

# **ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLAND ISLANDS**

**DECEMBER 17, 2005 – JANUARY 7, 2006**

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TOUR REPORT  
ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLANDS  
December 17, 2005-January 7, 2006

By Brian Patteson

A trip to South Georgia and Antarctica is often touted as a trip of a lifetime, and rightly so. I feel particularly fortunate to have made my third trip of a lifetime to this remote wilderness. I must say, however, that this latest trip exceeded even my own hopes and expectations, which are always quite high. The combination of a wonderful ship with an excellent crew, a great group of 57 enthusiastic VENT participants, and near perfect weather made for a most successful visit to the Southern Ocean. The transition from birding in South America to the Falklands to South Georgia, and finally to Antarctica is a wonderful feature of this itinerary, further enhanced by opportunities for pelagic birding on four sea crossings!

Many of the VENT group on this tour actually began birding in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the fantastic Costanera Sur nature preserve, where they tallied over 70 species including Coscoroba Swan, Rosy-billed Pochard, Snowy-crowned Tern, Whistling Heron, and Gray-hooded Gull. The next day the entire VENT group convened in Ushuaia, Argentina, and, prior to boarding our ship, the *Clipper Adventurer*, had the opportunity to see an interesting cross section of bird life with a visit to Tierra del Fuego National Park. Highlights included sightings of Spectacled Duck, Great Grebe, White-throated Caracara, and Austral Pygmy-Owl.

After boarding the *Clipper Adventurer*, we were soon on our way to sea via the Beagle Channel, accompanied by Black-browed Albatrosses, Southern Giant-Petrels, Imperial Cormorants, and Chilean Skuas. We spent the following day at sea, steaming to the Falkland Islands, which were in sight by late afternoon. We crossed in great weather, with a 15 to 25 knot westerly wind and following seas. We saw our first great albatrosses on this crossing—Southern Royals. We also saw our first Cape Petrels, White-chinned Petrels, and thousands of Slender-billed Prions.

On December 21, we spent a busy day in the Falklands going ashore first at New Island where the highlight was a short trek to the seabird rookery where Black-browed Albatrosses, Rockhopper Penguins, and Imperial Cormorants all nest together. After lunch, we visited Carcass Island (named for a ship actually) where most of our party hiked two miles in the rain, but we saw an abundance of small land birds, including the very confiding Blackish Cinclodes, known locally as the “Tussockbird.” There were also lots of Magellanic Penguins nesting there, and we had to be watchful for their numerous burrows while walking. When we reached the island settlement, the McGill family, who has lived there for more than 30 years, hosted a wonderful tea for the entire *Clipper* group.

The next morning the ship visited Stanley, where the majority of the Falkland Islanders reside. While some opted to take a tour of the town, most of our group went on a special outing to some countryside near the Stanley airport, where we found Rufous-chested Dotterels, Two-banded Plovers, and a few other species which had not been seen the previous day. Considering we only had about a day-and-a-half in the Falklands, we amazingly saw nearly all of the species we might have hoped to see there. We then cruised out to sea, bound for South Georgia, and enjoyed watching a great variety of seabirds during the afternoon, including our first Wandering Albatrosses.

Sea crossings are always an interesting part of these trips. The crossing to South Georgia was fairly smooth, so there was quite a bit of interest in pelagic birding by our group. It was a pleasure to have people out on deck enjoying the spectacle of great birds such as Grey-headed and Light-mantled albatrosses, Soft-plumaged Petrels, Snow Petrels, and Black-bellied Storm-Petrels. The lure of a new pelagic bird even kept many out and scanning through intermittent snow showers one day.

We had a great time at South Georgia. Our first landing was an early morning visit to Salisbury Plain, where we had our introduction to King Penguins of all ages, including newly hatched chicks, and older, very curious chicks in their brown fur coats. We tried to keep a respectful distance, but the penguins would have no part of it. Our second landing was at Prion Islet, in the Bay of Isles. Here we were able to observe the magnificent Wandering Albatrosses at their nests. We also found the South Georgia Pipit nesting in abundance, taking advantage of the rat-free environment. The next day began with snowy zodiac cruises of Hercules Bay, where the feature highlight was Macaroni Penguins, which are quite common at South Georgia, but, because they nest on steep tussocky hillsides, are comparatively hard to observe closely. We also visited St. Andrews Bay, home of the largest King Penguin rookery on South Georgia with an estimated 200,000 birds. It was truly an unforgettable spectacle and probably the most wildlife many of us had ever seen in one place. On our last day on South Georgia, some went ashore after dinner at Gold Harbor, where they divided their attention between the nesting Light-mantled Albatrosses, elephant seals, fur seals (of course), and more King Penguins, including a leucistic individual. Singing White-chinned Petrels were an additional highlight. Because it was so late, these big shearwater-like birds were out in force and afforded some great views—even of their chins!

Our crossing of the Scotia Sea was smooth, and, on the morning after leaving South Georgia, our seabirders were treated to a number of Kerguelen Petrels, a species not always seen on these trips. We also saw many Blue Petrels, and by the afternoon we had seen our first Southern Fulmars. Late in the afternoon we found a large group of Fin and Sei whales, attended by swarms of Antarctic Prions.

On our way to Antarctica we visited Elephant Island, and, because of the calm conditions that day, we were able to make a rare LANDING at Point Wild. It was a humbling experience to stand on the weathered spit there and think about how Ernest Shackleton and the *Endurance* party must have felt looking out at the watery horizon less than 100 years ago. Our next stop was Deception Island; after a tide change, we found calm

conditions at Baily Head, so we were able to land there and make a brief foray into the amphitheater-like home of 100,000 Chinstrap Penguins with dozens of patrolling Brown Skuas.

