



Sunrise Birding LLC

PATAGONIA

October 10 - 20, 2018

TRIP REPORT



Photo: Group at Torres del Paine.



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TOP FIVE SIGHTINGS AS VOTED BY THE GROUP:

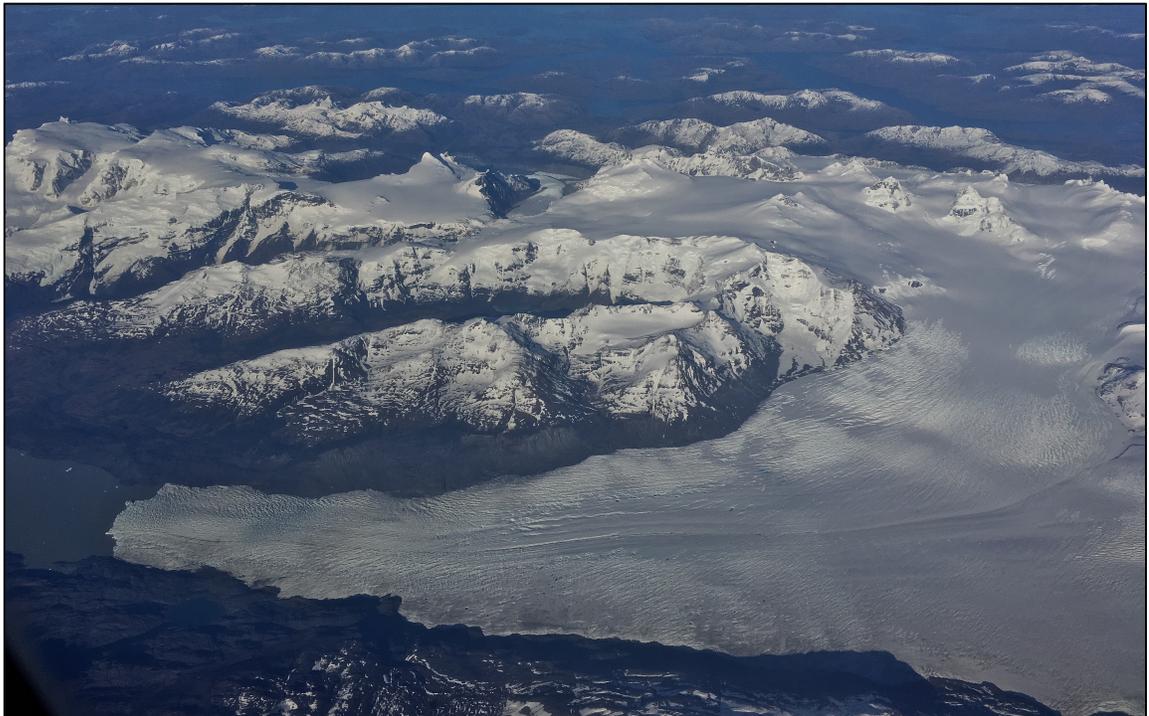
1. Unbeatable in first place the **Magellanic Woodpecker** earned it after such a show and amazing close views of this badly wanted target that almost landed on top of some of the group!
2. **Magellanic Horned Owl** which we enjoyed as our first birds in Tierra del Fuego Island.
3. A tie between **King Penguin**, **Long-tailed Meadowlark**, **Magellanic Plover** and **Andean Condor**, which no doubt are all iconic birds.
4. A tie between **Magellanic Penguin**, **Tufted Tit-Tyrant**, and **Black-browed Albatross**.
5. A tie between **Southern Lapwing**, **Southern Giant Petrel**, **Silvery Grebe** and **Puma!**

Special mention:

Tawny-throated Dotterel, **Yellow-billed Pintail**, **Thorn-tailed Rayadito**, and **White-bridled Finch**.

