

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Chile 2016



**Chile: Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego
species list and trip report, 29th November to 12th December 2016**

Travellers

Philip Precey
Claudio Vidal

Wildlife Travel
Far South Expeditions

-	29 th November	UK to Amsterdam
1	30 th November	Amsterdam to Santiago. Afternoon visit to Farellones, above Santiago
2	1 st December	Santiago city tour, then flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas
3	2 nd December	Punta Arenas to Torres del Paine, via Rio Verde and Puerto Natales
4	3 rd December	Torres del Paine National Park
5	4 th December	Torres del Paine National Park
6	5 th December	Sierra Baguales
7	6 th December	Torres del Paine National Park. Return to Punta Arenas
8	7 th December	Punta Arenas north to Pali Aike, then ferry to Tierra del Fuego, and to Porvenir
9	8 th December	Useless Bay
10	9 th December	Laguna Verde. Ferry across Strait of Magellan: Porvenir to Punta Arenas
11	10 th December	South of Punta Arenas, then flight back to Santiago
12	11 th December	Morning in Santiago, then flights back to UK
-	12 th December	arrive home

A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157673326950754/>

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Day One: 30th November. Arrival in Santiago and Farellones

From the four corners of the world (ok, from Amsterdam, Sao Paulo and Santiago...) our various flights converged on Santiago airport, and from there to our hotel for a quick turn-around out into the mountains above the city.

With Anita Maria guiding us, we headed up the (in)famous 'forty bends road', up to Farellones ski resort, an hour or so outside of smoggy Santiago, where the air was a little clearer and cooler for our first, jet-lagged introduction to Chile's wildlife.

Our first stop was before the bends, when a big Black-chested Buzzard Eagle appeared out of the valley, carrying a rabbit. As the eagle soared at our eye height, it was mobbed by a pair of American Kestrels, at which point a second buzzard-eagle came up to join the first, and both slowly circled up above us, giving wonderful views as they climbed above the hillside: a great first bite at the Chilean wildlife cherry.

Arriving at the top of the road, we were greeted with the rather incongruous sight of a Magellanic Horned Owl, fast asleep in a roadside poplar tree. In the nearby stream bed (more of a ditch, to be honest) a family of four Moustached Turcas, the big endemic tapaculo, were scratching about like chickens, while nearby the new birds came thick and fast: Black-chinned and Yellow-rumped Siskins, Grey-flanked and Buff-winged Cinclodes, Grey-hooded Sierra-finch and White-browed Ground Tyrant. Then, the big one: an Andean Condor appeared, the bird with the broadest wings, soaring overhead.

Turning a stone revealed a beautiful little tarantula (perhaps *Euathlus condorito*: there are a lot of tarantulas in Chile!) and a big lizard, one of the many (and confusingly similar) *Liolaemus* species.

With time today very short, we moved location, just a few hundred metres around the mountain road, before we stopped to admire a Mountain Caracara on an electricity pylon and a male Greater Yellow-finch on the nearby hillside, which was dotted with the burrows of Coruro, a mole-rat-like rodent of the Andes: alas, none chose to stick their heads out to check us out.

On the way back down, we stopped at several likely looking spots, but despite our best efforts we couldn't persuade a Crag Chilia to appear... although at one spot, the tape of Chilia calls did entice Plain-mantled Tit-Tyrant, Common Diuca-finch, Chilean Mockingbird and Grey-hooded Sierra-finch all to put in a close appearance. Rather confusingly, all these 'finches', the diuca finches, sierra finches and yellow finches aren't finches at all, but are actually tanagers: the only 'true' finches in Chile are the siskins.

Day Two: 1st December. Santiago, and flight to Punta Arenas

After a restorative night's sleep, we checked out of the hotel and spent the morning in the company of Eduardo, who gave us a tour of the main sights of Santiago city, with whistle-stop visits to various important buildings, and a great lunch with the locals at the Fuente Alemana.

Back at Santiago airport so soon after last leaving it, we joined our flight down the spine of the country, via a stop in Puerto Montt, to our destination of Punta Arenas. Along the way, some enjoyed some pretty spectacular views of the jagged spires of Torres del Paine, jutting out from amongst the clouds, a taste of what was to come...

Having left 31° heat and smog in Santiago, it was a more familiar chill wind that greeted us in Punta Arenas, as well as the welcoming smiles of Claudio, our inimitable guide, in whose capable hands we would spend the rest of our time in Chile.

Claudio whisked us away to our sea-front hotel, with views looking out across the Strait of Magellan, complete with Black-browed Albatrosses and the distant outline of Tierra del Fuego on the horizon. Here he left us to chew our way through the first of many massive chunks of meat, and to catch up on some sleep.

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Day Three: 2nd December. Punta Arenas to Torres del Paine National Park.

The early risers started with a short walk along the sea front outside the hotel, where we found a large breeding colony of Imperial Shags on two tumble-down jetties, together with a handful of the smaller, black-chested Rock Shag. Our first pair of Flying Steamer Ducks was also resting on the jetty, while the beach gave us the chance to compare and contrast the large, common Kelp Gulls with a smaller number of the rather handsome Dolphin Gulls. Out in the distance, Black-browed Albatross and Southern Giant Petrels swooped across the horizon, a pair of Chilean Skuas chased cormorants as they came back into their colony, and on the beach a Dark-bellied Cinclodes fed near the drain water outfall...