Upon arriving in Antarctica, we made a continental landing at Neko Harbor, the seventh continent for many in the group. Gentle Gentoo Penguins were the dominant species here, and South Polar Skuas outnumbered the Browns, which had been the common form farther north. The view from the top of the hill was splendid, and all of our fearless leaders took the “express route” down the snowy slope, which was great fun. We next went zodiac cruising in Paradise Bay where we had close looks at crabeater seals and a singing leopard seal! This was followed by a ship transit of the lovely Lemaire Channel en route to Petermann Island. At Petermann Island we visited an Adelie Penguin colony, and we were able to compare South Polar and Brown Skuas.

The next day we were supposed to first land at Port Lockroy in the morning, but an unscheduled visit by another tourist ship forced us to change plans. Instead, we visited Damoy Point nearby. We then had a barbecue on deck and visited Port Lockroy in two groups. This was a chance to observe Gentoo Penguins at very close range, visit a historical landmark, and do some shopping in Antarctica. From Port Lockroy, we headed toward Cuverville Island, which has the largest colony of Gentoo Penguins along the Antarctic Peninsula and is truly a lovely spot, a verdant jewel in a foreboding landscape. Along the way, while cruising the Neumayer Channel, (which is truly spectacular in itself), we spotted an Antarctic Petrel, which was obliging enough to remain in view for several minutes, even giving passengers time to scramble out of their cabins to see it! When we arrived at Cuverville, the light was beautiful—a photographer’s dream. The pretty light continued such that even after dinner, many were able to get some fantastic photos of lunge feeding humpback whales in Wilhelmina Bay, where the sky was full of stunning lenticular clouds.

Our last day in Antarctica found us in the vicinity of Palmer Station. Formerly commonplace, ship visits to research bases in the Antarctic are no longer a feature of every cruise. So we were fortunate to have this opportunity, and the surrounding waters also offered great zodiac cruising, where we saw nesting Adelie Penguins and four species of seals! Palmer Station was quite impressive, very well equipped as you might expect, and, of course, was the last shopping stop in Antarctica.

Returning to South America, we saw a good variety of tubenoses, including several Southern Royal Albatross, and a single Northern Royal, which is worth noting as it seems to be a possible “split.” A few Greater and Manx shearwaters were seen among the thousands of Sooties as we approached the Beagle Channel, and a few persistent observers were treated to good looks at Magellanic Diving-Petrel as we drew close to Ushuaia, where we arrived ahead of schedule on account of our smooth crossing of the Drake Passage, which might as well have been the “Drake Lake.”

Back in Ushuaia, there was time for a quick trip back to Tierra del Fuego National Park. Our single objective was to see the Magellanic Woodpecker, which had been elusive on

our first visit. It was a successful mission. We found a stunning male woodpecker, which remained in plain view for several minutes. From there, most of us flew out to Santiago, Chile. A fresh breeze there made it easier to adjust to the warmer climate. The next day was an optional day of birding in the Andes for some of us—a fantastic introduction to the birds of Chile with local guide Michel Sallaberry.

I really don't think we could have had a better Antarctic trip. The weather was consistently mild, the sites we visited were teeming with a diversity of wildlife, we had a great VENT group, and it was a pleasure to co-lead with Victor Emanuel and Barry Lyon. I look forward to returning in December with Pete Dunne and a new group.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.

**Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands**

December 17- January 7, 2005

Leaders- Victor Emanuel, Brian Patteson, Barry Lyon

Trip List by Brian Patteson

**ITINERARY:**

**December 17-** Late night flight to Buenos Aires.

**December 18-** Optional birding trip to Costanera Sur, a fantastic nature reserve in Buenos Aires.

**December 19-** Early morning flight to Ushuaia, Argentina followed by a midday birding trip to Tierra del Fuego National Park. We were then treated to a traditional Argentinean barbecue and show by local dancers. We boarded the Clipper Adventurer late in the afternoon, and were soon on our way to sea via the Beagle Channel, accompanied by Black-browed Albatrosses, Southern Giant-Petrels, Imperial Cormorants, and Chilean Skuas.

**December 20-** We spent this day at sea, steaming to the Falklands Islands, which were in sight by late afternoon. Nice weather, with a 15 to 25 knot westerly wind and following seas.

**December 21-** We spent a busy day in the Falklands going ashore first at New Island where the highlight was a short trek to the seabird rookery where Black-browed Albatrosses, Rockhopper Penguins, and Imperial Cormorants all nest together. After lunch, we visited Carcass Island (named for a ship actually) where most of our party hiked two miles in the rain, but we saw an abundance of small land birds and lots of nesting Magellanic Penguins. The McGill family, who has lived on the island for more than 30 years, hosted a wonderful tea for the entire Clipper group.

**December 22-** This morning the ship visited Stanley, where the majority of Falkland Islanders reside. While some opted to take a tour of the town, most of the VENT group went on a special outing to some countryside near the Stanley airport, where we found Rufous-chested Dotterels, Two-banded Plovers, and a few other species which had not been seen the previous day. We then cruised out to sea headed for South Georgia and enjoyed watching a great variety of seabirds during the afternoon, including our first Wandering Albatrosses.

**December 23-** We spent the day at sea continuing towards South Georgia. In the deep ocean we did not see as many birds as we had seen around the continental shelf the day before, but there was enough action to keep many of our participants out on deck through the intermittent snow showers.

**December 24-** We reached the aptly named Shag Rocks around 1100 AM, and we made a brief circumnavigation of this impressive feature, which is home to thousands of South Georgia Cormorants. We also had a first looks at the lovely Snow Petrel here, as well as thousands of Antarctic Prions and our first Blue Petrels.

