







# CHILE Jan 7 - 18, 2019 TRIP REPORT



Photos: Burrowing Parrot, Northern Royal Albatross, Westland Petrel, and group in Conguillio NP

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favorite.

- Diademed Sandpiper-Plover
- Ticking Doradito
- Inca Tern
- Northern Royal Albatross
- Black-headed Duck
- Crag Chilia
- Rufous-tailed Hawk
- Burrowing Parrot
- Torrent Duck
- Des Mur's Wiretail
- Magellanic Tapaculo
- Southern Royal Albatross
- Fuegian Steamer Duck
- Dolphin Gull
- Northern Giant Petrel
- Plumbeous Rail
- Franklin's Gull
- EASTER ISLAND
- Moai's
- History & Archaeology

- Chestnut-throated Huet-huet
- Magellanic Woodpecker
- Moustached Turca
- Chacao Tapaculo
- Peruvian Booby
- Great Shrike-Tyrant
- Westland Petrel
- Andean Condor
- Magellanic Horned Owl
- Rosy-billed Pochard
- Pincoya Storm Petrel
- Black-necked Swan
- Magellanic Penguin
- Rock Shag
- Araucaria Forest
- Pelagics
- Conguillio NP
- Phoenix Petrel
- Christmas Shearwater
- White-tailed Tropicbird

- Humboldt Penguin
- Rufous-tailed Plantcutter
- Austral Pygmy-Owl
- Giant Hummingbird
- Salvin's Albatross
- Black-browed Albatross
- White-sided Hillstar
- Spectacled Duck
- White-throated Hawk
- Flying Steamer Duck
- Coscoroba Swan
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Ochre-flanked Tapaculo
- Southern Giant Petrel
- Red-legged Cormorant
- Volcanoes
- Pisco Sours
- Gray Noddy
- Herald Petrel
- Kermadec Petrel

#### SUMMARY:

Our central and south central Chile tour started in Santiago where we visited the coast and also the high mountains in search of some very special birds, such as Inca Terns and the amazing Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. The changes in habitats and scenery were spectacular and just like

the rest of Chile make it a very unique and wonderful country. We enjoyed an amazing pelagic where albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters entertained us. Guided by a wonderful friend Claudio we then headed south where even more unique scenery included the Araucaria Forest surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes and yet another awesome bird the huge Magellanic Woodpecker, actually four together on one tree!. Even further south the temperatures dropped a little but the scenery remained spectacular. We cruised out of a beautiful big sailing boat in search of the newly described Pincoya Storm Petrel and managed to get brief views of two birds. Then lastly we moved on to Chiloe Island and here we watched many shorebirds on the mudflats and took our last pelagic out and around some islands. Here we enjoyed more seabirds up close as well as two species of Penguins, some beautiful cormorants and even a family of Flightless Steamer Ducks. This wonderful tour was also a culinary delight with some



wonderful meals and of course some wonderful Chilean Wines. We had a wonderful group of people, some great birds and some good laughs. Thanks Claudio.

#### EASTER SLAND:

Four of our group continued on our post tour extension to Rapa Nui (Easter Island) with Gina & Steve. The day after our main tour ended we flew 3,756km from Santiago out into the middle of the Pacific Ocean to Easter Island. There were few land birds so highlights on this fascinating island came in the form of many historical and archaeological sites where the famous stone statues (Moai) were a source of wonderment. We enlivened the birding considerably by going out on 2 boat trips to the small Motu islands. Here we enjoyed many petrels. boobies and frigatebirds.



#### Batuco Marshes - La Dormida Pass - Renaca - 7th Jan

With our entire group arriving the previous day, we were all hopefully rested and ready to go after our breakfast. Claudio our good friend and guide met us along with Jorge who was a trainee guide. We took



our luggage to our spacious coach and set off to our first destination just a short distance from the city. A shallow lake surrounded by dry scrub had us looking at our first Chimango Caracaras, a bird that is common in Chile and was likely to be seen every day. A few Picui Ground Doves and Chilean Mockingbirds were noted, a Long-tailed Meadowlark and then as we walked towards the shallow lake we spotted a nice Burrowing Owl perched on a grassy mound. Southern Lapwings were easily seen and then looking towards the lake we could see lots of Brown-hooded Gulls, a few Blacknecked Stilts, Yellow-billed Teals, Snowy, Great and a lone Western Cattle Egret plus a few White-faced Ibis. Out on the water were a group of Black-necked Swans, lots of Whitetufted Grebes, some Great Grebes accompanied by their stripy chicks. Then there was Cinnamon Teal, Chiloe Wigeon, Red Shoveler and a few Yellow-billed Pintail. A Cocoi Heron hid in the reeds at the back of the lake and lots of Red-gartered

Coots were swimming around and after extensive searching through these we eventually found both

White-winged and Red-fronted Coot. A female Cinereous Harrier landed in the distance but the heat haze was making viewing it difficult. A pair of Lake Ducks disappeared behind some reeds. Neotropic Cormorants sat around the lake edge and all in all we were seeing a lot of birds and having a great time. Eventually we had to leave and head towards a sleepy town where we were to have lunch. In fact the sleepy town was so sleepy that our intended restaurant was closed!

So we made our way to another which was thankfully open and very accommodating. With lunch over we headed up into the hills and through a pass where we made a stop in a very different cactus scrub habitat. As we walked a sandy track we eventually came across a few showy **White-crested** 



Elaenias, some Tufted Tit-Tyrants and a Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail. We heard a close White-

throated Tapaculo but unfortunately it wouldn't show. Some people glimpsed a Giant Hummingbird zip overhead and few people got brief views of one of our target birds the Dusky-tailed Canastero. As we walked back a Shining Tree Iguana was seen. We then set off towards the coast and our lovely waterfront hotel. The area was busy with traffic and hundreds of people on the beaches and sidewalks. We actually drove past our hotel just a short distance and stopped beside a rocky outcrop. The area was teeming with birds. Hundreds of Peruvian Pelicans and Kelp Gulls sat around on the rocks, there were good numbers of Peruvian Boobies flying past and a Parasitic Jaeger had been seen chasing the gulls, while out amongst the Neotropic Cormorants were a couple of attractive Guanay Cormorants. A few







people also saw **Red-legged Cormorant** and there were a few Blackish Oystercatchers a Whimbrel, **Ruddy Turnstones** and a **Seaside Cinclodes** amongst the rocks. An **Elegant Tern** flew past however the real highlight for most of us was the stunning close views we had of **Inca Terns** and even some chicks. These unique looking terns allowed great photo opportunities and delighted everyone. Out in the bay there was a frenzy of birds flying around and feeding, plus good numbers of **South American Sea Lions**. Eventually we left this amazing scene and drove the short distance back to our hotel, where we later enjoyed a fabulous meal and went through our first checklist. What a great start to our central Chile tour!