After breakfast, with bags loaded on the bus and introductions made to our ever-smiling driver, Cesar, it was time to start the long journey north.

There are those days in any itinerary, the travel days, where we inevitably spend long monotonous hours dozing in a moving vehicle, watching the landscape go by... today was not one of those travel days.

Just outside of Punta Arenas, we made our first stop on the beach at Chebunco, where our first Magellanic Oystercatcher flew by, and a pair of inquisitive Austral Negritos flirted with the photographers.

A nearby flooded meadow gave us our first good looks at the ubiquitous Upland Goose, ducks included Chiloe Wigeon and Yellow-billed Pintail, a male Long-tailed Meadowlark flashed his smart red chest, and a mixed flock of Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers probed in the mud, long distance migrants from their breeding grounds in the far north of Canada.

No sooner on the move again, we stopped once more, this time for our first roadside Darwin's Rhea, a smart adult female with a younger adolescent bird nearby, and another seven birds in view just down the road: by the end of the morning, rheas were just another expected part of the landscape.

Taking the quiet back road via Rio Verde, our first Chilean Flamingos followed soon after, a male Cinereous Harrier drifted across the road (again, the first of many), and a group of seven Andean Condors inspired our next stop. Here we also found a singing Correndera Pipit, and on the road verge we enjoyed our first Magellanic Porcelain Orchids *Chloraea magellanica* as well as the pretty yellow *Viola recurvata*.

Along the Fitzroy Channel, the narrow channel linking Otway Sound and Skyring Sound, we stopped for our first Coscoroba Swans and Black-necked Swans. Soon after, the shout of 'fox' rang out, and a beautiful Chilla or Southern Grey Fox walked along the edge of a field, pausing for the cameras before leaping across a small stream and disappearing into the undergrowth.

Nearby we stopped for the very civilised facilities and coffee at the small settlement of Rio Verde, where Buff-winged Cinclodes fed around the buildings, Correndera Pipit sang overhead and some familiar weeds, including Flixweed, Swinecress and Pineapple-weed, grew in the carpark.

Another roadside wetland, and yet more additions to our growing list, this time a pair of Ashy-headed Geese on one side of the road, and a Two-banded Plover on the other, with two pairs of displaying Magellanic Oystercatchers flying between the two.

Back onto the paved road, and a faster stretch took us to the town of Puerto Natales, the 'gateway' to Torres del Paine, and another opportunity for coffee/comfort breaks and some retail therapy, as well as Black-necked Swans and Brown-hooded Gulls down on the beach.

From here on, the landscape grew wilder again, and we got our first look (from ground level, anyway) at the famous 'Torres' from a viewpoint surrounded by heavily scented bushes: the yellow flowered pea *Adesmia boronioides* and the shrubby Mata Negra or Black Bush *Mulguraea* (= *Junellia*) *tridens*.

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Our first Guanaco appeared at the roadside, with several newly-born youngsters posing adorably for the cameras: plenty of food for the big cat that we had high hopes of tracking down over the next few days. We finally made our way into the National Park proper, and our lodge nestled at the base of the mountains themselves, a stunning location to call home for the next four nights.

Day Four: 3rd December. Torres del Paine and Pumas...

Big cats start their day early, and so did we. With the sun barely thinking about rising above the horizon, we were on board the bus and making our way out of the National Park to the neighbouring Estancia where we met up with Jorge, a man who lives and breathes Pumas every day, our 'Puma tracker' for our time in Torres del Paine.

And so the hunt began. Jorge knows the Estancia and its Pumas very well, and took us straight to an area with plenty of young Guanacos, favoured by several of the big cats.

While we admired the Guanacos, soaring Andean Condors and the spectacular scenery, Jorge had disappeared up and over a hill, and the buzzing of the radio soon announced that he had found our quarry: a female Puma with cubs.

With a certain urgency to our pace, we headed up the hillside, following Jorge's directions, and then there she was, somewhat distant but glowing golden in the early morning light, a big female Puma walking across the opposite hillside, followed by two smaller golden dots, two of her cubs, while a Guanaco looked on, whinnying its alarm calls from the ridge.

Almost as soon as we'd seen them, they'd gone, slipping behind the hill and out of sight, but success, on our very first attempt!

We were then told that this female actually has three cubs, not two, and that one of them was still sitting amongst the Mata Negra. Another yomp up onto the ridge where Jorge was sitting, and there was the cub, on the hillside opposite, sprawled amongst the bushes, making itself comfortable for the day.

Elated with our successes, but with stomachs rumbling, we headed back to the lodge for a late breakfast and a rest...

A late morning wander not far from the lodge gave us the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with some of the characteristic flora of the area: notable 'stars' included the Porcelain Orchid *Chloraea magellanica* in much better condition than our previous, road-verge specimens; the Chilean Fire Bush *Embothrium coccineum*, a member of the Proteaceae and a close relative of the similar Waratah bush from Tasmania; Antarctic Beech *Nothofagus antarcticus* adorned with the local mistletoe *Misodendrum punctulatum*; and two species of Calceolaria or Lady's Slipper, the smaller, tall-stemmed yellow *Calceolaria biflora* and the stunning, ground-hugging *Calceolaria uniflora*, a real speciality of Patagonia.

