Manzano. What a stunner!

**Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus***

Daily observations in both countries, except of course in the Andes.

Ssp: nominate *rufus*

**Curve-billed Reedhaunter *Limnornis curvirostris***

Argentina: 4 in Los Pantanos.



**Narrow-billed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*



Argentina: Observed in Los Pantanos, Costanera Sur and Palermo, Buenos Aires.

Uruguay: 1 in Ecoparque Tacile, Trinidad.

Ssp: *praedatus*

**Dark-bellied Cinclodes** *Cinclodes patagonicus*

Argentina: 2 in Puerto Manzano.

Ssp: *chilensis*

**Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*

Uruguay: 1 Fortín de San Miguel.

Ssp: *acrita*

**Thorn-tailed Rayadito** *Aphrastura spinicauda*

Argentina: Pleasantly common, especially in PN Los Arrayanes.

Ssp: nominate *spinicauda*

**Freckle-breasted Thornbird** *Phacellodomus striaticollis*

Argentina: 3 or 4 in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Recorded seven days, mostly singles.

**Firewood-gatherer** *Anumbius annumbi*

Uruguay: Frequently encountered, particularly common in Estancia La Amorosa.

**Sharp-billed Canastero** *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*

Argentina: 2 at Laguna Los Juncos.

Ssp: *sordida*

**Straight-billed Reedhaunter** *Limnortyx rectirostris*

Uruguay: 1 in Bañados del Indio.



**Sulphur-bearded Spinetail *Cranioleuca sulphurifera***

Uruguay: 1 in Bañados del Indio.

**Stripe-crowned Spinetail *Cranioleuca pyrrhophia***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 2 Fortín de San Miguel, 1 Transit road Ruta 9-10.

Ssp: nominate *pyrrhophia*

**Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus***



Uruguay: 2 at the bridge between km 22-23 Ruta 19.

Ssp: *russeolus*

**Spix's Spinetail *Synallaxis spixi***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Recorded five days, especially numerous at Fortín de San Miguel where its song was heard “everywhere”, also several at Posada de San Antonio.

**Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens***

Uruguay: A pair at Fortín de San Miguel.

Ssp: *gilvigaster*

**Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus***

Argentina: 3 in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Recorded daily at Posada de San Antonio, also 2 in Reserva Pan de Azúcar.

Ssp: nominate *ruficapillus*

**Black-throated Huet-huet *Pterotochos tarnii***

Argentina: A loud and conspicuous voice in the Andes, although not very numerous – seeing the birds is a completely different thing.

**Chuca Tapaculo *Scelorchilus rubecula***

Argentina: Many heard in the Andes, particularly son in PN Los Arrayanes, and eventually a couple were seen well.

Ssp: nominate *rubecula*

**Ochre-flanked Tapaculo *Eugralla paradoxa***

Argentina: 1 at La Bellunese.

**Magellanic Tapaculo *Scytalopus magellanicus***

Argentina: Point blank views of 1 in Los Arrayanes, also 1 La Bellunese.

**Large Elaenia *Elaenia spectabilis***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

**Chilean Elaenia *Elaenia chilensis***

Argentina: Common in the Andes.

Previously treated as conspecific with White-crested Elaenia, *E.albiceps*.

**Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris***

Argentina: Seen in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: A fairly common bird.

**Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus***

Argentina: Seen in Puerto Manzano, Los Arrayanes and at Hotel Llao Llao west of Bariloche.

Ssp: nominate *parulus*

**Sooty Tyrannulet *Serpophaga nigricans***

Uruguay: 2 at Estancia La Amorosa.

**White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata***

Argentina: A few in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Scattered records.

Ssp: *munda* in Argentina, *straminea* in Uruguay.

**Warbling Doradito *Pseudocolaptes flaviventris***

Argentina: 2 in Los Pantanos.

**Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus***

Argentina: 3 Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 1 Transit road Ruta 9-10.

Ssp: *flammeiceps*

**Scarlet Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus***

Uruguay: Few records.

Previously included in Vermilion Flycatcher, *P.obscurus*.



**Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa***



Argentina: A total of 6 in Laguna Los Juncos.

Uruguay: 1 in Bañados del Indio was a surprise find considering the time of year.

**Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus***



Argentina: 1 in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 1 Estancia La Amorosa, 1 Bañados del Indio and 4 Km 16-17 Ruta 19.

Ssp: nominate *perspicillatus*



**Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys***

Uruguay: 2 at the bridge between km 22-23 Ruta 19.

**Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope***

Argentina: 1 at La Bellunese and 1 in Los Arrayanes.

Ssp: nominate *pyrope*

**Grey Monjita *Xolmis cinereus***

Uruguay: Seen daily at Estancia La Amorosa.