October 11

Today we gathered at Santiago airport around mid-morning for our flight to Punta Arenas. After 3.5 hours of one of the most jaw dropping scenery flights of our lives packed with snow peaked volcanos and glaciers, we landed, were received by our local guide Rodrigo Tapia. We checked-in and dropped our luggage at the hotel and then continued South towards the Río San Juan area following route 9 and birding our way along the San Juan Bay.



The first thing that made us stop was not a bird, but a huge old Southern Sea Lion bull laying in the rocky beach next to the highway, what an impressive beast! We continued and doing several stops along the road, we scored beautiful Upland, Ashy-headed and even big numbers of Ruddy-headed Geese. There were plenty of beautiful Crested Ducks and a couple of Yellow-billed Teals that flew right away when we reversed the van to get closer views. Austral Negritos and Southern Lapwings were almost



on every stop, as well as plenty of Kelp Gulls. Only a few individuals of Southern Fulmar and only one of Southern Giant Petrel were around but we had good views of both. A Cinereous Harrier flew by just in front of the van, and we lost count of how many Chimango Caracaras we had while only 2 or 3 Southern Crested Caracaras joined the show. A Long-tailed Meadowlark with a not so very long tail entertained us providing scope views and we returned to hotel for a fine pisco sour cheer and a tasty fish dinner before hitting the hay after a long day of travel.



October 12

After a nice breakfast we took a boat to Magdalena Island doing a short stop first on Marta Island where we got to see Dolphin Gulls and Sea Lions galore. Once in Magdalena, we spent one full hour

walking around the loop trail enjoying close views of Magellanic Penguins seeing them behave, sing, and perform courtship behaviors. It was an enjoyable amazing walk!

We then came back to land and started our long drive to the Torres del Paine National Park. Our first stop was at a lake where Rodrigo knew we could have a special encounter, so we jumped a couple of fences, and walked in the windiest possible situation. After less than a minute searching the shore of the lake, we were all enjoying close views of Magellanic Plover, a species in its own family. Elated, we all came back to the van after negotiating the fences and wires once more. Further on, we stopped for Chilean Flamingos and Coscoroba Swans and a coffee stop provided our first Austral Blackbirds at a nice little old café in the middle of nowhere.



At the picturesque Puerto Natal we enjoyed Brown-hooded, Kelp and Dolphin Gulls, as well as Black-necked Swans. Just after leaving town, we stopped to see an Andean Condor spotted by Jose our driver, and in a few minutes we counted seven birds attending a dead lamb in the pasture. The scene offered great scope views. We eventually reached the nice lodge at Torres del Paine, had a superb dinner and went to bed for an early start tomorrow crossing our fingers for nice puma action.

October 13

We left our hotel early and, as Jorge our tracker been already in the field even earlier than us, we were able to see a puma in the distance. It had been already eating a kill that had hidden in the bush not so far from the park main road. Before heading back to lodge for breakfast Jorge had located another puma high up in the mountains at least a kilometer away and we were only able to get semi-decent views through the scope. We had breakfast and left to try to get closer to that second puma as Jorge had driven all the way up that hill in his 4wd and tracked it down. He told us the cat was just having a lazy morning not doing or moving much. So we hiked with our adventurous group for a kilometer and a half approximately in almost flat terrain and after some climbing here and going down the hill there, we reached this puma from above and we were enjoying it for almost an hour while it was very lazy, lying on its back, just hanging out. We also enjoyed the most amazing of the landscapes with the towers of Torres del Paine in the background and had good views of a Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant and many, many guanacos at close range.

We came back in ecstasy and stopped at a small lagoon to check Chiloe Wigeons and Black-necked Swans before having picnic lunch with Southern Crested Caracaras, Patagonian Sierra-Finches, Rufous-tailed (or Chilean) Plantcutters, and Austral Blackbirds, among others. We came back to hotel birding in the road, have a little time off and went to rest after a great dinner.



October 14

After a civilized 7:30 am departure from our hotel, we were heading to explore the Western section of the park and look for some cool birds. Not far along, we had to make a stop, not short, for a puma mother with a couple of cubs just by the roadside! We spent quality time seeing these amazing animals interacting, eating from a Guanaco kill they had, doing some maintenance in the way of licking each other endlessly, and then crossing the road merely five meters away from us and going to drink on a small lake before disappearing in the ridge.

