

SOUTHERN ARGENTINA TOUR: 2004

PAMPAS, PATAGONIA & TIERRA DEL FUEGO

November 30 to December 14, 2004

guide: Steve Hilty

Many of the birds I would consider highlights are repeats from previous trips, but a few have not been previously recorded on this trip. Most notable are the number of very rare and localized species recorded this time, among them Austral Rail, Yellow Cardinal, and Pampas Meadowlark, species which have rarely or never been seen on other commercial tours. A list of birds only tells part of the story, and does not, by itself, necessary make a successful trip. There were stories to tell, sights to see, plenty of steaks, mixed salads, flans and other fine foods and wines to savor, some long drives when heads began to nod, some history (i.e. the Haberton Ranch and the settlement of Tierra del Fuego) and good company. Before the trip ended we had bought bottled water in every supermarket and kiosco south of Buenos Aires, enjoyed "liquid" yogurt (some of us), a couple of lamb parrillas, downed a *few* bottles of Guilmes beer, some of you tried *Mate* (very Argentine!), a few of you tried the mushrooms (*Cyttara darminii*) on Tierra del Fuego (or at least you looked at them), and a couple of you sampled a large proportion of all the Argentine wines ever bottled. We also learned how to operate the metal shutters on Argentine hotel windows, managed to open bathroom doors without hitting the toilet or sink (most of the time), learned to love croissants (media lunas) and cafe con leche (coffee with milk) for breakfast and, of course, some of our party photographed everything in sight. Everyone enjoyed their brief time in Buenos Aires, a beautiful and exciting city to visit, and Argentina as a whole, offers the traveler one of the most diverse arrays of habitats possible in Latin America—from the bleak puna to the pampas grasslands, patagonian scrub and sub-Antarctic beech forests of Tierra del Fuego. I hope it is a trip you will cherish and recommend to others.

Boldface and underlined = of special interest
Boldface, Capitalized and underlined = rare
(*) asterisk = heard only
Taxonomy mostly follows Clements

LIST OF BIRDS:

Greater Rhea, *Rhea Americana*
Lesser Rhea, *Pterocnemia pennata*
Darwin's Tinamou, *Nothura darwinii*
Spotted (Tinamou) Nothura, *Nothura maculosa*
Elegant Crested-Tinamou, *Eudromia elegans*
Patagonian Tinamou, *Tinamotis ingoufi*
Magellanic Penguin, *Spheniscus magellanicus*
Gentoo Penguin, *Pygoscelis papua*
Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*
White-tufted Grebe, *Podiceps rolland*
Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*
Silvery Grebe, *Podiceps occipitalis*
Black-browed Albatross, *Diomedea melanophris*
Antarctic (Southern) Giant Petrel, *Macronectes giganteus*

Magellanic Diving-Petrel, *Pelecanoides magellani*
 Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*
 Rock Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax magellanicus*
 King Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax atriceps*
 Blue-eyed Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax*
 Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*
 Whistling Heron, *Syrigma sibilatrix*
 Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*
 Great Egret, *Egretta alba*
 Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*
 Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*
 Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*
 Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 Rufescent Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma lineatum*
 Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*
 Maguari Stork, *Euxenura americana*
 Black-faced Ibis, *Theristicus caudatus*
 Bare-faced (Whispering) Ibis, Pampas
 White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*
 Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja*
 Chilean Flamingo, *Phoenicopus chilensis*
 Southern Screamer, *Chauna torquata*
 Fulvous Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor*
 White-faced Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna viduata*
 Black-necked Swan, *Cygnus melancoryphus*
 Coscoroba Swan, *Coscoroba coscoroba*
 Upland Goose, *Chloephaga picta*
 Kelp Goose, *Chloephaga hybrida*
 Ashy-headed Goose, *Chloephaga poliocephala*
 Flightless Steamer-Duck, *Tachyeres pteneres*
 White-headed (Chubut) Steamer-Duck, *Tachyeres leucocephala*
 Flying Steamer-Duck, *Tachyeres patachonicus*
 Chiloe Wigeon, *Anas sibilatrix*
 Speckled Teal, *Anas flavirostris*
 Spectacled Duck, *Anas specularis*
 Crested Duck, *Lophonetta specularioides*
 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*
 Andean Duck, *Oxyura ferruginea*
 Lake Duck, *Oxyura vittata*
 Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*
Andean Condor, *Vultur gryphus*
 Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*
 Long-winged Harrier, *Circus buffoni*
 Cinereous Harrier, *Circus cinereus*
 Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*
 Variable (Red-backed if split again) Hawk, *Buteo polysoma*
 Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*
 White-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albicaudatus*