**December 25-** We began the day with an early morning visit to Salisbury Plain, where we had our introduction to King Penguins of all ages, including newly hatched chicks, and older very curious chicks in their brown fur coats. We tried to keep a respectful distance, but the penguins would have no part of it. Our second landing was at Prion Islet, in the Bay of Isles. Here we were able to observe the magnificent Wandering Albatross at their nests. We also found the South Georgia Pipit nesting in abundance there, taking advantage of the rat-free environment. We did not see any prions, just their burrows, and the remains of an unfortunate many who had fallen prey to the local Brown Skuas. It is in the prions' best interest to come and go in the darkness. In the afternoon, many took part in the "Shackleton Hike" from Fortuna Bay to Stromness, while others enjoyed a more leisurely exploration of the latter, a former whaling station, which has not yet been tidied up, like at Grytviken.

**December 26-** This day began with snowy zodiac cruises of Hercules Bay, where the feature highlight was Macaroni Penguins, which are quite common at South Georgia, but because they nest on steep tussocky hillsides, are comparatively hard to observe closely. From here we steamed to Grytviken, where we visited the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, and made the obligatory toast to the great Antarctic explorer, who actually never accomplished many of his main goals but will always be remembered for bringing his men back alive against incredible odds. We then had time to explore the wonderful museum at Grytviken, and some did a little shopping. Our next stop was St. Andrews Bay, home of the largest King Penguin rookery on South Georgia with an estimated 200,000 birds. It was truly an unforgettable spectacle and probably the most wildlife many of us had ever seen in one place. Some of us who paused on the ground were visited by hungry sheathbills, which were quite numerous here. In a fitting end to a truly full day of landings, some went ashore after dinner at Gold Harbor, where they divided their attention between the nesting Light-mantled Albatrosses, Elephant Seals, Fur Seals (of course) and more King Penguins, including a leucistic individual. An additional highlight was singing White-chinned Petrels. Because it was so late, these big shearwater like birds were out in force and afforded some great views- even of their chins!

**December 27-** After a couple of action-packed days at South Georgia, we got a bit of a break with yet another smooth day at sea, and the morning seabirders were treated to a number of Kerguelen Petrels, a species not always seen on these trips. We also saw LOTS of Blue Petrels, and by the afternoon we had seen our first Southern Fulmars. Late in the afternoon we found a large group of Fin and Sei Whales, which was attended by swarms of Antarctic Prions, a.k.a. whalebirds.

**December 28-** Another full day at sea, but rather slow birding. Southern Fulmars and Cape Petrels continued in numbers as we approached their nesting grounds. The wind increased to about 30 knots, still not bad for the Southern Ocean.

**December 29-** By morning we were at Elephant Island with calm seas! Consequently we were able to make a rare LANDING at Point Wild. It was a humbling experience to stand on the weathered spit there and think about how Shackleton and the *Endurance* party must have felt looking out at the watery horizon less than 100 years ago. In order to keep on schedule, we had to put back to sea for the remainder of the day.

**December 30-** Our plan to first visit the huge Chinstrap Penguin colony at Baily Head was put on the back burner on account of crashing surf, so we instead began our landings at Deception Island with a visit to the old whaling station and a scenic gap called Neptune's Window. Following that, some of the more intrepid (=foolish?) members of our party, including the author, braved the Antarctic waters at Pendulum Cove. We were hoping for geo-thermally heated water, but that was in very short supply. After this refreshing dip, we found calm conditions at "the Head", so we were able to land there and make a brief foray into the amphitheater-like home of 100,000 Chinstrap Penguins with dozens of patrolling Brown Skuas. Later in the day we visited Hannah Point on Livingstone Island, where a handful of Macaroni Penguins nested with the Chinstraps and Southern Giant-Petrels occupied the high ground.

**December 31-** Antarctica! We made a continental landing at Neko Harbor, the seventh continent for many in the group. Gentle Gentoo Penguins were the dominant species here, and South Polar Skuas outnumbered the Browns, which had been the common form farther north. The view from the top of the hill was splendid, and all of our fearless leaders took the "express route" down, which was great fun. We next went zodiac cruising in Paradise Bay where we had close looks at Crabeater Seals and a singing Leopard Seal! This was followed by a ship transit of the lovely Lemaire Channel en route to Petermann Island. At Petermann Island we visited an Adelie Penguin colony, and we were able to see compare South Polar and Brown Skuas. After dinner, we made another transit of the Lemaire Channel, and later enjoyed a New Year's Eve party. Many stayed up to ring in the New Year, and some stayed up a bit later.



**January 1-** We were supposed to first land at Port Lockroy in the morning, but an unscheduled visit by another tourist ship forced us to change plans. Instead, we visited Damoy Point nearby. We then had a barbecue on deck and visited Port Lockroy in two groups. This was a chance to see Gentoo Penguins up close, visit a historical landmark, and do some more shopping. From Port Lockroy, we headed toward Cuverville Island, which has the largest colony of Gentoo Penguins along the Antarctic Peninsula and is truly a lovely spot, a verdant jewel in a foreboding landscape. Along the way, while cruising the Neumayer Channel, which is truly spectacular in itself, we spotted an Antarctic Petrel, which was obliging enough to remain in view for several minutes, even giving passengers time to scramble out of their cabins to see it! When we arrived at Cuverville, the light was beautiful- a photographer's dream. The pretty light continued such that even after dinner, many were able to get some fantastic photos of lunge feeding Humpback Whales in Wilhelmina Bay, where the sky was full of stunning lenticular clouds.

**January 2-** Our last day in Antarctica found us in the vicinity of Palmer Station. Formerly commonplace, ship visits to research bases in the Antarctic are no longer a feature of every cruise. So we were fortunate to have this opportunity, and the surrounding waters also offered great zodiac cruising, where we saw nesting Adelie Penguins and four species of seals! Palmer Station was quite impressive, very well equipped as you might expect, and of course was the last shopping stop in Antarctica.