We finally were able to do some birding (jejeje) and stop at a lake for fine views of Great Grebe and White-tufted Grebe. Continuing on, we reached the main National Park facilities where we caught up with Spectacled Duck that we only glimpsed from the bus earlier in the trip. Cinclodes were around while we looked at a small rock display they had outside showing the different formations and sections of the Paine massif.

We drove a little more and reached the Grey Lake area



where we got amazing views of a couple of White-bellied Treerunner, along with some Thorn-tailed Rayaditos, White-crested Elaenia and House Wrens that were coming to my whistled pygmy-owl call. We then did a bit of a walk in the shore of the lake to admire the amazing glacier and the deep-blue icebergs; what a breathtaking view of this side of the park! We had some more birds including Siskins, and Austral Thrushes and a beautiful Cinereous Harrier adult. Later on, we returned to the lodge for lunch and a little rest before a late



afternoon walk in the lodge gardens. We went for an hour and a half, but the lodge surroundings proved to be very, very busy and productive with cool birds: Austral Pygmy-Owl came first, then we found some Plumbeous Rails, and nailed down Striped Woodpecker, and to finish a small group of Thorn-tailed Rayaditos we got along a beautiful Tufted Tit-Tyrant and the most obliging couple of Chilean Flickers ever.

October 15

This morning we saw the Austral Pygmy-Owl again and then we drove to the beautiful Sierra Vaguales. We stopped in the way for Mourning Sierra-Finches and a very obliging Scale-throated Earthcreeper. We kept climbing up the amazing landscape of this snow-peak-covered range and found a couple of Magellanic Oystercatchers, a rare sighting at this elevation. A little climb on a rocky slope provided us with a good position to see quite in the distance a Rufous-banded Miner and later we nailed down quite a few Cinclodes species: Buff-winged, Grey-flanked, and Dark-bellied. We came down the range, crossed the park again doing some stops to enjoy a lake full of Black-necked and Coscoroba Swans, Lake Ducks, all the species of grebes possible (White-tufted, Great, and Silvery), Yellow-winged Blackbirds, as well as Chiloe Wigeons and both Yellow-billed Teals and Yellow-billed Pintails. We did a brief stop at the Grey Glacier Hotel where Magellanic Woodpeckers gave us an amazing show and we got flyby glimpses of Austral Parakeets. We visited the Mylodon cave en-route to Puerto Natales which we reached in time for dinner and well-deserved rest at our nice lodge with a view over the bay on our last night on the continent.



October 16

This morning we all had an amazing breakfast while enjoying the endless view of snow-covered peaks from our hotel restaurant windows. We then left and drove towards the Pali-Aike National Park road but a stop at a lake nearby town entertained us for a while with Spectacled and Ruddy Ducks under an



amazing early morning soft light. We did another stop for a Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle that was perched roadside atop an electrical post and offering amazing photo opportunities.

Once in the long open road inside the national park bordering the Argentinean border, we nailed down loads of good birds, namely Rufous-chested Dotterel, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Chocolate-vented Tyrant, White-bridled Finch, loads of Least Seedsnipes and loads of Correndera Pipits among many others. There were several Southern Gray Foxes were around and one cool Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk was the mammal of the day! Before the end of the day and before leaving the continent we got amazing Silver Teals and Hudsonian Godwit, as well as a Big Hairy Armadillo.

We then crossed in the ferry at the narrowest part of the Strait of Magellan which offered us an amazing Black-browed Albatross. We still had to drive for quite a while but did anyways a short stop at a cliff where we saw three individual Magellanic Horned Owls before getting to the small town of Porvenir.

October 17

We had a leisurely late start this morning as we had checked-in quite late the previous night... we woke up to realize we were lodging on a beautiful old wooden house just in one of the regular blocks of town which we all loved and even quite simple was voted as the lodging of the trip! Some went to have a walk around town, some slept until late, some were downstairs reading some bird books from the library and we all gather for breakfast.