Ssp: nominate *cinereus*

**White Monjita *Xolmis irupero***



Uruguay: Recorded eight days, always in ones or twos.

Ssp: nominate

**Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa***

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Scattered records.

Ssp: nominate *rixosa*

**Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus***

Daily records, does not occur in the Andes.

Ssp: *argentinus*

**Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus***

Argentina: A handful in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: A few sightings.



**Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus***

Seen almost daily in lowland areas, does not occur in the Andes.

Ssp: nominate *melancholicus*

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana***

Argentina: Singles in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Common throughout.

Ssp: nominate

**Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni***

Argentina: 1 in Los Pantanos.

Ssp: *ferocior*

**Rufous-tailed Plantcutter *Phytotoma rara***



Argentina: 1 at La Bellunese, and 1 confiding individual at Hotel Llao Llao west of Bariloche.

**White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus***

Argentina: Males seen in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Ssp: *spixii*

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis***

Argentina: 1 Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Daily records around posada de San Antonio.

Ssp: *ochrocephala*

**Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi***

Argentina: A handful in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Several along Transit road Ruta 9-10, 1 in Reserva Pan de Azucar.

Ssp: *diversus*. A long-expected split from Red-eyed Vireo, *V. olivaceus*.

**Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops***

Uruguay: 3 at Estancia La Amorosa.

Ssp: nominate *chrysops*. This is about as far south as the species ranges.

**White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa***

Argentina: Fairly common in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Recorded six days.

**Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta leucopyga***

Argentina: Small numbers most days in the Andes.

**Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea***

Observed daily except in the Andes where the species does not occur.

Ssp: *macrorhamphus*

**Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera***

Readily seen in both countries, and like preceding species, does not occur in the Andes.

Ssp: *fusca*

**Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca***

Regularly encountered in both countries, surprisingly none seen in the Andes.

Ssp: nominate *cyanoleuca*

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis***

Uruguay: 1 outside Piriápolis.

Ssp: nominate *ruficollis*

**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

Uruguay: 3 at Bañados del Indo.

Ssp: *erythrogaster*

**House Wren *Troglodytes aedon***

Fairly common in both countries.

Ssp: *bonariae* in lowlands, *chilensis* in the Andes.

**Masked Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila dumicola***

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 2 Fortín de San Miguel.

Ssp: nominate *dumicola*

**Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus***

Almost daily observations in lowlands.

Ssp: *modulator*

**Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

Argentina: Recorded in Los Pantanos, Costanera Sur and Palermo, Buenos Aires.

Introduced.

**Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris***

Argentina: Seen most days in Buenos Aires.

Uruguay: Recorded five days, particularly numerous at Fortín de San Miguel.

Ssp: nominate *rufiventris*



**Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii***



Argentina: This handsome thrush was seen daily in the Andes.

Ssp: *magellanicus*

**Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus***

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Seen daily at Posada de San Antonio, none elsewhere.

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

Common virtually throughout.

Introduced.

**Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri***

Argentina: 1 in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: 2 Estancia La Amorosa.

Ssp: *brasiliensis*

**Black-chinned Siskin *Spinus barbatus***

Argentina: Fairly common to common in vicinity of Villa La Angostura, e.g. in Los Arrayanes.

**Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus***

Argentina: Small number in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Scattered records.

Ssp: nominate *magellanicus*

**Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis***

Recorded almost daily in both countries.

Ssp: *australis* in the Andes, *subtorquata* elsewhere

**Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis***

Uruguay: Fairly common at Estancia La Amorosa, with a few also at Km 16-17 ruta 19.

Ssp: *xanthornus*

**White-browed Blackbird *Leistes superciliaris***

Uruguay: 1 at Estancia La Amorosa, and 1 at Km 16-17 Ruta 19.



**White-browed Blackbird**



**Long-tailed Meadowlark**

**Long-tailed Meadowlark *Lesites loyca***

Argentina: 20+ in Laguna Los Juncos area.

Ssp: nominate *loyca*

**Solitary Cacique *Cacicus solitarius***

Argentina: 1 in Los Pantanos.

**Variable Oriole *Icterus pyrrhopterus***

Argentina: Singles in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: 3 in San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate *pyrrhopterus*

**Screaming Cowbird *Molothrus rufoaxillaris***

Uruguay: 1 Estancia La Amorosa.

**Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis***

Recorded almost daily in both countries, although few individuals in the Andes.

Ssp: nominate *bonariensis*

**Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaews***

Argentina: Readily seen in the Andes.

Ssp: nominate

**Scarlet-headed Blackbird *Amblyramphus holosericeus***

Argentina: 5 of this beauty in Los Pantanos.