#### Campana National Park - Cachagua Island - 8th Jan

After breakfast we set off towards Campana National Park. This park is in the low hills and consists of dry cactus scrub and rocky hillsides with some rare and endemic Chilean palms that have trunks that

almost look like the African Baobabs. On arrival we soon found good numbers of Chilean Mockingbirds and both Rufouscollared Sparrow and Common Diuca Finch which were plentiful and feeding together in groups near the main car park. Some noisy Austral Blackbirds were seen and then several California Quails were spotted running across the dusty tracks. As we started walking we heard our first **Moustached Turca** and it wasn't long before we were all enjoying fabulous views of this large and unique looking endemic as the bird climbed up into a dead tree and showed off for all of 10 minutes. Very happy with this we saw more Common Diuca Finches, a Long-tailed Meadowlark and then great scope views of a Chilean Pigeon perched in a tree top. Entering and area of woodland we found several active Thorn-tailed Rayaditos as well as a nice pair of Striped Woodpeckers. A couple of **Dusky-tailed Canastero** were seen reasonably well and both Black-chested Buzzard Eagle and Harris's Hawk flew over.



While trying to locate a non-cooperative **White-throated Tapaculo** some of us got to see a small rodent called a **Degu**. We then tried a different track where we found a **Great Shrike-Tyrant** shortly followed by an **Austral Pygmy-Owl** which was eventually chased off by the Shrike Tyrant. We were about to leave when a **White-throated Tapaculo** started calling so with a little luck and perseverance some of the group got brief looks as it kept itself mostly out of sight. We then made our way to the car park seeing many of the species we had already seen. We boarded the coach and set off toward our

lunch stop. Afterwards we drove to the coast and Cachagua Island. We looked a little out of place walking along the beach all dressed in our birding gear and weighed down with cameras and scopes while the rest of the beach were in swimsuits and bikinis. Anyway we got to a little rocky headland that looked across at a tiny rocky island just a few hundred metres away, and here we could watch a few comical Humboldt Penguins amongst numerous Neotropic Cormorants, Peruvian Pelicans and Kelp Gulls. In the garden of a very nice shoreline house we saw a Giant Hummingbird feeding on some flowers and a pair of Rufous-tailed Plantcutters and a Gray-

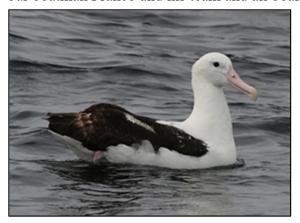
**hooded Sierra Finch.** Down in amongst the rocks



Otters that would show for a few seconds then disappear underwater and appear somewhere completely different for a few more seconds. Several noisy Blackish Oystercatchers were noted before we had to leave. Back up near the coach was another pair of Rufous-tailed Plantcutters giving us another chance to see this odd looking Cotinga. We then moved on to a small pond surrounded by reeds but access had now been restricted and we were not allowed in. Our brief time here and looking through the wire fence produced nice views of Franklin's Gulls, Red-gartered Coots, Red Shoveler, Lake Duck with chicks, Yellow-billed Pintail, White-tufted Grebes, a Lesser Yellowlegs and a colony of Snowy Egrets. It was time we headed back towards our hotel, and as we drove along the coastal road we were amazed at the thousands of birds either sat on the rocks or actively feeding just off the shoreline. Back at our hotel and looking out of one of the windows we could see lots of South American Terns amongst several hundred Franklin's Gulls and of course the Inca Terns and chicks that seemed to be occupying any rocky area they could find.

#### Val Paraiso Pelagic - 9th Jan

Today was our first pelagic day, so after breakfast we headed for the port at Valparaiso. We met up with our boatman Franco and his team and all boarded the boat and set off on a reasonably calm sea. In the



harbour we saw **South American Terns**, one **Elegant Tern**, lots of **Peruvian Boobies** and a few **Peruvian Pelicans**. As we went further out to sea the swell picked up a bit but it was still good viewing conditions. Our first **Peruvian Diving Petrels** were seen shortly followed by small numbers of **Sooty Shearwaters**. The next species to appear was a couple of **Pink-footed Shearwaters**, so at this point we did our first bit of chumming. Soon the shearwaters were all around us giving spectacular views. A couple of **Westland Petrels** appeared and then a massive **Northern Royal Albatross** flew in. More and more shearwaters arrived including a **Manx Shearwater** 

and then we had our first Salvin's Albatross. We moved further out to sea and started our second

chumming session and attracted the same species as before but now we had a few **Black-browed Albatrosses** and some **Wilson's Storm Petrels**. Two **Chilean Skuas** were seen and at the end of 5



hours at sea we had encountered maybe 5 different Northern Royal Albatross, 6 or more Salvin's and 5 or 6 Black-browed Albatross, plus numerous Pinkfooted Shearwaters and Sooty Shearwaters. The light had been perfect and the swell was moderate enabling everyone to see the birds well and not feel any ill effects of being at sea. It later transpired in the evening while checking our photos that we had also had a Southern Royal Albatross fly in to our boat and check us out. As we returned into harbour small groups of Guanay Cormorants flew past and we got great looks at a Redlegged Cormorant. After enjoying some wine and cheese on board we eventually docked and thanked our excellent crew. Moving on in our coach we drove to El Peral Lagoon where we arrived mid-afternoon. This reserve had several viewing points and platforms and

we were soon looking through the hordes of ducks which included mostly Red Shoveler, Yellow-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Lake Ducks and a few Chiloe Wigeon. Our target species was then located and we saw 5 male and a few female Black-headed Ducks which are quite a rare and unusual species in that it is the only brood parasitic duck in the world, meaning that it lays its eggs in other birds' nests. There was lots of Silvery Grebes on the lake and a few White-tufted and Pied-billed Grebes and later we also found a pair of Great Grebes asleep. At the back of the lake



back to Santiago and a city hotel.



were two Coscoroba Swans and three species of coot were seen. Among the hundreds of Franklin's Gulls were small numbers of Brownhooded Gulls and a lone Gray Gull. In the reedy edges we found Spot-flanked Gallinule, Blackcrowned Night Heron and a distant Plumbeous Rail. In the scrubby bushes were Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Austral Thrushes, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail and Tufted Tit-Tyrants and we also got good looks at a male Yellow-winged Blackbird. Down by the reeds we found two juvenile Many-colored Rush-Tyrants to end another fabulous stop. From here we then drove

