

SOUTHERN ARGENTINA TOUR PATAGONIA & TIERRA DEL FUEGO

December 1-2, 2007

Guides: Steve Hilty with Hector Solongo and Santiago Imberti (local)

Preparing the list of birds and mammals recorded on our 2007 Southern Argentina trip, I think of birds and mammals and roadsides with wildflowers. I think especially of a male Lesser Rhea with striped chicks in tow as it attempts to vault a fence, of rare Yellow Cardinals, an Austral Rail, condors against snowy mountains, tinamous with crests, penguins dotting a desert landscape, cormorants and seabirds patrolling cold Beagle Channel waters, waterfowl gathered on cold lagoons, canasteros clinging grimly to hard-scrabble shrubs, black-tyrants gamely perched atop low bushes, and tiny Austral Negritos defying the laws of physics as they perch and flutter on the ground in gale-force winds. I remember also those Patagonian winds everywhere, and the coldest and cruelest winds of all at Río Gallegos, but what would Patagonia be without a little wind. Patagonia's long, spare coastline with penguins and elephant seals, and Two-banded Plovers and Kelp Gulls patrolling leaves a lasting impression, as do the lonely scrub steppes of Calafate, great glaciers, and seven thousand years of human history in the cold waters of the Beagle Channel.

This is a trip like no other...a little more tiring than some, perhaps, because of the great distances, and usually with only a small number of birds each day, but what a place it is. From the edge of the spiny chaco deserts at the start of the trip to the grasslands and scrublands of the far south and the dark and mysterious *Nothofagus* forests of Tierra del Fuego, these are regions almost larger than life, filled with hope, history, and romance, and today occupied mostly by small Argentine towns and long narrow roads that seem almost incidental to the great expanses of land in between.

A list of birds tells part of the story, and does not, by itself, necessarily make a successful trip. There were stories to tell and retell, sights to see, Hector's three choices for meals (chicken was always one of them), some fine Argentina steaks and mixed salads, and Chris even sampled one of the orange Darwin's mushrooms (*Cyttara darwinii*) on Tierra del Fuego (the rest of you at least looked at them). Some of you also sampled a good portion of the Argentine wines and beers ever bottled, and learned to love sticky croissants, *cafe con leche*, corn flakes, and ham and cheese for breakfast. Who, also, could forget those daily rations of Pehuahe peanuts, Sara joining the Buenos Aires song and dance troop, Santiago's smile, Coke Zeros and ice cream at truck stops, refilling water bottles, shaggy dogs large and small, *agua con gas* (and *sin* "gas" too), Marsello's well-meaning over-exuberance, and all the splendid habitats as we traveled ever southward and simultaneous backward through spring. I hope you enjoyed the trip in all its manifest variations and will come again to see the rest of Argentina. And tell your friends too.

Boldface and underlined = uncommon, rare or of special interest

(*) asterisk = heard only

BA = Buenos Aires

LIST OF BIRDS:

Lesser Rhea	<i>Rhea (Pterocnemia) pennata</i>
Elegant Crested-Tinamou	<i>Eudromia elegans</i>
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
White-tufted Grebe	<i>Podiceps rolland</i>
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>
Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>
Antarctic (Southern) Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax olivaceus</i>
Rock Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>
Imperial (King) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax albiventer</i>
Blue-eyed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax albiventer atriceps</i>
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
Black-faced Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>
Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Black-necked Swan	<i>Cygnus melancoryphus</i>
Coscoroba Swan	<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>
Ashy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga poliocephala</i>
Flightless Steamer-Duck	<i>Tachyeres pteneres</i>
White-headed (Chubut) Steamer-Duck	<i>Tachyeres leucocephala</i>
Flying Steamer-Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>
Chiloe Wigeon	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
Spectacled Duck	<i>Anas specularis</i>
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>
Silver Teal	<i>Anas versicolor</i>
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Red Shoveler	<i>Anas platalea</i>
Rosy-billed Pochard	<i>Netta peposaca</i>
Andean Duck	<i>Oxyura ferruginea</i>
Lake Duck	<i>Oxyura vittata</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>
Cinereous Harrier	<i>Circus cinereus</i>