**Greyish Baywing *Agelaioides badius***

Argentina: Seen in Buenos Aires, Los Pantanos and Costanera sur.

Uruguay: Only seen in Estancia La Amorosa and elsewhere in the vicinity of Trinidad.

Ssp: nominate *badius*

**Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius***

Uruguay: Fairly common in Banados del Indio, not found anywhere else.



**Chestnut-capped Blackbird *Chrysomus ruficapillus***



Uruguay: Seen only at Km 16-17 Ruta 19.

Ssp: nominate *ruficapillus*

**Saffron-cowled Blackbird *Xanthopsar flavus***

Uruguay: About 15 at Bañados del Indio.

**Brown-and-yellow Marshbird *Pseudoleistes virescens***

Uruguay: Seen at Estancia La Amorosa, Bañados del Indio and Km 16-17 Ruta 19.

**Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata***

Argentina: Several in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Only two records, 1 at the bridge between km 22-23 Ruta 19 and 1 in Bañados del Indio.

**Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitaiyumi***

Uruguay: Singles at Posada de San Antonio.

Ssp: nominate *pitaiyumi*

**White-rimmed Warbler *Myiothlypis leucoblephara***

Uruguay: Observed at Fortín de San Miguel, Posada de San Antonio and Reserva Pan de Azucar.

Ssp: The type locality of race *lemurum* is located within miles from Reserva Pan de Azucar near Piriápolis, and it is therefore tempting to assume that the birds there are indeed *lemurum*. However, as one moves north from this area, they appear to intergrade with nominate, making it more or less impossible to assess records to a certain subspecies.

**Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus***

Uruguay: Only found in San Antonio area (including tranist road Ruta 9-10).

Ssp: *azarae*

**Red Tanager *Piranga flava***

Uruguay: 1 Transit road Ruta 9-10.

Ssp: nominate *flava*

**Glaucous-blue Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia glaucocaerulea***

Uruguay: A stunning male at Fortín de San Miguel.

**Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata***

Argentina: A few in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Recorded almost daily, frequently flushed from roadsides during driving.

**Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca***

Argentina: About 10 in Los Pantanos.

Ssp: nominate *sayaca*

**Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis***

Uruguay: 2 in vicinity of Piriápolis.

Ssp: nominate *bonariensis*

**Diademed Tanager *Stephanophorus diadematus***

Argentina: 2 in Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: A dozen or so along Transit road Ruta 9-10.

**Chestnut-backed Tanager *Tangara preciosa***

Uruguay: A pair seen along Transit road Ruta 9-10.

**Grey-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi***

Argentina. 1 in Laguna Los Juncos.

Ssp: *caniceps*

**Patagonian Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus***



Argentina: Fairly common to common in the Andes.

**Mourning Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti***

Argentina: 1 Laguna Los Juncos.

Ssp: nominate *fruticeti*

**Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus unicolor***

Argentina: 1 Cerro Catedral.

Ssp: *unicolor*

**Yellow-bridled Finch *Melanodera xanthogramma***



Argentina: Two pairs seen on Cerro Catedral.

Ssp: *barrosi*

**Long-tailed Reed-Finch *Donacospiza albifrons***

Argentina: 3 at Los Pantanos.

**Common Diuca-Finch *Diuca diuca***

Argentina: 3 enroute San Carlos de Bariloche to Villa La Angostura, and 10 at Laguna Los Juncos.

Ssp: *minor*

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

Argentina: Frequent in Los Pantaos, less so in Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Primarily recorded at Estancia La Amorosa.

**Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola***

Argentina: Seen in Los Pantaos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Recorded most days.

Ssp: *pelzelni*

**Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola***

Uruguay: Seen at Estancia La Amorosa and Bañados del Indio.

Ssp: *luteiventris*



**Lesser Grass-Finch *Emberizoides ypiranganus***

Uruguay: 2 at Fortín de San Miguel.

**Great Pampa-Finch *Embernagra platensis***

Argentina: 4 at Los Pantanos.

Uruguay: Recorded eight days.

Ssp: nominate *platensis*



The smallest car ferry we have ever seen, roughly two thirds of the river width – however, facing a collapsed bridge, a very welcome solution!

**Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis***

Argentina: 1 in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: nominate *similis*

**Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens***

Argentina: 1 in Los Pantanos.

Ssp: nominate *coerulescens*

**Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantiirostris***

Argentina: 2 in Costanera Sur.

Ssp: nominate *aurantiistrostris*

**Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris***

Uruguay: A male at Km 16-17 Ruta 19.

Ssp: *melanocephala*

**Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens***

Argentina: Small numbers in Los Pantanos and Costanera Sur.

Uruguay: Seen at Fortín de San Miguel and Reserva Pan de Azucar.



Ssp: nominate *caerulescens*