## El Yeso Reservoir - 10th Jan

This morning we had an early breakfast and then took a smaller coach through Santiago and then followed the Maipo River Valley all the way up to 8,500 ft. and the El Yeso Reservoir. The water on the reservoir was a spectacular aqua marine blue and looked spectacular framed by a background of snow-capped mountains. We drove right to the end and then set out on a short walk to a boggy area where hopefully our main target species would be found. Beside our parking spot we saw several **Grayhooded Sierra-Finches**, **Greater Yellow Finch** and some **Yellow-rumped Siskins**. An immature **Andean Condor** flew overhead later followed by a superb adult. We eventually arrived at the boggy

area and within a couple of minutes we were watching our bird of the day the exquisite and stunningly good looking **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover**. The light was perfect and the bird fed just 30mts away totally unconcerned at our presence. We enjoyed this superb bird for 30 minutes or more and then got distracted by a **White-sided Hillstar** perched in the top of some reeds. We then left the sandpiper-plover happily feeding and continued our search of the area. On the scattered rocks we found **White-browed Ground-Tyrants** and a **Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant**. Beside a small stream were several **Crested Ducks** and a pair of smart **Andean Gulls**, while along the stream edge we watched both **Buff-winged** and **Gray-flanked Cinclodes** side-by-side.



More siskins and yellow-finches were seen and then a Correndera Pipit landed on the water's edge and was seen well by all. A pair of Gray-breasted Seedsnipes posed for photos and on a bigger patch of water we saw Yellow-billed Teal beside more Crested Ducks and a Red-gartered Coot. Finally as we made our way back to the coach an Austral Negrito suddenly appeared and showed well. Back at the coach we had our picnic lunch and then slowly headed back down the valley. We stopped in one area and after a short while got brief views of a pair of very mobile Straight-billed Canastero. In the same area were Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrants and some very tame Rufous-banded Miners. Further down the road we tried and failed to see the endemic Crag Chilia but we were rewarded by great views of a Mountain Viscacha found by Wendy. Continuing on our next stop was more productive and we got to see a pair of Crag Chilia plus a Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail. It was now very hot so we headed back down the valley and stopped for a refreshing break in the quaint town of San Jose de Maipo. We enjoyed some drinks and freshly made empanadas before setting off back to our hotel in Santiago and the end of another great day.

#### Farellones - Maipo River Mouth - 11th Jan



This morning after breakfast we left the city of Santiago and headed up into the mountains and Farellones Ski Resort. After endless switchbacks we stopped and found a spot with many Mourning Sierra-Finches, plus one or two Band-tailed Sierra-Finches. Our first Black-winged Ground Doves were spotted and two Chilean Flickers flew off before we got a good view. Higher up another stop produced a fabulous Lesser Horned Owl a split from Great horned Owl. In the same area we had Black-chinned Siskins, a Cinereous Ground-Tyrant, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter and superb views of Black-winged Ground Dove. Overhead flew a few majestic Andean Condors, and then we moved to another area with fantastic mountain views

and even Mountain Caracara and an Aplomado Falcon perched on the rocks. We then found an Andean Condor sat on the cliff face where we were able to use the scopes for prolonged good views...

Further searching of this area produced Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrants, some very nice Alpine flowers and then Black-chested Buzzard Eagles, Variable Hawks and more Andean Condors.

Several Mountain Viscachas were seen then we finished this area off with good views of a pair of Scale-throated Earthcreepers. Leaving this scenic spot we drove down the mountain and headed towards the coast. Once at the coast we visited an area of reeds and a coastal lagoon. We soon found a Rufous-tailed Plantcutter and a pair of Spectacled Tyrants, shortly followed by our main target a Ticking Doradito which gave good views even though it was very mobile. We then checked another area where three South American Snipe flew



off and we found a couple of **Many-colored Rush Tyrants** and great looks at a **Wren-like Rushbird**. On the open lagoon were hundreds of Black Skimmers plus a Collared Plover, Sanderling, Whimbrel and many distant gulls. We then left this area and set off on the long drive south to Vilches where we arrived in time for a late dinner and checklist.

#### National Reserve Altos de Lircay - 12th Jan

This morning after breakfast we looked at the many Green-backed Firecrowns coming to feeders in



the lodge garden. We then drove just a few minutes down the road to National Reserve Altos de Lircay. The forest here is predominately Beech and we slowly walked one of the tracks to see what we could find. First up were the ever present Thorn-tailed Rayaditos and a White-throated Treerunner as well as several Austral Parakeets flying over. We then heard our main target species the difficult Chestnut-throated Huet-huet. After about an hour of cat and mouse with this vocal but elusive bird we conceded defeat and went in search of other targets. Down by a stream we heard the loud call of a Chacao Tapaculo and after quite a few different strategies and attempts to see it we eventually got one bird to give multiple but brief views which allowed everyone to see something of yet another tricky species. We tried another Chestnut-throated Huet-huet which gave all to brief tantalizing views to just one or two people. We then had our picnic lunch and right in the middle of this we were distracted when a Variable Hawk flew overhead and landed in a dead tree. We then got excellent views of a party of White-throated Treerunners before

returning to the lodge for a short break. Later on we revisited the reserve but found it to be very quiet and we never added any new sightings to the afternoon although we did see birds we had seen in the morning. Tired we returned back to the lodge in time for dinner.

#### Lake Colbún - Temuco - 13th Jan

Today we left the hotel and headed towards Lake Colbún. Our first roadside stop overlooking this massive lake which was teeming with waterfowl produced a few **Black-faced Ibis** and a group of **Upland Geese**. Out on the water were numerous coot species, countless **Yellow-billed Teal** and **Chiloe Wigeon** and **Yellow-billed Pintail**. From another view point Gina found a male **Rosy-billed Pochard**,



and there was **Great** and **White-tufted Grebes** and several sleeping **Andean Ducks**. We then moved on to a river valley where our first stop was induced by the spotting of a pair of **Torrent Ducks** sat on a rock in the fast flowing river. We enjoyed great scope views of this lovely pair of ducks before moving on to our next stop which was for our main target of the day the superb **Burrowing Parrot**. We enjoyed fabulous views of small groups of noisy parrots across the river perched in the tree tops before a few flew over and gave excellent close views and photo opportunities. We then turned around and heading back past the lake we made a final stop and managed to find a lone **Spectacled Duck**. We then set off on the long drive to Temuco where we arrived in the early evening ready for the next day's adventure.