The birds weren't to be outdone either, with Chilean Elaenia in the bushes and both White-browed and Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrants feeding on the rocks in the river.

The daily routine of a Puma is one of night-time feeding, making their way early in the morning to a suitable place to rest for the day, then rousing again in the evening to head out for another busy night. And so our routine would match theirs: late afternoon, and time for us to head back to check on the Pumas. Jorge had spent the day keeping an eye on the family, who had tucked themselves away in a favoured patch of bushes high on the hillside above the valley, and our plan was to join him and wait for them to wake up...

TORRES DEL PAINE



Top: Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk and Patagonian Hairy Armadillo
Middle: Magellanic Woodpecker, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and baby Guanaco
Bottom: Rufous-collared Sparrow and Chilean Swallow

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But first we had to get there... a steady yomp took us up and over the hill, passing lovely little *Alstroemeria patagonica* and a surprising find of a Tawny-throated Dotterel along the way, and then we settled down onto our windy hillside, overlooking a sheltered valley, in which the mother and two cubs were secreted away amongst their favoured patch of Mata Negra.

Initially, we couldn't see much of anything, but every now and again a head or two would pop up, as the cubs began to wake up and wander about a bit more, soon to be joined by the mother. Unfortunately, she seemed a bit wary of our presence, and eventually took the cubs off around the back of the bushes and out of sight, at which point we left them to it and headed back down to Cesar and the waiting bus, and thence back to the lodge for a late dinner.

Day Five: 4th December. Torres del Paine National Park

Barely had we closed our eyes than it seemed the alarm clocks were ringing for another early start.

Lukewarmly caffeinated, we were back in the van by 04.45, and headed out to pick up Jorge again, pausing briefly by the river to enjoy the sight of three Spectacled Ducks in a pool with the mountain in the background reflected on the surface.

This morning we headed in a different direction, choosing to focus our attention on a corridor of land between the Park and the Estancia where several individual cats are known to spend their time.

Unfortunately the peaks of the Park were still cloaked in cloud, but the sun rise did light up some of the lower mountains rather nicely, giving some nice photographic opportunities early on.

From the hillsides around us we could hear the song of several Least Seedsnipes, but their repetitive cooing proved hard to pinpoint. Despite apparently being within touching distance of a couple along the way, it was quite a while before we finally caught sight of a song-fighting male, and were able to see him on the ground once he'd landed, still singing away from the ridge. The wait (and work) was worthwhile though, with good views of the pretty little male, with his grey bib and black stethoscope-like chest markings. As if to taunt us, on the way back later we saw another male posing out in the open on the top of a boulder, within view of the minibus!

Near that first male, we also found a South American Snipe (similar name, but unrelated) which sat on the edge of a damp dried-up pool, convinced of his own camouflage.

Other birds flitting amongst the bushes included Scaly-throated Earthcreeper, Long-tailed Meadowlark, Austral Negrito and, of course, the ever-present Rufous-collared Sparrow.

Moving on, we ended up on the edge of a lake, home to a number of water birds: Speckled Teal and Yellow-billed Pintail fed in the shallows, a handful of Red-gartered Coot with both Coscoroba and Black-necked Swans fed further out, the usual Upland Geese grazed along the edges and a little cluster of White-tufted Grebes swam amongst the floating waterweed closer in.

But our main attention was reserved for the cliffs on the far side, with several caves known for their cat-hiding capabilities. We gave it a thorough search, while Jorge did the same from his higher position, but despite some alarm-calling Guanacos and a panic amongst the ducks, we couldn't find a cat...

A particularly friendly Darwin's Rhea ambled past, posing for photos, but it was time for us to turn back.

Back by the minibus, some juvenile Andean Condors coming in to land on a roadside cliff attracted our attention, with Southern Crested Caracaras and a juvenile Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle on the same rocks, and two adult condors on the slope nearby, feeding on a Guanaco carcass. But the call of breakfast was too much, and we headed back to the lodge for sustenance and the briefest of rests...

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Back out again soon after breakfast, and it seemed our cat luck was all out today: Jorge hadn't found any sign of the big cats during his morning searches. However, while we'd been let down by the cats, someone had obviously made the correct sacrifices to the weather gods: the clouds parted to reveal blue skies and, more importantly, the impressive and iconic peaks of the Paine massif in all their jagged granitic glory. Throughout the afternoon, as we made our way around the southern and western parts of the Park, our memory cards were steadily filled with various views of the mountains, as well as the snow-capped Andes in the distance.

Botanising at one scenic lookout revealed some interesting rock-dwelling plants: *Hypochaeris incana* with its white florets; Magellanic Saxifrage *Saxifraga magellanica*; Magellanic Campion *Silene magellanica*; and the lilac-fruited *Gaultheria mucronata*.

Nearby wetlands were home to a variety of wildfowl, including our first Red Shoveler as well as good numbers of both Silvery and White-tufted Grebe, two pairs of Great Grebe, plenty of Red-gartered Coot and a pair of Plumbeous Rails bumping through the reeds. Hidden amongst the reeds, several Wren-like Rushbirds were singing, with a Sedge Wren singing up on top of a dead bush and an Austral Canastero staying hidden amongst the bushes.