**January 3-** This was a foggy day at sea (but no wind!) so bird sightings were few and far between.

**January 4-** Visibility was much better today, and so was the birding. We saw a good variety of tubenoses, including several Southern Royal Albatross, and a single Northern Royal, which is worth noting as it seems to be a possible 'split.'" A few Greater and Manx Shearwaters were seen among the thousands of Sooties as we approached the Beagle Channel, and a few persistent observers were treated to good looks at Magellanic Diving Petrel as we drew close to Ushuaia, where we arrived around 1000 PM, ahead of schedule on account of our smooth crossing of the Drake (Lake?) Passage.

**January 5-** We were awakened early so the crew could turn the ship around for the next group, which was to arrive in the afternoon. We said our goodbyes to new friends, and many of us boarded buses bound for Tierra Del Fuego National Park for one last shot at "the Woodpecker." We directed our drivers and tour guides to Lago Roca, the area which we felt offered us the best chance for seeing this great bird. As we crept through the campground with the second bus, VENT passenger Michael Martin announced- "There's a woodpecker!" And there it was, a beautiful male Magellanic Woodpecker; we were able to stop and see it while I hailed Victor and Barry on the radio to come back. Luck was with us. We had to go park the bus, but the woodpecker stuck to his tree and was studied and

digiscoped at length. With our mission accomplished, we had time but for a brief stop on our way to the airport and, for most, a flight to Chile. We arrived in good time to the Sheraton in Santiago where a fresh breeze made it easier to adjust to the warmer climate.

**January 6-** An optional day of birding in the Andes for some of us- a fantastic introduction to the birds of Chile with local guide Michal Sallaberry. Others spent the day touring the city or pursuing other plans. Most of us boarded flights for home during the evening.

**January 7-** Home!

### Bird List

Per current VENT procedure, the following bird list is based on the AOU checklist. Previous trip lists from VENT Antarctica tours have been based on James Clements' world checklist, so there are some notable differences here, both in the taxonomic sequence, common names, and in what are considered to be species. The Clements checklist for example splits out three species of "Blue-eyed" Shags or Cormorants- Imperial, South Georgia, and Antarctic- whereas the AOU lumps two of these as one species "Imperial Cormorant," but with a footnote indicating a split might be in order, and a proposal is needed to address the issue. Likewise for "Cobb's Wren", which is presently treated as a subspecies of House Wren by the AOU. I have also included notes by the AOU South American Checklist Committee pertaining to other possible splits and name changes.

The main trip list includes birds seen in the vicinity of Ushuaia, Argentina and Tierra del Fuego National Park as well as the birds seen on our cruise to Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands with the Clipper Adventurer. Birds seen on optional birding trips to Costanera Sur (Buenos Aires) and Los Farallones (above Santiago) are listed separately.

**Upland Goose** *Chloephaga picta*- The Upland Goose was by far the commonest of the "sheldgeese" seen on this trip. It was seen around the vicinity of Tierra del Fuego National Park (hereafter TdFNP) and in the Falklands.

**Kelp Goose** *Chloephaga hybrida*- This species was common in marine environments around Ushuaia and in the Falklands.

**Ashy-headed Goose** *Chloephaga poliocephala*- We saw several in the vicinity of TdFNP.

**Ruddy-headed Goose** *Chloephaga rubidiceps*- We saw a few on Carcass Island in the Falklands and in the vicinity of the Stanley airport.

**Flying Steamer-Duck** *Tachyeres patachonicus*- We saw a number of these around Ushuaia and TdFNP, and there were at least a couple of sightings in the Falklands.

**Flightless Steamer-Duck** *Tachyeres pteneres*- We saw several around Ushuaia, mostly near the new airport.

**Falkland Steamer-Duck** *Tachyeres brachypterus*- Very common in the Falklands, much more so than *T. patachonicus*.

**Crested Duck** *Lophonetta specularioides*- These ducks were very common in estuarine environments around Ushuaia and throughout the Falklands.

**Spectacled Duck** *Speculanas specularis*- We were fortunate to see a pair in TdFNP on our first visit there. We did not see them when we returned.

**Speckled Teal** *Anas flavirostris*- We saw a few of these compact little ducks around Ushuaia as well as near Stanley.

**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica*- We saw these around Ushuaia and also in South Georgia. The birds at the latter location were formerly treated as a separate species.

**Silver Teal** *Anas versicolor*- We saw a handful of these dapper little ducks just outside Stanley.

**Red Shoveler** *Anas platalea*- We saw a few at Bahia Encerrada in Ushuaia on our first day.

**White-tufted Grebe** *Rollandia rolland*- We saw one near the new airport in Ushuaia just prior to departing.

**Great Grebe** *Podiceps major*- We saw a few of these around Ushuaia and also in TdFNP.

**King Penguin** *Aptenodytes patagonicus*- We got our first looks at nesting Kings on December 25 at Salisbury Plain in the Bay of Isles, where the great seabird ornithologist, Robert Cushman Murphy studied them nearly a hundred years ago. The following day, we visited the largest rookery on South Georgia at St. Andrews Bay, perhaps 200,000 strong.

**Adelie Penguin** *Pygoscelis adeliae*- We visited a colony on Petermann Island, where there was enough snow that the birds did quite a bit of tobogganing to get to and from their nests. We also saw several on icebergs nearby, and we saw another colony at Torgensen Island while zodiac cruising near Palmer Station. This species is much more numerous on the other side of the peninsula, where

ice conditions often make it difficult to reach their colonies on a ship tour like ours.

**Gentoo Penguin** *Pygoscelis papua*- These are the most docile of the “brushtail” penguins, and also the most widespread. We encountered them first in the Falklands, where they have declined alarmingly over the last few years. They were widespread at South Georgia, the South Shetlands, and along the Antarctic Peninsula, where the colony at Petermann Island is the southernmost in the world. The largest Gentoo rookery in the Antarctic is at Cuverville Island, where we also made a landing.

**Chinstrap Penguin** *Pygoscelis antarcticus*- This pugnacious bird is far and away the dominant penguin in the South Shetlands. We were fortunate to make a landing at Chinstrap Mecca- Baily Head on Deception Island, where perhaps 100,000 of these birds nest!