#### Conquillio National Park - 14th Jan

This morning we left our hotel early, missed coffee!! and continued on to the Conguillio National Park. We drove through the larva fields created many years ago by the eruption of the Llaima Volcano and arrived at an idyllic isolated lodge where we had breakfast. Afterwards we headed further into the park



through Southern Beech forests until we came to the unique habitat of Araucaria or Monkey Puzzle trees. Here we took a trail into the forest. A Magellanic Tapaculo showed particularly well and then further on in an area of bamboo we got to see a dainty **Des Mur's Wiretail**. We then heard the distinctive loud double knock of our main target bird and within a few minutes we were watching a huge female Magellanic Woodpecker perched high in a large tree above us. As we tried to get a better viewing angle a male bird flew in and joined the female. After excellent looks at these two birds we moved higher along the trail where we were suddenly confronted by no less than four Magellanic Woodpeckers all on one tree together. Wow what a sight! We enjoyed prolonged looks at these magnificent birds before they moved off through the forest. Next up was a calling Chacao Tapaculo which eventually gave brief views in the undergrowth. Returning back down the trail and after a short wait we got super looks at a **Patagonian Tyrant** perched in some dead tree branches. We tried another pair of Magellanic Tapaculos

that gave us unbelievable views and one almost sat on Gina's head. Lots of **Peruvian Lilies** were dotted through the forest and we heard a **Black-throated Huet-huet** but it never showed itself. An

unidentified blue lizard showed well and then we took a small trail down to the edge of a very scenic lake. A pair of Flying Steamer Ducks was sat out on the water and much further away was hundreds of White-winged Coots and hundreds of Silvery Grebes. As we ate our picnic in this wonderfully scenic spot an Andean Condor flew over the mountains, and Peruvian Lilies were in flower. We then left and drove to another area where we found Fire-eyed Diucon and a Patagonian Sierra-Finch. As we listened to another distant Black-throated Huet-huet Gina spotted a rare White-throated Hawk circling overhead. We left the forest and headed slowly back making a quick



stop overlooking a lake, but unfortunately the best we could find were a Spectacled Duck and another

Flying Steamer Duck. Back at the forest lodge we took a short walk into the forest but it was dead quiet. We then had a little relaxing time where we were served with wine and other drinks before heading back to Temuco.

#### Alerce Andino National Park - 15th Jan

After a very nice breakfast we loaded the coach and set off south towards Puerto Montt. The straight drive took all morning and we arrived at this coastal town in time for lunch. Struggling through our

massive sandwiches we then drove along the coast to Alerce Andino National Park. This park represents one of the most biodiverse areas in Chile with many unique and interesting plants. We walked one of the trails and tried hard with a calling pair of Ochre-flanked Tapaculos which were glimpsed by a few people as they remained deep inside the bamboo. A Chacao Tapaculo was also seen briefly and many others heard. A few Greenbacked Firecrowns flew around and White-crested Elaenias were ever present. Leaving this park we made our back to Puerto Montt stopping along the shoreline to search the beach. We saw hundreds of Franklin's and Brown-hooded Gulls, plus Kelp



Gulls and a flock of Hudsonian Godwits, plus Greater Yellowlegs, Whimbrel and American Oystercatcher. It then started to rain so we returned to our comfy hotel.

#### Reloncaví Sound - Chíloe Island - 16th Jan

This morning we left the hotel after breakfast and then drove to a nearby harbor where we met our skipper Jamie who took us to his beautiful 60ft sailing boat. We set sail and headed out into the

Reloncavi Sound. It was very calm which meant few birds were flying. We passed countless **Brown-hooded**, **Kelp** and some **Franklin's Gulls**, some close **Imperial Cormorants**, and good numbers of **South American Terns**. As we went out further we got good close views of groups of adult and juvenile **Magellanic Penguins**.

Parasitic Jaegers were seen in both pale and dark morphs, and then after a few hours we spotted the first of two Pincoya Storm Petrels with the first resting on the water due to the fairly calm conditions. Unfortunately it flew off before everyone could get on it. The second petrel was in flight and once again not everyone could get on it which



was rather frustrating. We slowly returned having a fabulous meal on board and after docking we drove the short distance to the ferry which would take us to Chiloe Island. As we crossed the channel we

could see a couple of Peale's Dolphins, plus some Sooty
Shearwaters and a lone Pink-footed Shearwater. There were
also Imperial Cormorants present. Once on the island we drove
the coastal road stopping to check the shoreline and mud flats.
Hundreds of Hudsonian Godwits were seen, along with Baird's
Sandpipers, Whimbrel and a few Greater Yellowlegs.
American Oystercatcher and some Red Knot were found and
we enjoyed good looks at Black-necked Swans, Coscoroba
Swans and Fuegian Steamer Ducks. Along the roadside we saw
a couple of Grassland Yellow Finches and on the beach were
Dark-bellied Cinclodes. A couple of rare giant Bumble Bees
(Bombus dahlbomii) were spotted, and this bee is in immediate



danger of extinction due to the import of a European bee which carries diseases that the Big Bee has no resistance to. Finally a very showy **Plumbeous Rail** put on a great performance for us. We then continued on to our lodge at Puñihuil and its superb panoramic views across the ocean.

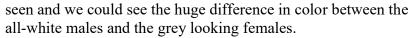
#### Pelagic - Puerto Veras - 17th Jan

A beautiful sunny morning and we had breakfast with wonderful views across the bay. Afterwards and

Owl which gave great views. We then headed the short distance down to the beach where our speedy boat and crew awaited us. Along the beach were Blackish and American Oystercatchers. It was an experience to board our boat via a pedestrian wheeled platform but we all managed it and were on our way out to sea. It was a little choppy today so we first crossed the channel to visit a South American Sea Lion colony. We had fabulous looks at these creatures with many young sea lions ganging up to nervously come and look at us. There were several attractive Dolphin Gulls on show and the tops of the rocks were full of Guanay Cormorants.

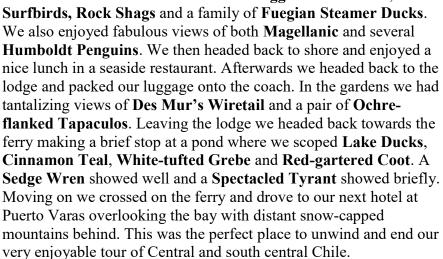


A Marine Otter put in a brief appearance and several Kelp Geese were



Moving out to sea we had hundreds and then once we started chumming a few **Pink-footed Shearwaters** came in to investigate. A lone **Black-browed Albatross** circled us a few times and then later a **Southern Giant Petrel** did the same. We

then returned towards shore and a couple of small rocky islands. Here we got close up views of nesting **Redlegged Cormorants**, some





We would like to give immense thanks to our wonderful Chilean guide Claudio and his trainee Jorge.