Our picnic stop was at the Pehoe campsite, where as well as the restroom facilities and picnic benches, we also enjoyed the company of a very amiable Patagonian Hairy Armadillo, who came bumping through searching for handouts from the various picnickers. Another Patagonian searching for crumbs was the Patagonian Sierra Finch, another addition to our ever-growing species lists.

After crossing the Paine River, we stopped to explore an area of flat steppe-like vegetation, which proved to be rich in orchids. Amongst the abundant, and by now quite familiar Porcelain Orchids *Chloraea magellanica*, we also found several spikes of the much taller, more robust cousin, *Chloraea leptopetala*, the flowers yet to open. Two yellow orchids were also present: the common *Gavilea supralabellata*, with dense flower heads, again yet to open, but with green tips to the sepals, and a single spike of the taller, looser-headed *Gavilea littoralis*, with one or two flowers just opening up for us.

In the same area, several butterflies were flitting about, including the little orange fritillary *Yramea cytheris*, the Andean White *Tatochila theodice* and a sulphur or clouded yellow species., while Correndera Pipits sang overhead.

At Lake Grey, with its famous glacier very much in evidence, we took a walk in the woods, some very impressive Nothofagus forest with plenty of big old trees.

In the woods, another two orchids were added to the day's list: the beautiful White Dog Orchid, *Codonorchis lessonii*, and several spikes of yet another yellow Gavilea, *Gavilea lutea*, while we also found the yellow violet *Viola magellanica* and another Calceolaria, *C. polyrhiza* with a larger rosette of leaves and broader flower than the now-familiar *C. biflora*.

But it was the woodland birds that stole the show. Claudio's Dr Dolittle impression, with some judicious squeaking and pygmy owl impressions, brought in a whole flock of Thorn-tailed Rayaditos and White-throated Treerunner, two species characteristic of this southern beech forest. Chilean Elaenia and Patagonian Sierra-Finch were also very much in evidence.

Meanwhile, unprompted, a loud double-tap from further into the forest, followed by a deep 'chonk' call, soon turned into a pair of magnificent Magellanic Woodpeckers, one of the planet's largest woodpeckers and certainly one of the most handsome: the male with his vibrant red head, and the female with her amazing curly quiff, they both put on a show for us, as well as for plenty of other tourists walking the trails, wondering what all our excitement was about.

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Some squawking from the treetops revealed a small group of Austral Parakeets, and their squawking became even more agitated when a big, ruddy-breasted Chilean Hawk appeared in the tree, paused to give us a good view, before making a half-hearted chase after the parakeets.

More than happy with our lot from here, we moved a little way around the lake, to the Lake Grey Hotel, where we paid homage (in photographic form) to the glacier, and enjoyed another bout of pishing-induced 'angry birds' in the surrounding woodland: more Thorn-tailed Rayaditos, Patagonian Sierra-Finch, Chilean Elaenia and a small group of Austral Blackbirds, but alas no Striped Woodpecker, our final target for the day.

Somehow, the corrugated roads home proved quite soporific, with several amongst us catching up on some sleep on the drive back around the mountains to the Torres: another long, but very successful day.

Day Six: 5th December. Sierra Baguales.

After a couple of long days, we started the day at a more civilised hour today, heading out from the hotel after breakfast.

Slowly making our way back to the joys of paved road, we made contact with Jorge as we passed by, who it turned out had been watching a male Puma close to his home. A short scramble up a hillside revealed that we could see the bush in which the cat was resting, but not the beast himself... we would return later.

Onwards, we made a short stop to admire the 185 Chilean Flamingos feeding in the shallows of Laguna Amarga, followed by a smart Magellanic Oystercatcher and Chilla Fox, both hunting for beetles as an arrogant male Guanaco strutted past, all oblivious to us.

The main plan for today was to head out from the Park, and north eastwards towards the Argentinian border, into an area of higher mountains where we hoped to find a new suite of species.

And find them we did. Our first walk through a scrubby area resulted in views of Sharp-billed Canastero and the locally distinct form of Grey-hooded Sierra-Finch, along with plenty of the now-mundane Rufous-collared Sparrows and some noisy Scaly-throated Earthcreepers. A soaring Andean Condor barely registered: how things change in just a couple of days!

Our next roadside stop, by a small paddock, revealed one of the area's specialities, a pair of Patagonian Yellow-finch, more subdued in colour than the bright Greater Yellow-finch that we had seen previously in Farellones.

Another roadside stop, another patch of Mata Negra scrub, and this time Patagonian Mockingbird popped up, yet another interesting species restricted, in Chile, to this tiny corner of the country. On the sheep-grazed meadow nearby, an Ochre-naped Ground-tyrant strutted, while Mourning Sierra-finch sang from the bushes and a distant Grey-breasted Seedsnipe could be heard. A collection of working dogs, all sunbathing outside their kennels attracted just as many camera lenses as the nearby mockingbird.