Variable Hawk, *Buteo polyosoma*
White-throated Caracara, *Halcoboenus megalopterus*
 Southern Crested Caracara, *Poluborus plancus*
 Chimango Caracara, *Milvago chimango*
 American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*
AUSTRAL RAIL, *Rallus antarcticus*
 Gray-necked Wood-Rail, *Aramides cajanea*
Giant Wood-Rail, *Aramides ypecaha*
 Plumbeous Rail, *Rallus sanguinolentus*
 Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*
 Spot-flanked Gallinule, *Porphyriops melanops*
 White-winged Coot, *Fulica leucoptera*
 Red-gartered Coot, *Fulica armillata*
 Red-fronted Coot, *Fulica rufifrons*
 Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*
American Painted-Snipe, *Rostratula semicollaris*
 Magellanic Oystercatcher, *Haematopus leucopodus*
 Blackish Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*
 American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*
 White-backed Stilt, *Himantopus melanurus*
 Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*
 American Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*
 Two-banded Plover, *Charadrius falklandicus*
Rufous-chested Dotterel, *Zonibyx modestus*
Magellanic Plover, *Pluvianellus socialis*
 South American Snipe, *Gallinago paraguayiae*
 Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*
 Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*
 Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa solitaria*
 Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpes*
 Sanderling, *Calidris alba*
 White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*
 Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*
 Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*
 Stilt Sandpiper, *Calidris himantopus*
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*
 Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*
 Least Seedsnipe, *Thinocorus rumicivorus*
Chilean Skua, *Catharacta chilensis*
Brown (Antarctic) Skua, *Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi*
 Dolphin Gull, *Leucophaeus scoresbii*
Olog's Gull (formerly Band-tailed Gull), *Larus olrogi*
 Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*
 Gray-headed Gull, *Larus cirrocephalus*
 Brown-hooded Gull, *Larus maculipennis*
 Sandwich Tern/Cayenne Tern, *Sterna sandvicensis*
 Royal Tern, *Sterna maxima*
 South American Tern, *Sterna hirundinacea*
 Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*
 Snowy-crowned Tern, *Sterna trudeaui*
 Black Skimmer, *Rhychops niger*
 Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon), *Columba livia*
 Picazuro Pigeon, *Columba picazuro*

Spot-winged Pigeon, *Columba maculosa*
 Eared Dove, *Zenaida suriculata*
 Picui Ground-Dove, *Columbina picui*
 White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*
 Nanday (Black-hooded) Parakeet, *Nandayus nenday*
Burrowing Parrot, *Cyanoliseus patagonus*
 Austral Parakeet, *Enicognathus ferrugineus*
 Monk Parakeet, *Myiopsitta monacha*
 Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*
 Guira Cuckoo, *Guira guira*
 Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*
Magellanic Horned Owl, *Bubo magellanicus*
Austral Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*
 Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia*
 Glittering-bellied Emerald, *Chlorostilbon aureoventris*
 Gilded Hummingbird, *Hylocharis chrysurus*
White-throated Hummingbird, *Leucochloris albicollis*
 Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle Americana*
 Green-barred Woodpecker, *Colaptes melanochloros*
 Chilean Flicker, *Colaptes pitius*
 Campo Flicker, *Colaptes campestris*
Magellanic Woodpecker, *Campephilus magellanicus*
 Common Miner, *Geositta cunicularia*
 Scale-throated Earthcreeper, *Upucerthis dumetaria*
 Chaco Earthcreeper, *Ochetorhynchus certhioides*
 Band-tailed Earthcreeper, *Eremobius phoenicurus*
 Dark-bellied Cinclodes, *Cinclodes patagonicus*
 Bar-winged Cinclodes, *Cinclodes fuscus*
 Rufous Hornero, *Furnarius rufus*
 Thorn-tailed Rayadito, *Aphrastura spinicauda*
 Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*
 Tufted Tit-Spinetail, *Leptasthenura platensis*
 Wren-like Rushbird, *Phleocryptes melanops*
Curve-billed Reedhaunter, *Limnornis curvirostris*
Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail, *Spartonoica maluroides*
 Pale-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albescens*
 Chicle Spinetail, *Synallaxis spixi*
 Stripe-crowned Spinetail, *Crainoleuca pyrrhopia*
Sulphur-bearded Spinetail, *Crainoleuca sulphurifera*
 Lesser Canastero, *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*
 Short-billed Canastero, *Asthenes baeri*
 Patagonian Canastero, *Asthenes patagonica*
 Austral Canastero, *Asthenes anthoides*
 Hudson's Canastero, *Asthenes hudsoni*
 Freckle-breasted Thornbird, *Phacellodomus striaticollis*
 Firewood-Gatherer, *Anumbius annumbi*
 Brown Cacholote, *Pseudosesura alaudina*
White-throated Cacholote, *Pseudoseisura gutturalis*
 White-throated Treerunner, *Pygarrinchas albogularis*
 Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*
 Rufous-capped Antshrike, *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*
 Crested Gallito, *Rhinocrypta lanceolata*
 *Sandy Gallito, *Teledromus fuscus*