We would also like to thank everyone on this tour for making it a pleasure to lead.

Gina & Steve

# Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

## Santiago - Rapa Nui - Ahu Tahai - 19th Jan

A third of our group continued on to Easter Island known locally as Rapa Nui. It was amazing to think

that this little island was 3756 km from Santiago and took 5hrs to fly there! This remote Polynesian island is famed for its archaeological sites, including nearly over 700 monumental statues called moai, created by inhabitants during the 13th–16th centuries. Once we arrived we found it pleasantly warm and it didn't take long before we were transported to our lovely hotel just 5 minutes away. There are not many land birds to see save the **Common** Diuca Finch, House Sparrows and Chimango Caracaras all of which were introduced after the destruction of all the forests and trees many years ago. Our first afternoon took us to our first archaeological site just outside of town called Ahu Tahai. Here our guide Jose explained the history of the Moais (huge stone figures), as well as other structures such as the boat-like houses (hare paenga) and the chicken houses (hare moa). We also visited the grave of her grandfather William Mulloy. This was a great pre introduction to the island and its history. We were supposed to go on a 2 hour pelagic to the small islands of Motu, but the sea swell was too high and our



boatman cancelled the trip. So we headed back to the hotel where a few of us then walked to the cliff top and scoped the distant islands. We could make out small groups of **Brown Noddies** but that was it.

### Anakena - Ahu Tongaríkí - Rano Raraku - Motu - 20th Jan



This morning we were up early and some of us took a short walk towards the hillside just up road from our hotel. It was very quiet bird wise, with countless numbers of **Common Diuca Finches**, some **Chimango Caracaras** and of course **House Sparrows**. Dogs were plentiful and we acquired a small black and white dog that followed us for the duration of our walk. Back at the hotel we enjoyed a lovely breakfast before meeting up with Jose and setting off for a day of exploration.

We drove along the southern coastline

to our first stop at **Anakena** where a group of 5 Moai sat beside a golden sandy beach. We then drove towards Hanga Roa and the Rano Raraku volcano. Our next stop was Te Pito Kura where the fallen remains of one of the largest ever moai still lay. Its ears measures 2m and its height was 10m with an estimated weight of 80 tons. Also at this site we saw the **magnetic stone** from which the site gets its name Te Pito Kura meaning "navel of light". This smooth stone is said to concentrate a magnetic and supernatural energy called mana. Moving on the view across the island



was spectacular but this didn't distract us too much from getting to one of the most famous of all sites

Ahu Tongariki, the 15 moai statues. This site is famous worldwide as the iconic photo of Easter Island and its standing statues. We were lucky again in that there was hardly anyone else here. The first lone statue however welcoming us to the site is called "the traveller moai" and it got its name from being shipped to Japan for an exhibition in 1982 and later returning back to its position on the island. It faces in the opposite direction to the nearby 15 moai and may have gained more fame than its nearby stone relatives. While we were about to walk



down to the 15 moai we heard a calling **Chilean Tinamou** a species introduced to the island for hunting, but now established and living happily among the long grassy hillsides. Try as we may only a couple of people managed to see the bird as it walked between the rocks and grass. So to the statues of Tongariki (which means easterly winds). **Ahu Tongariki** is the largest ceremonial structure built on

Easter Island and the most important megalithic monument in all of Polynesia. These huge statues which form a row on a central altar about 100 meters long, turn their backs to the sea to project their mana or spiritual protection to the ancient village that existed here. These moai measure between 5.6 and 8.7 meters, with the highest and heaviest at (86 tons) being the fifth on the right. Unfortunately, as happened with the rest of the ceremonial platforms (ahu) of the island, the moai were knocked down during the violent episodes that took place between the different island clans probably in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1960 the east of the island was hit by a huge tsunami which destroyed the ahu (platform) and



swept many of the moai inland. In 1992 a group of engineers from Japan and Chile set about restoring the site and finally, during 1994 and 1995, the huge figures were placed on the new platform. Not all the moai had there pukao replaced as they were too eroded or destroyed. Pukao are the hat-like structures or topknots formerly placed on top of some moai statues. They were all carved from a very light-red volcanic rock called scoria. The word scoria comes from a Greek word meaning rust. We had a great time admiring these statues and listening to the history so well explained by Jose. Besides these impressive figures there are other less known points of interest that often go unnoticed by visitors because they are at ground level. We didn't miss out on these and enjoyed looking at several petroglyphs (engraved designs) in the volcanic rock. There were Fish, Turtles, Canoes, and, of course, **The Bird Man**.

The Bird Man (tangata manu) came about from the annual competition to swim out and collect the first Sooty Tern egg of the season from the small Motu Islands. Nowadays there are no Sooty Terns nesting on the islands. After our time at Tongariki we drove a short way and enjoyed a nice barbeque lunch. After this we walked the trails that took us through the site of Rano Raraku quarry one of the most incredible and extraordinary archaeological sites we visited.





This is where the moai were made. **Rano Raraku** is composed of a unique type of rock on the island known as the Lapilli tuff. The tuff is a porous rock formed by the accumulation of volcanic ash ejected during an eruption, which when cooled, in contact with the atmosphere, is compacted and hardened.

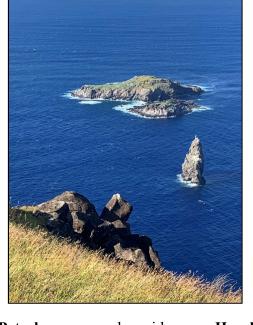
This volcanic tuff was used as raw material to carve the huge statues and with the help of basalt tools, called toki; they began to cut the tuff to shape the moai. There were possibly hundreds of statues in all different stages of completion. Some were still only half finished and attached to the main rock face, while others remain half buried with just the top third or head sticking out of the ground. The biggest question was how did they move these 40 ton plus figures across the island to their standing places. There are many theories but still no proof of how this was done. After looking at all the

moai we took a short trail to view the crater of Rano

Raraku volcano. Filled with reeds and some watery pools it held no life whatsoever. It was time to leave and head back to our hotel ready for another attempt at visiting the seabird islands. The weather was on our side and we set off in a small boat to visit the 3 tiny islands about 20 minutes from the harbor. The first little island was called Motu Kao Kao and here our first **Herald Petrels** were seen circling around. Just a short distance away we arrived to a sheltered spot where we could watch both Motu Nui and Motu Iti islands. Here we were soon challenged by trying to identify some of the 50 or so petrels that were flying back and forth across the islands.