**Magellanic Penguin** *Spheniscus magellanicus*- We saw our first of these from the ship as we cruised out the Beagle Channel on December 19. A couple of days later on Carcass Island, we had to be careful not to walk too close to their nests, which are underground.

**Macaroni Penguin** *Eudyptes chrysolophus*- These crested penguins are probably the most numerous penguin species nesting on South Georgia, but because they nest on steep tussocky slopes, they are the hardest to observe closely. Nevertheless, we had great looks on a snowy zodiac cruise of Hercules Bay.

**Rockhopper Penguin** *Eudyptes chrysocome*- We saw many at the rookery on New Island, where we watched them make the steep hop up from the sea. That colony is apparently very successful because some of the birds there raise three chicks! We also saw some Rockies at sea in the Drake as we approached Cape Horn.

**Royal Albatross** *Diomedea epomophora*- This species nests only around New Zealand, but is a fairly common visitor to waters off South America. We saw it on all of our sea crossings, but it was most common near the edge of the continental shelf. All but one individual observed were the Southern form- *D. e. epomophora*. We saw one Northern Royal- *D. e. sanfordi*, which has much blacker upper wings with a dark leading edge, on January 4 near Cape Horn. Some taxonomists consider these to be separate species.

**Wandering Albatross** *Diomedea exulans*- These birds were generally not seen as close to South America as the Royals. One of the highlights of the trip was visiting Wanderers at their nests on Prion Island in the Bay of Isles on Dec. 25. Such a visit makes for a true appreciation of this bird’s immensity.

**Light-mantled Albatross** *Phoebastria palpebrata*- After seeing a few of these rather slender and most graceful birds at sea en route to South Georgia, we found nesting birds at Hercules Bay and Gold Harbor. We also observed some wonderful synchronized flights at Prion Island. The agility of this species allows it to nest on ledges that other albatrosses, which are more colonial, do not utilize.

**Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophrys*- This was far and away the commonest albatross of the trip, especially around South America, the Falklands, and also at sea. We also visited a rookery at New Island where these birds nested alongside Rockhopper Penguins and Imperial (King) Cormorants (Shags).

**Gray-headed Albatross** *Thalassarche chrysostoma*- We saw a number of these beautiful mollymawks in the vicinity of South Georgia, where they nest. It was a bit surprising that we did not see a number of them in the Drake Passage because they also nest at Diego Ramirez, and can be fairly common in those waters.

**Southern (Antarctic) Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus*- Ironically, the “GPs” which breed around South America and the Falklands are this species. We also saw *M. giganteus* at South Georgia, the South Shetlands, Antarctica, and at sea. A small number of the white morph were seen.

**Northern (Hall’s) Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes halli*- This was the form of ‘GP’ most often seen hundreds of miles out to sea. At Prion Island, some of us saw what appeared to be a mixed pair of Northern and Southern Giant-Petrels.

Some authors consider the Giant-Petrels to comprise only one species.

**Southern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*- We saw our first fulmars in the Scotia Sea on December 27. As we approached the South Shetlands, they became common, and we passed a very large concentration during dinner on January 1 on our approach to Wilhelmina Bay.

**Antarctic Petrel** *Thalassoica antarctica*- This was a scarce and elusive species during this trip. It was first reported as we passed through pack ice leaving South Georgia. A few people were on deck and saw one or two between the Lemaire Channel and Petermann on Dec. 31, but the best study was a of bird the following day in the Neumayer Channel, which remained in view for several minutes.

**Cape Petrel** *Daption capense*- This species was very common and seen almost daily at sea except when visibility was about nil. We enjoyed close looks at Deception Island, where a great number also nested in the rocks.

**Snow Petrel** *Pagodroma nivea*- These beautiful birds were seen sparingly and

for the most part at sea. Nevertheless, we had great views, and I attribute the low numbers to a paucity of pack ice in the areas we transited.

**Kerguelen Petrel** *Aphrodroma brevirostris*- We were lucky to see a dozen or more of these dapper little petrels on the morning of December 27. A fresh breeze had them flying high, where they would sometimes pause briefly, quite unlike the flight of any other tubenose that I have seen. This feature made them fairly easy to identify at a great distance.

**Soft-plumaged Petrel** *Pterodroma mollis*- This species was decidedly uncommon during this trip, with small numbers seen on Dec. 22 and 23. Just 11 months prior, I had observed hundreds in the same area.

**Atlantic Petrel** *Pterodroma incerta*- This is typically a very scarce species on this route; just one or two were seen by very few observers on Dec. 23.

**Blue Petrel** *Halobaena caerulea*- This is a beautiful little bird, prion-like, but faster and higher flying. They were common on both sides of South Georgia and also in the Drake Passage.

**Fairy Prion** *Pachyptila turtur*- This species was seen by a couple of observers on Dec. 24.

**Dove (Antarctic) Prion** *Pachyptila desolata*- We first encountered this species on Dec. 23, and by the time we got to Shag Rocks they were quite abundant. It was likely the most numerous bird at sea for the trip. They nest in abundance at South Georgia, but are nocturnal around their colonies so as to avoid the skuas.

**Slender-billed (Thin-billed) Prion** *Pachyptila belcheri*- We saw these prions in abundance on Dec. 20, west of the Falklands, where they nest. We saw a few as late as Dec. 23, but they were way outnumbered by *P. desolata* that day.

**White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis*- These big shearwater-like birds were seen on most days at sea. One of the trip highlights for some of us was watching these birds at dusk around a colony at Gold Harbor. They would clamber out on the ground and sing before heading out to sea.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*- This was essentially an inshore species during this trip. Most that we saw were in the vicinity of Cape Horn, the Beagle Channel, and the Falklands, which are breeding grounds. They were very common at the entrance to the Beagle Channel.