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>
Variable (Red-backed if split again) Hawk	<i>Buteo polysoma</i>
White-throated Caracara	<i>Polyborus albogularis</i>
Southern Crested Caracara	<i>Polyborus plancus</i>
Chimango Caracara	<i>Milvago chimango</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Austral Rail	<i>Rallus antarcticus</i>
Plumbeous Rail	<i>Rallus sanguinolentus</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Spot-flanked Gallinule	<i>Porphyriops melanops</i>
White-winged Coot	<i>Fulica leucoptera</i>
Red-gartered Coot	<i>Fulica armillata</i>
Red-fronted Coot	<i>Fulica rufifrons</i>
Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>
South American (White-backed) Stilt	<i>Himantopus melanurus</i>
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Two-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>
Rufous-chested Dotterel	<i>Zonibyx modestus</i>
Tawny-throated Dotterel	<i>Oreopholus ruficollis</i>
Magellanic Plover	<i>Pluvianellus socialis</i>
South American Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraguayae</i>
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
Least Seedsnipe	<i>Thinocorus rumicivorus</i>
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>
Chilean Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>
Brown (Antarctic) Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarctica lonnbergi</i>
jaeger sp.	<i>Stercorarius (prob. pomarinus)</i>
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Brown-hooded Gull	<i>Larus maculipennis</i>
Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>
Picazuro Pigeon	<i>Columba picazuro</i>
Spot-winged Pigeon	<i>Columba maculosa</i>
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
Picui Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>
Burrowing Parrot	<i>Cyanoliseus patagonus</i>
Austral Parakeet	<i>Enicognathus ferrugineus</i>
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monacha</i>
Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>
Austral Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Glittering-bellied Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon aureoventris</i>
Gilded Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis chrysura</i>
Green-barred Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes melanochloros</i>
Chilean Flicker	<i>Colaptes pitius</i>
Magellanic Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus magellanicus</i>
Common Miner	<i>Geositta cunicularia</i>
Scale-throated Earthcreeper	<i>Upucerthis dumetaria</i>

Band-tailed Earthcreeper	<i>Eremobius phoenicurus</i>
Dark-bellied Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes patagonicus</i>
Bar-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>
Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
Thorn-tailed Rayadito	<i>Aphrastura spinicauda</i>
Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura aegithaloides</i>
Sooty-fronted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis frontalis</i>
Stripe-crowned Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca pyrrhopia</i>
Lesser Canastero	<i>Asthenes pyrrholeuca</i>
Short-billed Canastero	<i>Asthenes baeri</i>
Patagonian Canastero	<i>Asthenes patagonica</i>
Austral Canastero	<i>Asthenes anthoides</i>
Brown Cacholote	<i>Pseudoseisura alaudina</i>
White-throated Cacholote	<i>Pseudoseisura gutturalis</i>
White-throated Treerunner	<i>Pygarrhichas albogularis</i>
Sandy Gallito	<i>Teledromus fuscus</i>
Magellanic Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus magellanicus</i>
White-tipped Plantcutter	<i>Phytotoma rutila</i>
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter	<i>Phytotoma rara</i>
White-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>
Gray-crowned Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga (subcristata) griseiceps</i>
Greater Wagtail-Tyrant	<i>Stigmatura budytoides</i>
Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant	<i>Tachuris rubrigastra</i>
Warbling Doradito	<i>Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris</i>
Bran-colored Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
Fire-eyed Diucon	<i>Xolmis pyrope</i>
Black-crowned Monjita	<i>Xolmis coronata</i>
White Monjita	<i>Xolmis irupero</i>
Rusty-backed Monjita	<i>Xolmis rubetra</i>
Chocolate-vented Tyrant	<i>Neoxolmis rufiventris</i>
Great Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis livida</i>
Lesser (Least) Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis murina</i>
Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola macloviana</i>
Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola capistratus</i>
Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant	<i>M. flavinucha</i>
Austral Negrito	<i>Lessonia rufa</i>
Hudson's Black-Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus hudsoni</i>
White-winged Black-Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus aterrimus</i>
Spectacled Tyrant	<i>Hymenops perspicillata</i>
Black-backed Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola albiventer</i>
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
Southern Martin	<i>Progne elegans</i>
White-rumped Swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>
Chilean Swallow	<i>Tachycineta meyeri</i>
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Correndera Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera</i>
Short-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus furcatus</i>
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>
Patagonian Mockingbird	<i>Mimus patagonicus</i>