Magellanic Tapaculo, *Scytalopus magellanicus*
 White-tipped Plantcutter, *Phytotoma rutila*
 Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, *Phytotoma rara*
 White-crested Elaenia, *Elaenia albiceps*
 Small-billed Elaenia, *Elaenia parvirostris*
 Gray-crowned Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga subcristata griseiceps*
 Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes ventralis*
 Southern Scrub-Flycatcher, *Sublegatus modestus*
 Chaco Suiriri, *Suiriri suiriri*
 Greater Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura budytoides*
 Tufted Tit-Tyrant, *Anairetes parulus*
 Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*
 Warbling Doradito, *Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris*
 Bran-colored Flycatcher, *Myiophobus fasciatus*
 Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
 Fire-eyed Diucon, *Xolmis pyrope*
 Black-crowned Monjita, *Xolmis coronata*
 White Monjita, *Xolmis irupero*
 Rusty-backed Monjita, *Xolmis rubetra*
 Chocolate-vented Tyrant, *Neoxolmis rufiventris*
 Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola macloviana*
 Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant, *M. flavinucha*
 Austral Negrito, *Lessonia rufa*
Hudson's Black-Tyrant, *Knipolegus hudsoni*
 White-winged Black-Tyrant, *Knipolegus aterrimus*
 Spectacled Tyrant, *Hymenops perspicillata*
 Yellow-browed Tyrant, *Satrapa icterophrys*
 Cattle Tyrant, *Machetornis rixosus*
 Swainson's Flycatcher, *Myiarchus swainsoni*
 Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*
 Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher, *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*
 Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscivora tyrannus*
White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*
 Brown-chested Martin, *Phaeoprogne tapera*
 Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*
 Southern Martin, *Progne modesta*
 White-rumped Swallow, *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*
 Chilean Swallow, *Tachycineta leucopyga*
 Blue-and-white Swallow, *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*
 Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*
 Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*
 Correndera Pipit, *Anthus correndera*
 Short-billed Pipit, *Anthus furcatus*
 Hellmayr's Pipit, *Anthus hellmayri*
 Chaco Pipit, *Anthus chacoensis*
 House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*
 Chalk-browed Mockingbird, *Mimus saturninus*
 Patagonian Mockingbird, *Mimus patagonicus*
 White-banded Mockingbird, *Mimus triurus*
 Rufous-bellied Thrush, *Turdus rufiventris*
 Austral Thrush, *Turdus falcklandii*
 Creamy-bellied Thrush, *Turdus amaurochalinus*