Three different color morphs of



Kermadec Petrel were seen alongside many Herald Petrels and just a couple of Phoenix Petrels. There were Great Frigatebirds and Masked Boobies flying around and some of the boobies had fluffy chicks perched high on the grassy areas. We circled the islands but found our best viewing area back in the sheltered spot as the sea was too bouncy elsewhere. Brown Noddies showed well and if you were lucky to pick up the all dark brown birds that zipped past occasionally then these were Christmas Shearwaters. A fantastic and unforgettable day we returned to the harbor and back to our hotel in time for dinner.

#### Orongo - Vinapu - Ahu Akivi 21st Jan

This morning we scoped the sea from beside the restaurant seeing a few **Masked Boobies** and **Brown Noddies**. We then met with Jose and set off to our first site which was the ceremonial village of Orongo



one of the most interesting archaeological sites on the island. This village overlooks the islands of Motu Nui. Motu Ice and Motu Kao Kao and is the place where the **Bird Man** (Tangata Manu) ceremony was staged. The first stone houses in Orongo seem to have been built around 1400 AD and the rocks around the village are covered with more than 1,700 petroglyphs. From here we drove a short way to view the caldera of Rano Kau volcano another very impressive site. Moving on we next visited the site

of Vinapu. In the main ahu, also called Vinapu I or Tahira, there are

six fallen statues face down with three of the pukao (topknots). The **back wall** of the ahu has risen to fame as this enigmatic wall shows one of the finest works of Rapanui architecture. It consists of large blocks of stone weighing several tons, joined without mortar and adjusted to fit each other with great precision. We then visited several other smaller sites which included the small quarry where the pukao (topknots) were made from the red scoria volcanic rock. Although these topknots were just the headdress for the



moai they still weighed several tons each and had to be moved across the island and eventually placed on the head of some of the moai. Quite a feat! Our last stop of the day was **Ahu Akivi** a site consisting



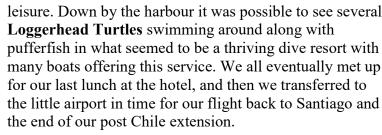
of 7 moai that unlike the rest of the moai on the island these faced toward the sea and not with their backs to the sea. The truth is that these moai still overlooked their closest village the same as all the other moai. These 7 moai were known as the seven explorers and are more unusual in that they are all of similar size and shape. After another eventful morning we returned Hanga Roa the main town and enjoyed a fabulous lunch overlooking the rock pools and ocean. After this we made our back to the hotel and then set off for another boat trip to the Motu islands. The weather was slightly calmer than yesterday and as we sailed across towards the islands we spotted a nice **White-tailed Tropicbird** lazily drifting in front of the cliff face. We soon arrived at the rocky seabird islands. We now had our eye in on the identification of some of the petrels and soon picked up **Herald** and the different color morphs of **Kermadec Petrel**. We scanned the petrels with the hope of seeing **Christmas Shearwater** better but none were spotted. **Great Frigatebirds** sat on one side of the island while **Masked Boobies** flew back

and forth and tended some of their large fluffy chicks. A **Brown Booby** was spotted and then Gina found our bird of the day a **Grey Noddy**. Unfortunately it disappeared rather quickly. A plan then ensued and we decided to check out the backside of the pinnacle shaped Motu Kao Kao. As we rounded this island sure enough not one but four **Grey Noddies** appeared and gave us all fantastic views flying around and perching on the rock face. What a perfect ending to a perfect stay on Rapa Nui (Easter Island).

# Hanga Roa - Santiago - 22nd Jan

This morning we had some free time to relax or explore the

town at our own



To Lois, Al, Betsy and Kenton, thank you for you wonderful company. We hope you enjoyed it. "Iorana"

Gina & Steve







**Kermadec Petrel (White-headed) Kermadec Petrel (intermediate)** 

**Herald Petrel** 

# **BIRDLIST FOR CHILE 2019**

 $A = Number\ of\ species\ recorded\ on\ tour \qquad B = Number\ of\ days\ out\ of\ 11\ recorded \qquad C = Highest\ daily\ count$   $H = Heard\ Only \quad N/C = No\ Count \quad C = Common$ 

This list is in line with IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v(8.2) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomy's – appendix \*

Α	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	В	C
1	Black-necked Swan	Cygnus melancoryphus	6	100+
2	Coscoroba Swan	Coscoroba coscoroba	2	30
3	Upland Goose	Chloephaga picta	1	30
4	Kelp Goose	Chloephaga hybrida	2	6
5	Flying Steamer-Duck	Tachyeres patachonicus	1	3
6	Fuegian Steamer-Duck *	Tachyeres pteneres	2	8
7	Crested Duck	Lophonetta specularioides	1	20
8	Spectacled Duck	Speculanas specularis	2	2
9	Torrent Duck	Merganetta armata	1	2
10	Chiloe Wigeon	Anas sibilatrix	7	200+
11	Cinnamon Teal	Anas cyanoptera	4	10+
12	Red Shoveler	Anas platalea	4	60
13	Yellow-billed Pintail	Anas georgica	6	20+
14	Yellow-billed Teal	Anas flavirostris	9	50+
15	Rosy-billed Pochard	Netta peposaca	1	1
16	Black-headed Duck *	Heteronetta atricapilla	1	7
17	Andean Duck *	Oxyura furruginea	1	4
18	Lake Duck *	Oxyura vittata	5	30
19	California Quail	Callipepla californica	4	8+
20	White-tufted Grebe	Rollandia rolland	5	50+
21	Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	2	4
22	Great Grebe	Podiceps major	5	6
23	Silvery Grebe	Podiceps occipitalis	4	200+
24	Humboldt Penguin	Spheniscus humboldti	4	10
25	Magellanic Penguin	Spheniscus magellanicus	2	50+
26	Salvin's Albatross *	Thalassarche salvini	1	4
27	Black-browed Albatross	Thalassarche melanophris	2	6
28	Southern Royal Albatross *	Diomedea epomophora	1	1
29	Northern Royal Albatross	Diomedea sanfordi	1	4
30	Southern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes giganteus	1	1
31	Northern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes halli	1	6
32	Westland Petrel	Procellaria westlandica	1	6
33	Pink-footed Shearwater	Ardenna creatopus	3	150
34	Sooty Shearwater	Ardenna grisea	3	300
35	Mank Shearwater	Puffinus puffinus	1	2
36	Peruvian Diving-Petrel	Pelecanoides garnotii	1	12
37	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Oceanites oceanicus	1	20
38	Pincoya Storm-Petrel	Oceanites pincoyae	1	2
39	Peruvian Booby	Sula variegata	4	200
40	Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	10	60+
41	Red-legged Cormorant	Phalacrocorax gaimardi	4	20
42	Rock Shag *	Phalacrocorax magellanicus	1	6