White-banded Mockingbird	<i>Mimus triurus</i>
Chiguanco Thrush	<i>Turdus chiguanco</i>
Rufous-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>
Austral Thrush	<i>Turdus falcklandii</i>
Masked Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila dumicola</i>
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Hooded Siskin	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>
Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Carduelis barbata</i>
Masked Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis</i>
Sayaca Tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>
Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus gayi</i>
Patagonian Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus patagonicus</i>
Mourning Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus fruited</i>
Carbonated Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus carbonarius</i>
Yellow-bridled Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>
Common Diuca-Finch	<i>Diuca diuca</i>
Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch	<i>Poospiza nigrorufa</i>
Ringed Warbling-Finch	<i>Poospiza torquata</i>
Double-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Patagonian Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis lebruni</i>
Yellow Cardinal	<i>Gubernatrix cristata</i>
Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>
Yellow-billed Cardinal	<i>Paroaria capitata</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Golden-billed Saltator	<i>Saltator aurantiirostris</i>
Yellow-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius thilius</i>
Chestnut-capped Blackbird	<i>Chrysomus ruficapillus</i>
Long-tailed Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella loyca</i>
Bay-winged Cowbird	<i>Molothrus badius</i>
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Austral Blackbird	<i>Curaeus curaeus</i>

NATIVE MAMMALS:

Pampas Cavie	<i>Cavia pamparum</i>
Patagonian Lesser Cavy	<i>Microcavia australis</i>
Guanaco	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>
Patagonian Red Fox	<i>Pseudalopex culpaeus</i> (or <i>P. griseus</i> ; <i>Patagonian Gray Fox</i>)
Patagonian Skunk	<i>Conepatus humboldti</i>
Mara	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>
Seven-banded Armadillo	<i>Zaedyus pichiy</i>
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>
Southern Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonine</i>
Southern Right Whale	<i>Balaena glacialis</i>)
European Hare (alien from Europe)	<i>Lepus auropeus</i>

RECOMMENDED BOOKS: Erick Shipton's, *The Fatal Lodestone*, and Thomas Bridges, *The Uttermost Part of the Earth*, are certainly worthwhile overviews of the Patagonia/Tierra del Fuego region, and of early exploration and settlement of these southern latitudes.

SOME PLANTS FROM SOUTHERN PATAGONIA AND TIERRA DEL FUEGO: Some of these were pointed out to a few interested group members; some were simply noticed by me (or photographed on the run) and identified or

verified later. I include them because I know that a few of you were photographing some of the many wildflowers, especially in Los Glaciares National Park and this may help you narrow down your identification choices if you care to do so.

Firebush	<i>Embothrium coccineum</i>	Proteaceae;
False Mistletoe	<i>Mizodendrum punctulatum</i>	Mizodendraceae
Prickly Heath	<i>Pernettya spp.</i>	Eriaceae
Native Geranium	<i>Geranium magellanicum</i>	Geraniaceae
Diddle Dee	<i>Empetrum rubrum</i>	Empetraceae
Wild Current or gooseberry	<i>Ribes magellanicum</i>	Rosaceae (by some in Grossulariaceae)
Calafate	<i>Berberis buxifolia</i>	Berberidaceae
Holly-leaved Barberry	<i>Berberis ilicifolia</i>	Berberidaceae
Native Anemone	<i>Anemone multifida</i>	Ranunculaceae
Buttercup sp.	<i>Ranunculus peduncularis</i>	Ranunculaceae
Wood's Lady Slipper	<i>Calceolaria biflora</i>	Scrophulariaceae
Field Chickweed	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Caryophyllaceae
Yellow violet	<i>Viola commersoni</i>	Violaceae
Balsam Bog	<i>Bolax gummifera</i>	Umbelliferae; looks like an "outdoor" carpet
Magellan Pea	<i>Lutghryus (Vicia) magellanica</i>	Leguminosae (Fabaceae)
Fashine	<i>Chilliotrichium diffusum</i>	Asteraceae
Yellow Orchid	<i>Gavilea lutea</i>	Orchidaceae
Magellan Orchid	<i>Chloraea magellanica</i>	Orchidaceae
Dog Orchid	<i>Codonorchis lessonii</i>	Orchidaceae
Darwin's Mushroom	<i>Cyttaria darwini</i>	
Southern Beech	<i>Nothofagus betuloides; N. pumilo; N. antarcticus</i>	Nothofagaceae
Waterfall Plant	<i>Ourisia ruelloides</i>	Scrophulariaceae
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera odorata</i>	Onagraceae
Sea Pink	<i>Armeria martima</i>	Plumbaginaceae
Fashine	<i>Chilliotrichium diffusum</i>	Asteraceae
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Asteraceae
Cresotebush	<i>Larrea divaricata</i>	Zygophyllaceae
Cresotebush	<i>Larrea ntida</i>	Zygophyllaceae
	<i>Grindelia sp.</i>	Asteraceae

Trip list compiled by S. Hilty
December 15, 2007