We then drove an hour over a scenic shoreline road bordering the Tierra del Fuego island and we reached the Parque Pingüino Rey where we enjoyed the colony of King Penguins our main target on the island. We watched these amazing animals for almost a couple of hours, added some birds like Short-billed Miner and Sedge Wren to the list, and then hit a nearby Estancia (= sheep farm) for a nice lunch. We then came back stopping for Black-faced Ibis, Fuegian (Flightless) Steamer Duck, and huge flocks of Black-chinned Siskins as well as a Peale's dolphin. Returned to town in time for a walk around, had dinner and later went to the movies as I had surreptitiously brought our documentary "The Birders" that had not aired yet but we had the benefit to watch as a private premiere.

October 18

As we had already seen all our targets, we also had a leisurely start again and after breakfast visited a neat lake full of Stromatolites, layers and layers of sedimentary rocks that formed from strata of cyanobacteria growing over thousands of years, and a Kelp Gull was around (!) jajaja. We then birded more around the bay getting photo opportunities at Dolphin Gulls, both Cormorants together, and got to find a moribund Canadian Beaver which was a novelty as they were apparently not known from this side of the island, where they were introduced long time ago for farming them.

We then took the ferry to cross the Strait on a wider area and from the deck got to see a group of Magellanic Penguins, Southern Giant Petrel, Southern Fulmar, and Chilean Skua. Back in the continent, in Punta Arenas outskirts we visited the Tres Puentes swamp where we got the last birds of

the trip on the form of Crested Duck, Red Shoveler, Chiloe Wigeon, Yellow-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed Teal, and South American Snipe among others. We checked-in, had dinner, made the last checklist and said farewell goodbyes.

October 19

This morning, we got our flight back to Santiago which was a show as there were no clouds and we could enjoy endless glaciers for hours and then we all took different directions: some for their international flights, some to enjoy Santiago for some days, and some of us stayed birding a bit more... for example, I went on my very first pelagic; what a superb experience!



I have to thank all our clients for such an enjoyable company and help in the field; they were all eager birders, were always like "let's do it" when we had to go out of the beaten path to track some pumas, and added tons of fun during all the trip... as some of them have said: "I cannot think of any previous trip where everyone in the van was hanging out as cool and as nice as we did in this trip"..

THANKS for making my come back to Chile after ten years for a superb enjoyable trip guys. Of course, the amazing guiding skills of Rodrigo were top notch and we all benefited from that plus he was the best fun interesting neat chap to be along for this trip. Remarkably, on the same line, Jose our driver was simply the best driver we all have had on any birding trip... amazing chap again!

Diego

BIRDLIST FOR PATAGONIA 2018

	Species	Scientific Name
1.	Lesser Rhea	<i>Rhea pennata</i>
2.	Coscoroba Swan	<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>
3.	Black-necked Swan	<i>Cygnus melancoryphus</i>
4.	Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>
5.	Fuegian (Flightless) Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres pteneres</i>
6.	Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>
7.	Ashy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga poliocephala</i>
8.	Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>
9.	Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>
10.	Bronze-winged (Spectacled) Duck	<i>Speculanas specularis</i>
11.	Silver Teal	<i>Spatula versicolor</i>
12.	Red Shoveler	<i>Spatula platalea</i>
13.	Chiloe Wigeon	<i>Mareca sibilatrix</i>
14.	Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>
15.	Yellow-billed Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
16.	Andean Duck	<i>Oxyura ferruginea</i>
17.	Lake Duck	<i>Oxyura vittata</i>
18.	King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>
19.	Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>
20.	Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>
21.	Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
22.	Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>
23.	White-tufted Grebe	<i>Rollandia rolland</i>
24.	Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>
25.	Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>
26.	Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>
27.	Black-faced Ibis	<i>Theristicus melanopis</i>
28.	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
29.	Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>
30.	Imperial Shag	<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>
31.	Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>
32.	Cinereous Harrier	<i>Circus cinereus</i>
33.	Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>
34.	Rufous-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo ventralis</i>
35.	Plumbeous Rail	<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>
36.	White-winged Coot	<i>Fulica leucoptera</i>
37.	Red-gartered Coot	<i>Fulica armillata</i>
38.	Magellanic Plover	<i>Pluvianellus socialis</i>
39.	Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>
40.	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
41.	Two-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>