Masked Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila dumicola*
 European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*
 House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*
 Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*
 Rufous-browed Peppershrike, *Cyclaris gujanensis*
 Hooded Siskin, *Carduelis magellanica*
 Black-chinned Siskin, *Carduelis barbata*
 Tropical Parula, *Parula pitiayumi*
 Masked Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis aequinoctalis*
 Golden-crowned Warbler, *Basileuterus culicivorus*
 Blue-and-yellow Tanager, *Thraupis bonariensis*
Diademed Tanager, *Stephanophorus diadematus*
 Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus gayi*
 Patagonian Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus patagonicus*
 Mourning Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus fruticeti*
Carbonated Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus carbonarius*
Yellow-bridled Finch, *Melanodera melanodera*
 Long-tailed Reed-Finch, *Donacospiza albifrons*
 Common Diuca-Finch, *Diuca diuca*
 Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch, *Poospiza nigrorufa*
 Ringed Warbling-Finch, *Poospiza torquata*
 Black-capped Warbling-Finch, *Poospiza melanoleuca*
 Double-collared Seedeater, *Sporophila caerulescens*
 Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*
 Grassland Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis luteola*
 Great Pampa-Finch, *Embernagra platensis*
YELLOW CARDINAL, *Gubernatrix cristata*
 Red-crested Cardinal, *Paarooria coronata*
Yellow-billed Cardinal, *Paarooria capitata*
 Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*
 Golden-billed Saltator, *Saltator aurantirostris*
 Yellow-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius thilius*
 White-browed Blackbird, *Leistes superciliaris*
PAMPAS MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella defillippi*
 Long-tailed Meadowlark, *Sturnella loyca*
 Bay-winged Cowbird, *Molothrus badius*
 Screaming Cowbird, *Molothrus rufoaxillaris*
 Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*
 Brown-and-yellow Marshbird, *Pseudoleistes virescens*
Scarlet-headed Blackbird, *Amblyramphus holosericeus*
 Austral Blackbird, *Curaeus curaeus*

What we missed: Hooded Grebe (not on Laguna Eschardos); Rufous-legged Owl (rained out);
 Snowy Sheathbill (none this year; El Niño?)

NATIVE MAMMALS:

Coipo or Nutria, *Myocastor coypus*
 Capybara
 Pampas Cavie, *Cavia pamparum*
 Patagonian Lesser Cavy, *Microcavia australis*
 Jaguarundi,

Guanaco, *Lama guanicoe*
Patagonian Red Fox, *Pseudalopex culpaeus*
Fox sp.
Patagonian Skunk, *Conepatus humboldti*
Mara, *Dolichotis patagonum*
Larger Hairy Armadillo, *Chaetophractus villosus*
Southern Sea Lion, *Otaria flavescens*
Elephane Seal
Southern Right Whale

INTRODUCED MAMMALS:

European Hare, *Lepus auropeus*
European Rabbit

Herps:

Patagonian Desert Tortises
Tupinambis lizard

SOME PLANTS IDENTIFIED IN SOUTHERN PATAGONIA AND TIERRA DEL FUEGO:

Firebush, *Embothrium coccineum*, Proteaceae
False Mistletoe, *Mizodendrum punctulatum*, Mizodendraceae
Prickly Heath, *Pernettya* spp., Eriaceae
Native Geranium, *Geranium magellanicum*, Geraniaceae
Diddle Dee, *Empetrum rubrum*, Empetraceae
Wild Current or gooseberry, *Ribes magellanicum*
Calafate, *Berberis buxifolia*,
Holly-leaved Barberry, *Berberis ilicifolia*
Native Anemone, *Anemone multifida*, Rannunculaceae
Buttercup sp., *Ranunculus peduncularis*, Rannunculaceae
Calceolaria biflora, yellow slipper-like corolla
Field Chickweed, *Cerastium arvense*, Caryophyllaceae
Yellow violet, *Viola commersoni*, Violaceae
Stick tight, *Acaena magellanica*, Rosaceae; Los Glaciares
Balsam Bog, *Bolax gummifera*, Umberlliferae
Magellan Pea, *Vicia magellanica*, Leguminosae
Hairy Chocolate Flower, *Nassauvia magellanica*
Fashine, *Chilliotrichium diffusum*
Yellow Orchid, *Gavilea lutea*, Orchidaceae
Magellan Orchid, *Chloraea magellanica*, Orchidaceae
Dog Orchid, *Codonorchis lessonii*, Orchidaceae
Darwin's Mushroom, *Cyttaria darwini*
Southern Beech (3 species, *Nothofagus betuloides*, *N. pumilo*, and *N. antarcticus*)