**Greater Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*- We saw just a few Greaters, near the Falklands and in the vicinity of Cape Horn.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*- A few were seen among the Sooties by some of the more persistent seabirders as we rounded the Horn.

**Black-bellied Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta tropica*- This species was fairly common at sea. The largest numbers were seen just south of Elephant Island.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*- This species was seen almost daily at sea in varying numbers. We also observed them flying around nest sites during the day in the South Shetlands and Antarctica. Al Jaramillo, author of the *Birds of Chile*, has suggested that the subspecies *exasperatus* might be a separate species from nominate *Oceanites oceanicus*. That would certainly be “exasperating” if it were the case.

**Gray-backed Storm-Petrel** *Garrodia nereis*- We saw this species only at sea on Dec. 20 and 22. It is frequently observed around drifting “kelp paddies,” where it feeds extensively on a certain barnacle.

**Common Diving-Petrel** *Pelecanoides urinatrix*- This was not generally a good trip for “DPs”, but we did identify Commons on at least three days at sea.

**South Georgia Diving-Petrel** *Pelecanoides georgicus*- This bird was seen close by the port bow for a lucky few on Dec. 27. We also saw their nest holes in the scree near Fortuna Bay during the Shackleton hike on Dec. 25.

**Magellanic Diving-Petrel** *Pelecanoides magellani*- This bird, which prefers sheltered waters, was seen by a lucky and persistent few during our two transits of the Beagle Channel.

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*- One was seen by a few of us at Lago Roca in TdFNP on Jan. 5.

**Magellan Cormorant (Rock Shag)** *Phalacrocorax magellanicus*

These birds were not nearly as numerous as the Imperial Cormorants, but they were seen around Ushuaia and at a number of locations in the Falklands.

**Imperial Cormorant (Shag)** *Phalacrocorax atriceps*- We first saw these around Ushuaia where a few whiter-cheeked mainland types were noted among the predominant darker-cheeked form. We then saw them nesting at New Island.

When we saw them in the South Shetlands and Antarctica, I referred to them as **Antarctic Shag (Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis* as I was not following AOU at the time. Nevertheless, it seems a likely split for AOU.

**South Georgia Cormorant (Shag)** *Phalacrocorax georgianus*- One of the true spectacles of the trip was our circumnavigation of Shag Rocks, where the sight (and scent) of thousands of cormorants was quite arresting.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*- We saw several of these during the long walk at Carcass Island, and others around Ushuaia.

**Black-faced Ibis** *Theristicus melanopis*- We saw these on both of our visits to TdFNP.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*- We saw this species in the vicinity of Ushuaia and TdFNP as well as in the Falklands. Al Jaramillo has suggested that the resident tropical subspecies *ruficollis* and the southern subspecies group (*jota* and "*falklandica*") might merit recognition as separate species from the northern *Cathartes aura* group.

**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*- We had nice looks at a pair at TdFNP on Dec. 19.

**Red-backed Hawk** *Buteo polyosoma*- We saw one near the settlement on New Island.

**Rufous-tailed Hawk** *Buteo ventralis*- A few participants glimpsed one in TdFNP. Some authors consider this conspecific with the Red-tailed Hawk *B. jamaicensis* (see AOU.).

**White-throated Caracara** *Phalacrocorax albogularis*- We were lucky to find a single at the "old dump" between Ushuaia and TdFNP on our first day.

**Striated Caracara** *Phalacrocorax australis*- "Johnny Rook" was quite well-behaved, despite the fact we passed fairly close to a nest with young at Carcass Island. Those who have never been buzzed by these birds might think reports of their audacity have been exaggerated, but I can tell you they have no fear.

**Southern Caracara** *Caracara plancus*- We had some great looks at perched birds near Lago Roca in TdFNP.

**Chimango Caracara** *Milvago chimango*- These small slender caracaras were quite common in the vicinity of Ushuaia and TdFNP, where they are the ecological equivalents of crows.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*- We had scope views of one perched on a rock outside Stanley.

**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*- This common, loud, and conspicuous shorebird was found around Ushuaia and TdFNP.

**Two-banded Plover** *Charadrius falklandicus*- Thanks to Victor's planning we were able to see this attractive little plover and the next species outside Stanley.



**Rufous-chested Dotterel** *Charadrius modestus*- We saw several of these birds in a variety of plumages on a birding trip to the outskirts of Stanley on Dec. 22. A couple were absolutely beautiful.

**Blackish Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ater*- We saw these around Ushuaia and in the Falklands. Much like the Black Oystercatcher *H. bachmani*, this species prefers rocky areas.

**Magellanic Oystercatcher** *Haematopus leucopodus*- This species was very common around Ushuaia and in the Falklands. It was even found in upland habitat on occasion.

**Snowy Sheathbill** *Chionis albus*- We saw our first sheathbills in the distance at New Island. A few days later they were picking at our boots and tugging at rain pants at St. Andrews Bay. This peculiar scavenging shorebird has the distinction of being the only Antarctic bird without webbed feet. A sheathbill nest with young was seen at Hannah Point.

**South American Snipe** *Gallinago paraguaiiae*- Some of the “Long Walkers” of Carcass Island enjoyed very close looks at a couple of these snipe, one of which was completely soaked by the rain. We saw another outside Stanley the following day.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*- We saw a couple on the runway of the Stanley airport and others around Ushuaia.

**Chilean Skua** *Stercorarius chilensis*- This coastal skua is the most colorful of the large skuas. We saw many of these around Ushuaia and along the Beagle Channel out to the vicinity of Cape Horn. Another was seen well east of Staten Island on Dec. 20.

**South Polar Skua** *Stercorarius maccormicki*- This is the common skua in Antarctica, where it greatly outnumbers the Brown Skua. We saw dozens of South Polars at Petermann Island, Cuverville Island, and while cruising in Antarctic waters. Experience with the Brown Skua earlier in the trip was helpful for being able to identify this species, which is smaller and grayer. South Polars feed some on seabirds, but they also do a lot of fishing.