42.	Rufous-chested Plover	<i>Charadrius modestus</i>
43.	Tawny-throated Dotterel	<i>Oreopholus ruficollis</i>
44.	Least Seedsnipe	<i>Thinocorus rumicivorus</i>
45.	Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>
46.	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
47.	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
48.	South American Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraguaiiae</i>
49.	Brown-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>
50.	Dolphin Gull	<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>
51.	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
52.	South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>
53.	Chilean Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>
54.	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
55.	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
56.	Lesser (Magellanic) Horned Owl	<i>Bubo magellanicus</i>
57.	Austral Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium nana</i>
58.	Striped Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis lignarius</i>
59.	Chilean Flicker	<i>Colaptes pitius</i>
60.	Magellanic Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus magellanicus</i>
61.	Southern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
62.	Chimango Caracara	<i>Milvago chimango</i>
63.	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
64.	Austral Parakeet	<i>Enicognathus ferrugineus</i>
65.	Common Miner	<i>Geositta cunicularia</i>
66.	Short-billed Miner	<i>Geositta antarctica</i>
67.	Rufous-banded Miner	<i>Geositta rufipennis</i>
68.	Scale-throated Earthcreeper	<i>Upucerthia dumetaria</i>
69.	Band-tailed Earthcreeper	<i>Eremobius phoenicurus</i>
70.	Buff-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>
71.	Grey-flanked Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes oustaleti</i>
72.	Dark-bellied Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes patagonicus</i>
73.	Thorn-tailed Rayadito	<i>Aphrastura spinicauda</i>
74.	White-throated Treerunner	<i>Pygarrhichas albogularis</i>
75.	Magellanic Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus magellanicus</i>
76.	White-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>
77.	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>
78.	Austral Negrito	<i>Lessonia rufa</i>
79.	Ochre-naped Ground Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola flavinucha</i>
80.	Dark-faced Ground Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola maclovianus</i>
81.	Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola capistratus</i>
82.	Fire-eyed Diucon	<i>Xolmis pyrope</i>
83.	Chocolate-vented Tyrant	<i>Neoxolmis rufiventris</i>
84.	Rufous-tailed Plantcutter	<i>Phytotoma rara</i>
85.	Chilean Swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucopyga</i>
86.	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>

87.	Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>
88.	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
89.	Patagonian Mockingbird	<i>Mimus patagonicus</i>
90.	Austral Thrush	<i>Turdus falcklandii</i>
91.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
92.	Correndera Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera</i>
93.	Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Spinus barbatus</i>
94.	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
95.	Long-tailed Meadowlark	<i>Leistes loyca</i>
96.	Austral Blackbird	<i>Curaeus curaeus</i>
97.	Yellow-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelasticus thilius</i>
98.	Grey-hooded Sierra Finch	<i>Phrygilus gayi</i>
99.	Patagonian Sierra Finch	<i>Phrygilus patagonicus</i>
100.	Mourning Sierra Finch	<i>Phrygilus fruticeti</i>
101.	White-bridled (Canary-winged) Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>

OTHER SPECIES

Big Hairy Armadillo	<i>Chaetophractus villosus</i>
Guanaco	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria byronia</i>
Puma	<i>Puma concolor patagoensis</i>
Southern Gray Fox	<i>Pseudalopex griseus</i>
Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk	<i>Conepatus humboldti</i>
Patagonian Red Bumblebee	<i>Bombus dahlbomii</i>
Introduced Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris/ruderatus</i>
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Dung Beetle	Tenebrionidae
Dung Beetle	Scarabaeoidea
Peale's dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>
Canadian Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>



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