43	Guanay Cormorant *	Leucocarbo bougainvillii	2	15+
44	Imperial Shag *	Leucocarbo atriceps	3	60
45	Peruvian Pelican	Pelecanus thagus	7	200+
46	Cocoi Heron	Ardea cocoi	5	6
47	Great Egret	Ardea alba	5	8
48	Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	7	20
49	Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	5	10
50	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	6	20
51	White-faced Ibis	Plegadis chihi	1	5
52	Black-faced Ibis	Theristicus melanopis	5	25
53	Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	8	N/C
54	Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	9	N/C
55	Andean Condor	Vultur gryphus	3	10
56	White-tailed Kite	Elanus leucurus	3	2
57	Cinereous Harrier	Circus cinereus	2	1
58	Harris's Hawk	Parabuteo unicinctus	2	4
59	Variable Hawk	Geranoaetus polyosoma	9	4
60	Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	Geranoaetus melanoleucus	4	2
61	White-throated Hawk	Buteo albigula	1	1
62	Spot-flanked Gallinule	Porphyriops melanops	1	1
63	Plumbeous Rail	Pardirallus sanguinolentus	2	2
64	Red-gartered Coot	Fulica armillata	7	100+
65	Red-fronted Coot	Fulica rufifrons	4	10+
66	White-winged Coot	Fulica leucoptera	4	10
67	Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus	3	50
68	American Oystercatcher	Haematopus palliatus	7	12
69	Blackish Oystercatcher	Haematopus ater	3	8
70	Southern Lapwing	Vanellus chilensis	10	С
71	Collared Plover	Charadrius collaris	1	1
72	Diademed Sandpiper-Plover	Phegornis mitchellii	1	1
73	Gray-breasted Seedsnipe	Thinocorus orbignyianus	1	8
74	Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca	2	8
75	Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes	1	1
76	Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	6	50
77	Hudsonian Godwit	Limosa haemastica	2	400+
78	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	1	4
79	Red Knot	Calidris canutus	1	6
80	Surfbird	Calidris virgata	1	7
81	Sanderling	Calidris alba	1	10
82	Baird's Sandpiper	Calidris bairdii	1	20
83	South American Snipe	Gallinago paraguaiae	1	3
84	Chilean Skua	Stercorarius chilensis	1	2
85	Parasitic Jaeger	Stercorarius parasiticus	3	12
86	Andean Gull	Chroicocephalus serranus	2	40
87	Brown-hooded Gull	C. maculipennis	5	100+
88	Dolphin Gull	Leucophaeus scoresbii	1	8
89	Gray Gull	Leucophaeus modestus	1	1
90	Franklin's Gull	Leucophaeus pipixcan	7	250+
91	Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus	10	С

92	Inca Tern	Larosterna inca	3	60
93	South American Tern	Sterna hirundinacea	4	100+
94	Elegant Tern	Thalasseus elegans	3	3
95	Black Skimmer	Rynchops niger	2	100
96	Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	11	С
97	Chilean Pigeon	Patagioenas araucana	6	6
98	Picui Ground-Dove	Columbina picui	4	10
99	Black-winged Ground-Dove	Metriopelia melanoptera	1	10
100	Eared Dove	Zenaida auriculata	10	С
101	Lesser Horned Owl *	Bubo magellanicus	1	1
102	Austral Pygmy-Owl	Glaucidium nana	2	2
103	Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia	1	1
104	Green-backed Firecrown	Sephanoides sephaniodes	3	20+
105	White-sided Hillstar	Oreotrochilus leucopleurus	2	2
106	Giant Hummingbird	Patagona gigas	2	3
107	Ringed Kingfisher	Megaceryle torquata	1	1
108	Striped Woodpecker	Veniliornis lignarius	3	2
109	Chilean Flicker	Colaptes pitius	3	4
110	Magellanic Woodpecker	Campephilus magellanicus	1	6
111	Mountain Caracara	Phalcoboenus megalopterus	1	4
112	Southern Crested Caracara	Caracara plancus	2	2
113	Chimango Caracara	Milvago chimango	11	С
114	American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	7	2
115	Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis	1	1
116	Austral Parakeet	Enicognathus ferrugineus	2	10
117	Burrowing Parrot	Cyanoliseus patagonus	1	50
118	Chestnut-throated Huet-huet	Pteroptochos castaneus	1	Н
119	Black-throated Huet-huet	Pteroptochos tarnii	2	Н
120	Moustached Turca	Pteroptochos megapodius	3	3
121	White-throated Tapaculo	Scelorchilus albicollis	1	1
122	Chucao Tapaculo	Scelorchilus rubecula	4	2
123	Ochre-flanked Tapaculo	Eugralla paradoxa	2	2
124	Magellanic Tapaculo	Scytalopus magellanicus	2	3
125	Dusky Tapaculo	Scytalopus fuscus	1	Н
126	Rufous-banded Miner	Geositta rufipennis	2	10
127	White-throated Treerunner	Pygarrhichas albogularis	2	8
128	Crag Chilia	Ochetorhynchus melanurus	1	2
129	Wren-like Rushbird	Phleocryptes melanops	1	1
130	Scale-throated Earthcreeper	Upucerthia dumetaria	1	2
131	Buff-winged Cinclodes	Cinclodes fuscus	2	6
132	Gray-flanked Cinclodes	Cinclodes oustaleti	2	4
133	Dark-bellied Cinclodes	Cinclodes patagonicus	3	8
134	Chilean Seaside Cinclodes	Cinclodes nigrofumosus	2	4
135	Thorn-tailed Rayadito	Aphrastura spinicauda	5	6
136	Des Murs's Wiretail	Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii	2	1
137	Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail	Leptasthenura aegithaloides	4	1
138	Sharp-billed Canastero	Asthenes pyrrholeuca	2	2
139	Dusky-tailed Canastero	Pseudasthenes humicola	1	2
140	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	Anairetes parulus	6	4