**Brown Skua** *Stercorarius antarcticus*- This species was widespread. The birds we saw in the Falklands were *S. a. antarcticus* (which doesn't seem an appropriate trinomial, but that's it), and they were fairly small, like a South Polar, but chunky. The rest of the birds we saw- from South Georgia to the Peninsula- were *S. a. lonnbergi*, and these were massive. They feed a lot on penguins and other seabirds. There were dozens in the air patrolling the Baily Head Chinstrap rookery at Deception Island.

**Dolphin Gull** *Leucophaeus scoresbii*- We found this attractive gull to be common around Ushuaia and in the Falklands.

**Kelp (Dominican) Gull** *Larus dominicanus*- We saw Kelp Gulls from Ushuaia to Antarctica and all points in between, but not at sea. Nesting birds with downy chicks were seen near Palmer Station.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*- This species generally winters in the pack ice, particularly on the east side of the peninsula, so a single bird at sea, seen by Victor, Barry, and others on Dec. 20 was a good find.

**South American Tern** *Sterna hirundinacea*- We found these to be common around Ushuaia and the Falklands.

**Antarctic Tern** *Sterna vittata*- We actually had some of our best looks at this species not in Antarctica, but at Grytviken and Stromness in South Georgia, where it also nests. It was common and widespread, all the way down to the peninsula.

**Austral Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium nanum*- Sometimes birding with a large group can be an advantage. I doubt we would have seen this bird with just a few eyes looking- TdFNP on Dec. 19.

**Magellanic Woodpecker** *Campephilus magellanicus*- We made a special trip to TdFNP on Jan. 5 for to look for this bird, which we did not see there on Dec. 19, and thanks to Michael Martin's sharp eye from inside the bus, we all got to see it!

**Bar-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes fuscus*- This was one of the first birds we saw as we left the airport in Ushuaia headed for TdFNP.

**Dark-bellied Cinclodes** *Cinclodes patagonicus*- We saw a few of these around Ushuaia and also at TdFNP.

**Blackish Cinclodes** *Cinclodes antarcticus*- Known in the Falklands as the "Tussockbird," it is quite tame and usually only present on rat-free islands, so it was a surprise to see it one on New Island. They were quite common at Carcass Island, however, where they fed on insects disturb by our footprints.

**Thorn-tailed Rayadito** *Aphrastura spinicauda*- These active little forest birds were very common at TdFNP.

**White-throated Treerunner** *Pygarrhichas albogularis*- At least a couple of participants saw this species at TdFNP.

**White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps*- We saw and heard a few of these flycatchers at TdFNP.

**Tufted Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes parulus*- Though our group had spread out, at least a few people saw this species at the Lago Roca campground at TdFNP.

**Austral Negrito** *Lessonia rufa*- A few of these flycatchers were seen in the open areas of TdFNP.

**Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maclovianus*- Apparently, bad weather had sent this species down to lower elevations in TdFNP, where we saw it on Dec. 19. We also saw it in the Falklands where it regularly occurs at sea level.

**Chilean Swallow** *Tachycineta meyeni*- We saw several of these attractive birds in the vicinity of Ushuaia and TdFNP.

**(Southern) House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon musculus*

This may be a different species than our North American House Wren. Time will tell.

We found *T. (a.) musculus* to be quite common in TdFNP.

There were a couple of encounters with “**Cobb’s Wren**” *T. (a.) cobbi* on Carcass Island. This taxon almost certainly merits specific rank. Like the Blackish Cinclodes, it is mainly confined to rat free islands.

**Sedge (Grass) Wren** *Cistothorus platensis falklandicus*- Some of us saw and heard *C. p. falklandicus* at New Island and Carcass Island in the Falklands. This taxon *might* warrant specific rank.

**Austral Thrush** *Turdus falcklandii*- In the same genus as American Robin, this species was quite common and easily observed in the vicinity of TdFNP and in the Falklands.

**Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera*- We saw a few of these in the Falklands.

**South Georgia Pipit** *Anthus antarcticus*- This species is restricted to rat-free islands, so we were lucky to visit Prion Island, where it was quite common. Because it nests in the tussock, which is quite dense, males spend quite a bit of time in the air advertising and defending territories.

**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis*- Hard to miss in southern South America, this species is common from sea level up to the tree-line.

**Patagonian Sierra-Finch** *Phrygilus patagonicus*- We had great looks at these confiding birds at TdFNP.

**Black-throated Finch** *Melanodera melanodera*- We saw several of these on Carcass Island and also in the countryside near Stanley.

**Austral Blackbird** *Curaeus curaeus*- We had some nice looks at these on Jan. 5 around Lago Roca in TdFNP.

**Long-tailed Meadowlark** *Sturnella loyca*- We saw this species in Ushuaia and all three birding sites in the Falklands. The adult males are stunning.

**Black-chinned Siskin** *Carduelis barbata*- We found these at several locations including TdfNP, New Island, Carcass Island, and Stanley.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*- We almost missed it, but a few were seen in Stanley!

## Mammals

**European Hare** *Lepus capensis*- We saw a few of these outside Stanley.

**European Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*- Bunnies were abundant in TdFNP.

**Cottontail** *Sylvilagus sp.*- This was the rabbit we saw at New Island, probably Eastern Cottontail *S. floridanus*. They were introduced there in the 1700's or 1800's by whalers and sealers.

**Sei Whale** *Balaenoptera borealis*- We identified a few of these in the Scotia Sea west of South Georgia.

**Fin Whale** *Balaenoptera physalus*- We saw these, which are the second largest animal in the world, on at least three days at sea.