Our next stop was more of botanical interest: one of the star plants of the area, the Guanaco Bush or Neneo *Anarthrophyllum desideratum* was in flower, with several spiky cushions of the red-flowered gorse-relative still blooming at the end of its main season. Also here we found another *Alstroemeria patagonica*, and some very photogenic examples of *Hypochaeris incana*.

Heading higher up the valley, our scanning of the roadsides finally resulted in a small flock of Yellow-bridled Finch, perhaps the star bird of these high hillsides, with the smartly-attired males drawing oohs of admiration from even the most bird-immune amongst us. The females were surprisingly different, streaky brown and grey birds. By the end of the road, we had seen plenty of these lovely birds, which are sometimes so hard to find up here.

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A stop by a rather scenic outcrop of rocks gave some of us the chance to scan the skies for passing caracaras, while others enjoyed some botanising. There was plenty more *Anarthrophyllum desideratum* in flower, but also here were some less showy finds; the large pink-flowered *Oxalis enneaphylla*; a couple of nice mat-forming plants, the tiny yellow pea *Adesmia salicornioides* and the white-flowers of a *Nasauvia* sp.; and two interesting 'lilies' (actually both members of the Iridaceae), the white flowers, streaked with red, of the Streaked Maiden *Olsynium biflorum* and, nearby, the pink *Solenomelus segethii*.

Moving on, a small pond held a good variety of waterfowl, with all the 'usual' dabbling ducks, both White-winged and Red-gartered Coot and a pair of Coscoroba Swans.

Another small rocky outcrop finally revealed a Cordilleran Canastero, almost identical to the earlier Sharp-billed but hopping on the rocks rather than hiding in the bushes, while yet more Yellow-bridled Finches posed for photos. Another singing Grey-breasted Seedsnipe remained invisible on the hillside, despite some searching, but remarkably yet another bird was posing right next to the road as we drove back down towards the dogs.

Back to the paved road, back to the Park, and back to Jorge who had found us an easily-accessible viewpoint from where we could see the flicking ears and occasionally lifted head of a handsome male Puma.

OK, so the viewpoint was also in the full blast of an icy wind, which after an hour or so of occasional views of his head sent many of us heading back to the comfort of the hotel. But for those hardy few who stayed on, the resulting views were pretty spectacular.

At about 7.00, he lifted his head, yawned three times, stood up somewhat and then started a lengthy wash and brush up, readying himself for the busy night ahead.

All spick and span, he stood up to full height and, after briefly teasing us by disappearing right back into the depths of his bush, he emerged into full view and began to make a slow circuit of his island, looking for the best place to cross the stream. Amazingly, for us, after doing a full circuit of the island's shores, he picked the spot nearest to us and slipped into the water, quickly swimming across to the next piece of land. As if that weren't enough, he then walked straight towards us: with adrenaline pumping and camera shutters clicking, he arrived on the banks of the river right across from where we were standing.

Once again he took his time, checking out possible places to cross the river: at one point he looked just about to cross right in front of us, walking out onto a fallen tree and eyeing up Claudio as a possible pre-dinner snack. But he thought the better of it (and of us), and finally slunk off back into the bushes: fifty minutes after he'd first stood up, he was last seen at some distance hurrying into a patch of denser Mata Negra, a rather awe inspiring way to end the day.

Day Seven. 6th December. Leaving Torres del Paine

All good things come to an end, and so it was with our time in Torres del Paine. But first, we had one or two last appointments to keep.

First we had to bid farewell to Jorge, our amazing puma-tracker. And he had one last surprise in store for us: a second male Puma, asleep in the sun, high on the rocky hillside above the farmhouse: our sixth cat in four days, a different individual to last night's animal, despite the close proximity of the two sightings, this male was apparently sleeping off the exertions of the night before when he'd done his best to kill one of the Estancia's sheep.

The conversation about the sheep took us onto the subject of the Maremma sheep dogs that many of the Patagonian farmers now use to deter Puma-attacks, and the ranch owner mentioned that yes, he had one of these dogs, although his was more prone to attack the sheep than protect them... and yes, if we wanted a look, he was in the corral on the other side of the road.

TORRES DEL PAINE: THE STARS



Top and middle/top: the female and her three cubs
Middle and bottom left: the first male
Bottom right: the last, sleepy male

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After securing Maremma photos for those who wanted them, we headed off towards the western part of the Park, and a lake surrounded by dense rushes. With just a tiny patch of water at the edge of the rushes visible, the chances of success with our next target species seemed tiny, but we should take the chances where we find them: on this occasion, partial success, when a Plumbeous Rail walked across the gap. Close, but not quite the bird we wanted...

Just down the road, a second rush-fringed pool offered even more limited viewing of the water's edge, but amazingly, as soon as Claudio played his tape, an Austral Rail called back. Very similar to our Water Rail, this shy bird had only been seen three times since 1900, and not at all since 1959, until it was re-discovered in 1998. Now that scientists (and bird watchers) know its call, it has been found to be more widespread, but it's still a rare bird of marshes in the very south of Chile and Argentina, and one that's very hard to see.

But see it we did. Claudio caught the briefest of glimpses of a single bird running across a gap in the reeds, and with some careful positioning of the van, lined us all up with the gap. Amazingly, not long after, a second bird ran across the gap and even more amazingly, it was a big black chick, soon followed by a third individual, an adult Austral Rail: success!