141	Ticking Doradito *	Pseudocolopteryx citreola	1	1
142	White-crested Elaenia	Elaenia albiceps	9	4
143	Many-colored Rush Tyrant	Tachuris rubrigastra	2	2
144	Austral Negrito	Lessonia rufa	2	1
145	Spectacled Tyrant	Hymenops perspicillatus	2	2
146	Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant	Muscisaxicola maculirostris	1	2
147	Cinereous Ground-Tyrant	Muscisaxicola cinereus	1	2
148	Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant	Muscisaxicola rufivertex	2	2
149	White-browed Ground-Tyrant	Muscisaxicola albilora	2	10
150	Great Shrike-Tyrant	Agriornis lividus	1	1
151	Fire-eyed Diucon	Xolmis pyrope	3	1
152	Patagonian Tyrant	Colorhamphus parvirostris	1	1
153	Rufous-tailed Plantcutter	Phytotoma rara	4	4
154	Blue-and-white Swallow	Pygochelidon cyanoleuca	7	30+
155	Chilean Swallow	Tachycineta meyeni	10	40+
156	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	1	2
157	House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	8	2
158	Grass Wren *	Cistothorus platensis hornensis	1	1
159	Austral Thrush	Turdus falcklandii	11	10
160	Chilean Mockingbird	Mimus thenca	8	20
161	Correndera Pipit	Anthus correndera	1	2
162	Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus gayi	4	10
163	Patagonian Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus patagonicus	5	2
164	Mourning Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus fruticeti	2	40
165	Plumbeous Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus unicolor	1	1
166	Band-tailed Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus alaudinus	2	4
167	Common Diuca-Finch	Diuca diuca	5	50
168	Greater Yellow-Finch	Sicalis auriventris	1	8
169	Grassland Yellow-Finch	Sicalis luteola	4	4
170	Rufous-collared Sparrow	Zonotrichia capensis	8	40+
171	Long-tailed Meadowlark	Sturnella loyca	8	3
172	Austral Blackbird	Curaeus curaeus	9	!0
173	Yellow-winged Blackbird	Agelasticus thilius	2	1
174	Shiny Cowbird	Molothrus bonariensis	1	N/C
175	Yellow-rumped Siskin	Spinus uropygialis	1	12
176	Black-chinned Siskin	Spinus barbatus	5	20
177	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	10	C
	Other sightings			
1	South American Sea Lion	Otaria flavescens	5	50+
2	Culpeo	Lycalopex culpaeus	1	1
3	South American Gray Fox	Lycalopex griseus	1	1
4	Degu	Octodon degus	1	1
5	European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	3	4
6	Marine Otter	Lontra felina	2	2
7	Southern Viscacha	lagidium viscacia	2	2
8	Peale's Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus australis	3	6
9	Pudu	Pudu puda	1	1
10	Big Bee	Bombus dahlbomii	2	6

#### **BIRDLIST FOR EASTER ISLAND 2019**

A = Number of species recorded on tour B = Number of days out of 11 recorded <math>C = Highest daily count H = Heard Only N/C = No Count C=Common i = introducedThis list is in line with IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v(8.2) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomy's – appendix \*

A	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	В	C
1	Chilean Tinamou	Nothoprocta perdicaria	1	1 i
2	Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus	4	Ci
3	Kermadec Petrel	Pterodroma neglecta	2	30
4	Herald Petrel	Pterodroma heraldica	2	30
5	Phoenix Petrel	Pterodroma alba	1	2
6	Christmas Shearwater	Puffinus nativitatis	1	1
7	White-tailed Tropicbird	Phaethon lepturus	1	1
8	Great Frigatebird	Fregata minor	3	12
9	Masked Booby	Sula dactylatra	4	40
10	Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster	1	1
11	Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus	4	30+
12	Gray Noddy	Anous albivitta	1	4
13	Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	4	N/C
14	Chimango Caracara	Milvago chimango	4	Ci
15	Common Diuca-Finch	Diuca diuca	4	Ci
16	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	4	Ci
	Other sightings			
1	Loggerhead Turtle	Caretta caretta	2	5

#### Appendix \* These birds follow ioc world list version 8.2

Fuegian Steamer Duck (*Tachyeres pteneres*) – This duck was also called Magellanic Steamer Duck and Flightless Steamer Duck. As its name suggests it is a flightless bird and mostly confined to the coasts of Chile and southern Argentina. Steamer Ducks get their name from the peculiar habit of flapping their wings and running along the water's surface when alarmed, reminiscent of steamboats.

**Black-headed Duck (Heteronetta atricapilla)** – The black-headed duck is an obligate brood parasite (meaning the female does not build a nest). It lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, instead, earning it the nickname cuckoo duck. The hosts are particularly Rosy-billed Pochard (Netta peposaca), other ducks, coots, and occasionally even gulls such as the Brown-hooded Gull.

Andean Duck (Oxyura ferruginea) is the South American counterpart to Ruddy Duck (Oxyura jamaicensis) of North America. Andean Duck is larger than Ruddy Duck and the male Andean has an entirely black head, lacking the bold white cheek patch of Ruddy.

Lake Duck (Oxyura vittata) this is the lowland counterpart of the Andean Duck.

Salvin's Albatross (Thalassarche salvini) this was split from Shy Albatross (Thalassarche cauta).

**Southern Royal Albatross (Diomedea epomophora)** we identified one of these amongst 4 Northern Royal Albatrosses by a later photo which showed the distinctive white leading edge to the wings.

Rock Shag (Phalacrocorax magellanicus) the name has been changed from Magellanic Cormorant.

Guanay Cormorant (Leucocarbo bougainvillii) note the scientific name has changed.

Imperial Shag (Leucocarbo atriceps) note both English and scientific name changes.

**Lesser Horned Owl (Bubo magellanicus)** This is now considered a split from Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) by the ioc. Lesser ocurrs from central Peru to Tierra del Fuego.

**Ticking Doradito (Pseudocolopteryx citreola)** – This is a new species. Formally thought to be Warbling Doradito (Pseudocolpteryx flaviventris) this bird is found in two disjunct populations with one in central Chile and the other in wc Argentina. Later study could possiblly split these into two species.

Grass Wren (Cistothorus platensis hornensis) – The Grass Wren is a separate species from Sedge Wren (Cistothorus stellaris) found in North America. And the subspecies we saw C. p. hornensis may represent a separate species which will be called Austral Wren which would also include the race on the Falkland Islands.



**Black-faced Ibis** 

Southern Royal Albatross over a Salvin's Albatross



**Birding & Wildlife Tours** 

Sunrise Birding LLC, PO Box 274, Cos Cob, CT 06807 US (203) 453-6724 www.sunrisebirding.com