**Antarctic Minke Whale** *Balaenoptera bonaerensis*- We saw minkes mostly in the southernmost waters we transited, on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

**Humpback Whale** *Megaptera novaeangliae*- We saw humpbacks everyday from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3. We observed them "bubble-netting" in Wilhelmina Bay on New Year's Day.

**Beaked Whales-** We observed a few unidentified beaked whales at sea in deep water. Some were probably *Mesoplodon*, while others might have been Southern Bottlenose Whale *Hyperodon planifrons*.

**Killer Whale *Orcinus orca*-** We did not see nearly as many Killer Whales as we have seen on some trips to the peninsula, but we did see them on a couple of days. A lack of sea ice might explain their scarcity.

**Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globiocephala melaena*-** We observed a small group off the port side of the ship in the Scotia Sea on Dec. 28.

**Dusky Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*-** These were the “Lags” that we saw in the Beagle Channel on Jan. 4. They were quite active and playful.

**Hourglass Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus cruciger*-** At least a few participants were on deck to see this species on Dec. 23.

**Peale’s Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis*-** We observed a number of these in the waters of the Falkland Islands.

**Commerson’s Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus commersonii*-** I don’t think everyone saw these, but there were a few seen in the Falklands.

**Southern Sea Lion *Otaria byronia*-** Some were seen in the Falkland Islands and others were seen in the Beagle Channel.

**South American Fur Seal *Arctocephalus australis*-** Some were seen in the Falklands.

**Antarctic Fur Seal *Arctocephalus gazella*-** We saw thousands of these on the shores of South Georgia and lesser numbers at sea. At times they seemed a bit menacing when we entered their territories, but fortunately they always backed off.

**Southern Elephant Seal *Mirounga leonine*-** We saw lots of “sea elephants” on South Georgia and lesser numbers in the South Shetlands. We even saw a few as far south as Palmer Station.

**Crabeater Seal *Lobodon carcinophagus*-** These seals were fairly common along the peninsula where they often rested on the ice.

**Leopard Seal *Hydrurga leptonyx*-** We saw a few resting on ice, and a few swimming ones as well during zodiac cruises from Elephant Island to Palmer. A singing “Lep” in Paradise Bay on Dec. 31 was a rarity.

**Weddell Seal** *Leptonychotes weddelli*- A few of us might have stepped on one of these at Point Wild, had the scouting crew not noticed it first. We saw a few more of these, and they were almost always on the shore, where they do blend in well with their surroundings.

**Reindeer** *Rangifer tarandus*- No, we didn't see Rudolph, but we did see a couple of herds at South Georgia, descendants of those introduced there by whalers nearly 100 years ago.

## Birds seen on the optional trip to the Andes from Santiago on Jan. 6, 2006

Chilean Tinamou *Nothoprocta perdicaria*  
California Quail *Callipepla californica*  
Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis*  
Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*  
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*  
Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*  
Red-backed Hawk *Buteo polyosoma*  
Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*  
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*  
Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*  
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*  
Black-winged Ground-Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera*  
Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*  
Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*  
Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*  
Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephaniodes*  
Chilean Flicker *Colaptes pitius*  
Rufous-banded Miner *Geositta rufipennis*  
Bar-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*  
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*  
Moustached Turca *Pterotochos megapodius*  
White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*  
Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*  
White-fronted Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albifrons*  
Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maclovianus*  
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*  
Great Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis lividus*  
Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope*  
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter *Phytotoma rara*  
Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*  
Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*  
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*  
Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii*  
Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus thenca*  
Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*  
Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi*  
Mourning Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti*  
Band-tailed Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus*  
Common Diuca-Finch *Diuca diuca*  
Greater Yellow-Finch *Sicalis auriventris*  
Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaeus*  
Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*  
Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca*  
Black-chinned Siskin *Carduelis barbata*

## Birds seen on the optional afternoon trip to Costanera Sur

December 17, 2005  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)  
Coscoroba Swan (*Coscoroba coscoroba*)  
Ringed Teal (*Callonetta leucophrys*)  
Speckled Teal (*Anas flavirostris*)  
Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*)  
Silver Teal (*Anas versicolor*)  
Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)  
Red Shoveler (*Anas platalea*)  
Rosy-billed Pochard (*Netta peposaca*)  
Black-headed Duck (*Heteronetta atricapilla*)  
Lake Duck (*Oxyura vittata*)  
White-tufted Grebe (*Rollandia rolland*)  
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)  
Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)  
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)  
Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)  
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)  
Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*)  
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)  
White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)  
Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)  
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atrata*)  
Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*)  
Chimango Caracara (*Milvago chimango*)  
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
Red-gartered Coot (*Fulica anmillata*)  
Red-fronted Coot (*Fulica rufifrons*)  
White-winged Coot (*Fulica leucoptera*)  
Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)  
Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*)  
Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)  
    subspecies: "South American Stilt" *H.m. melanurus*  
South American Snipe (*Gallinago paraguaiiae*)  
Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)  
Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)  
White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)  
Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)  
Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*)  
Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)



Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)  
Gray-hooded Gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*)  
Brown-hooded Gull (*Larus maculipennis*)  
Snowy-crowned Tern (*Sterna trudeaui*)  
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)  
Picazuro Pigeon (*Patagioenas picazuro*)  
Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)  
Nanday (Black-hooded) Parakeet (*Nandayus nenday*)  
Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)  
Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*)  
Glittering-bellied Hummingbird (*Chlorostilbon aureoventris*)  
Green-barred Woodpecker (*Colaptes melanochloros*) – We saw the “Golden-breasted” form, which was formerly treated as a separate species.  
Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*)  
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)  
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)  
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)  
Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*)  
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)  
White-rumped Swallow (*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*)  
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
Masked Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila dumicola*)  
Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*)  
Chalk-browed Mockingbird (*Mimus saturninus*)  
Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)  
Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza nigrorufa*)  
Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)  
Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*)  
Yellow-billed Cardinal (*Paroaria capitata*)  
Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*)  
Yellow-winged Blackbird (*Agelasticus thilius*)  
Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)  
Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanica*)  
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)