Continuing to make our way out of the Park, we paused to admire the pretty red 'waterfall flower', or 'drops of blood' in Spanish, *Ourisia rouelloides*, growing at a damp flush on the rocks, next to the shrine of the Virgin of Lourdes.

And from then on it was a couple of scenic stops, before we were back on the paved road and the long drive back to Punta Arenas.

Day Eight. 7th December. Punta Arenas to Porvenir

Another day, another long drive across the sometimes bleak Patagonian steppe.

This morning we headed north from Punta Arenas, making our way up the coast and then cutting inland and heading towards the distant volcanoes of Pali Aike (rather fittingly, meaning 'desolate place' in the local, Tehuelche language), before dropping back to the coast and the ferry across to Tierra del Fuego.

Our first stop was on the shores of an alkaline lake, where one of the local specialities makes its home. After a short but very windy walk around the lake edge, we found our quarry, a pair of Magellanic Plovers. This strange wader looks a bit like a silvery grey turnstone, but is somehow a distant relative of the sheathbills of the Antarctic and the seedsnipes. Its unique characteristics leave it in a family of its own, and it is only found in the areas either side of the Strait of Magellan.

Unfortunately, our pair took umbrage at the presence of our group, and quickly disappeared before we'd had more than a cursory glimpse at these unique local residents.

Heading into the steppe, and our first stop was in the company of a pair of Chocolate-vented Tyrants, a large flycatcher with something of the character of a courser as they ran across the grassland, hunting for beetles and other small animals.

Next stop, at a tiny patch of stunted Calafate bushes, Claudio's squeaking encouraged a pair of Band-tailed Earthcreepers to pop into view, a beige little bird holding its startlingly rusty tail up like an over-sized wren: in Chile, a very scarce bird, and one we were lucky to catch up with.

A muddy wetland was home to a variety of waders, mostly a mixture of Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers but also a couple of distant Wilson's Phalaropes and Two-banded Plovers.

More plovers were on the menu for the higher elevation steppe. Tawny-throated Dotterel appeared fairly common, with at least ten birds seen as we crossed this windswept area, but it took a lot of searching to

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find its cousin, the Rufous-chested Dotterel: one bright female was finally found, feeding close to the road, allowing Claudio to breathe a sigh of relief.

Least Seedsnipe were common up here, but the other specialities just came singly: a Common Miner feeding by the roadside, and a stunning male White-bridled Finch. A little group of Silver Teal were also new to our lists.

Guanaco were again fairly common up here, but they obviously don't get on so well with the sheep farming. The steppe was scattered with corpses, some no doubt predated by Puma, but others no doubt shot by the sheep farmers, apparently to offer a source of food for the foxes and caracaras to try and distract them from the newborn lambs.

Guanacos also don't do very well with wire fences, and after seeing several dead animals tangled up in the fences we came across one animal still alive. Claudio is not a man to leave a Guanaco to suffer a lingering death, "So, we must rescue it". Through the skilful use of a jacket over the head, to calm the animal down, and some judicious manoeuvring of its back legs, we had soon disentangled the surprisingly calm beast, and it bounded off, a little uneasy on its feet at first but soon at full galloping strength again: our good deed for the day, which left us with a warm glow and the lingering smell of Guanaco vomit (Claudio's jacket having borne the brunt of some defensive spitting). Thankfully, the fence wasn't barbed wire...

After a very welcome coffee and facilities stop, we eventually made our way down to the ferry, where we joined the queue of traffic waiting to make the short crossing to Tierra del Fuego. The wind had certainly increased, and the water was full of white-topped waves, a daunting prospect when the main target for our sights was to be a dolphin...

But we needn't have worried. A couple of brief sightings were had before the ferry had even departed, and no sooner were we all up on the viewing deck and the ferry left the shore than the first Commerson's Dolphins appeared, a couple of individuals coming in to the bow: stunning white and black animals. Unfortunately, one thing we hadn't considered about the waves was the likelihood of getting wet... as a third dolphin arrived, so too did the big surf, which sprayed up over the ferry and soaked us!

Beating a hasty retreat, we clustered in the only patch of shelter in the hope of a repeat dolphin performance, but that was our lot. For the rest of the brief crossing, the main attraction were those foolhardy enough to venture out onto the front of the ferry.

And so, Tierra del Fuego! More Patagonian steppe, but on gently rolling hills rather than the great 'desolation' of the mainland. And a lot more sheep.

We paused briefly at a rocky outcrop where, tucked away in a small cave on the cliff-face, we found a Magellanic Horned Owl, dosing the windy day away.

And at last, we arrived in Porvenir, a small fishing village on the west coast of Tierra del Fuego, and our home for the last portion of the trip, a warm and friendly guesthouse, stuffed to the brim with copies of Claudio's many books.

Day Nine. 8th December. Useless Bay

We woke up to the sound of heavy rain on the roof of the hosteria... not a great sound, but a real surprise that this is the first time during our stay that rain has caught up with us!

After a slightly delayed start, with the weather clearing, we headed off south, stopping along the way to see Short-billed Miner and two pairs of Ruddy-headed Geese, the former only found on Tierra del Fuego and nearby parts of the mainland, and the latter a species in heavy decline in Chile, threatened by hunting on its Argentinian wintering grounds, and predation by introduced American Mink on its Tierra del Fuego nesting grounds: not a good combination!

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And so to the shores of Useless Bay, for what promised to be one of the highlights of the trip

A group of King Penguins have been visiting the mouth of the Marassi river for at least the last 20 years, and in recent years this fledgling population has started to breed, at the only 'mainland' King Penguin colony in South America. During our visit, at least 85 individuals were present, including the last of the 2015 brood who was just moulting out of his juvenile fluff, one of ten chicks to survive from last year: this year's breeders are currently sat on 33 eggs, so fingers crossed for the continued survival of the colony.

Archaeological evidence seems to suggest that the area was previously home to a King Penguin rookery, and that this was an important food source for the local indigenous people (as shown by the penguin remains in their middens). At some point, this original colony disappeared, presumably eaten out by the people: that the same spot is now being recolonised seems remarkable.

We enjoyed some quality time with the penguins, beautiful animals with their stunning yellowy-orange neck patches glowing in the light. A young male Chilla wandered through the area a couple of times, oblivious to the comings and goings around him, while Austral Negritos and Long-tailed Meadowlark also posed for the cameras. Some interesting plants included the big glaucous-leaved *Senecio candicans*, pale blue *Perezia recurvata* and the red-maroon flowers of *Leuceria purpurea*. Unfortunately, on this occasion the local Magellanic Tuco-Tuco (a rodent, the local equivalent of mole rats) chose not to show themselves outside their burrows.

Happy with our penguin-lot, we continued along the shores of Useless Bay for a bit, ending up at the scenic little settlement of Cameron. Along the way we passed the bizarre sight of a Black-browed Albatross, fast asleep on the clifftop, settled down amongst the grasses.

On our way back, he was still there, although this time he'd woken up, and even gave us a flap or two to prove that he wasn't injured: just resting a while to enjoy the view.

Along the shore we watched a busy colony of South American Terns and then found a pair of Flightless Steamer Ducks, to soon be compared with a pair of Flying Steamer Ducks on the nearby lake. Also on the lake, a flock of Coscoroba Swans, a handful of White-tufted Grebes and a single Silvery Grebe.

Back into Porvenir, for yet more local seafood.

Day 10. 9th December. Porvenir to Punta Arenas

Our last day on Tierra del Fuego, we set off after breakfast to the saline lakes just north of Porvenir, focussing our attentions on the surprisingly named Laguna Verde (there was nothing noticeably green about the lake from what I could see!).

We first stopped at an area of Chilotrichum bushes, to fill one of the last remaining gaps in our list: the Austral Canastero, a small streaky brown job that performed marvellously, singing from the top of the bushes and chasing around in the undergrowth.

From here, to the Green Lagoon itself, we made our way down to the shore to explore. Some interesting plants were growing along the drawdown zone, notably *Samolus spathulatus* in flower, the white star 'lobelia' flowers of *Pratia repens* growing alongside the little eyebright *Euphrasia antarctica* and the Southern Celery *Apium australe*.

Along the shoreline itself, our attention was on the birds. Initially we found 'just' Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers and a Two-banded Plover or two, along with the usual groups of Upland Goose and Crested Duck, and the occasional passing Chilean Skua.

PATAGONIA



Top: Yellow-bridled Finch, and Torres del Paine
Middle: *Calceolaria uniflora*, Austral Negrito and *Gavilea litoralis*
Bottom: *Chloraea magellanica* and *Anathrophyllum desideratum*

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But with a little searching, we soon found our real target bird: the Magellanic Plover. A species we'd seen before, near Punta Arenas a few days ago, but the views then were somewhat unsatisfying. This time was anything but...

The one bird on the end of a spit soon turned into a family of four: two adults and two well-grown juveniles. The adults were showing courtship behaviour, with one bird (presumably the male?) puffing out his chest and then leaning at an odd angle and trotting backwards or sideways in front of the other (female?). She pretty much ignored the display, running alongside, a little bit embarrassed by all the fuss.

The male proved to be a tagged bird, with a metal bird ring on the right leg and a red 'flag' on the left leg, with the white number 192.

The juveniles were similar to the adults, but paler and mottled above, with yellowy-flesh coloured legs, rather than the bubblegum pink of the smart adults. All in all, four very nice birds!

Photographs taken, and back to bus, stopping to investigate an abandoned farm workers' house at the top of the cliff, a half-preserved time capsule, giving a glimpse into what life was (is?) like for the sheep farmers on the island.

And so, back to the hotel to finish our packing, pick up our lunches and check out, before visiting the town's museum, which although only small, and with some memorably bad taxidermy (including the most unhappy looking Beaver ever seen), contained some fascinating exhibits. Particularly thought-provoking were the photos and stories of the local indigenous peoples, who not long after the photos were taken were driven to extinction through a combination of disease (primarily small pox) and direct persecution by the incoming settlers.

Back to the bus, and with time running through our fingers, we had one last drive along the shore, to the lighthouse and beyond, in the hope of finding something new...

A pod of Peale's Dolphins were splashing just beyond the kelp, but slipped away almost as soon as we'd spotted them. A few Southern Giant Petrels were patrolling the beach, along with a handful of Chilean Skuas, but try as we might we couldn't find a Kelp Goose.

Time for the ferry, where a handful of Dolphin Gulls were swooping about the harbour and a young South American Sealion was swimming around, not looking very happy for itself.

Almost as soon as the ferry had left the harbour, two or three Peale's Dolphins came leaping to the bow, breaching clear of the water, but alas again only briefly.

The crossing itself was actually surprisingly quite, with a scattering of Black-browed Albatrosses, Southern Giant Petrels and South American Terns, together with one each of South American Sealion and South American Fur Seal briefly appearing in the waves. The wind together with the choppy water made viewing quite difficult, but we did eventually find one busy feeding aggregation, where amongst the albatrosses and giant petrels we found a good number of Wilson's Storm Petrels pattering over the water and a handful of dark White-chinned Petrels sweeping back and forth. A large pale grey shape loomed up briefly beneath the water, either a very shy cetacean or perhaps a dead whale just below the surface, providing the food source for the busy birds.

And then, just as suddenly, silence again... three Magellanic Penguins towards the Punta Arenas side were the only other sightings of note, on what has the potential to be such a rich area for sea life.

Back in Punta Arenas, and back on the bus, we had a quick stop at the small nature reserve on the edge of the city, where families of Chiloe Wigeon, Crested Duck and Upland Goose attracted the attention of the

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photographers, as well as a pair of very confiding White-tufted Grebes who were resting out of the wind, tucked right in at the bank. And then it was back to our hotel on the sea front, for our last Patagonian dinner.

Day 11, 10th December. South of Punta Arenas, then back to Santiago.

After our final check out from the hotel, Claudio took us on a whistle-stop tour of Punta Arenas: the view from the Hill of the Cross, followed by the statue of Magellan in the main town square. And then it was back to what we (and, no doubt, he) like best: the wildlife.

We took the road south from the city, following the coast almost as far as we could go, ending up not far from the wonderfully named 'Port Famine', at the English cemetery, burial place of Pringle Stokes, the commander of HMS Beagle on her first voyage of exploration around the Patagonian coast, before we turned back for the airport.

Along the way we found a full suite of geese: as well as the common Upland Geese, we were lucky enough to track down a pair of Kelp Geese, the male snowy white, with his mate dark brown; in the more wooded areas, we started to find good number of Ashy-headed Geese, a bird that likes its wetlands to be surrounded by Nothofagus trees; and we completed the set with at least three pairs of Ruddy-headed Geese. This subtle species, very similar in appearance to a female Upland Goose, is not doing well at all in Chile, so it was good to finally be able to enjoy close up views, even if a passing driver did decide the best way of getting a photo of the birds was to walk right up to them, causing a panicked retreat by the birds, and some choice Spanish phrases from Claudio.

Offshore there were plenty of the now-familiar soaring shapes of Black-browed Albatross and Southern Giant Petrel, as well as lines of Imperial Cormorant flying to and from their favoured feeding grounds. And then, after several coastal journeys where we've had half an eye on the kelp beds just offshore, Claudio completed our Patagonian sojourn with a pod of Peale's Dolphins, feeding just off shore amongst the seaweed. None of the jumping and splashing that the animals were doing at Porvenir, but much easier for everyone to get good views as the patrolled slowly along the beach.

And then that really was our lot. One last lunch, and then sad farewells for Claudio and Cesar, in whose safe and knowledgeable hands we'd spent the past week and a bit, covering 2500 km along the way, and sharing in Claudio's obvious passion for his homeland.

And back to Santiago... and thence, home.

TIERRA DEL FUEGO



Top: King Penguins at Useless Bay
Middle: Magellanic Plover at Laguna Verde & Chilla Fox at Useless Bay
Bottom: meeting the locals

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
BIRDS														
Family Rheidae (Rheas)														
	Darwin's Rhea	<i>Pterocnemia pennata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X				
Family Anatidae (Wildfowl)														
	Coscoroba Swan	<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>			X	X	X	X	X		X			
	Black-necked Swan	<i>Sthenelides melancoryphus</i>			X		X		X		X			
	Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>											X	
	Ashy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga poliocephala</i>			X					X			X	
	Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>									X		X	
	Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Flightless Steamer-Duck	<i>Tachyeres pteneres</i>									X		X	
	Flying Steamer-Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>			X		X			X	X	X		
	Spectacled Duck	<i>Speculanas specularis</i>					X							
NEAR THREATENED														
	Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularoides</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Torrent Duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>				X			X					
	Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Silver Teal	<i>Anas versicolor</i>								X				
	Chiloe Wigeon	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>			X		X	X	X	X		X		
	Red Shoveler	<i>Anas platalea</i>					X	X	X			X		
	Andean Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura ferruginea</i>					X							
Family Odontophoridae (New World Quails)														
	California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	X											
INTRODUCED														
Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)														
	Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>			X	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)														
	White-tufted Grebe	<i>Rollandia rolland</i>					X		X		X	X		
	Southern Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps (occipitalis) occipitalis</i>			X	X	X	X			X			
	Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>				X	X							
Family Spheniscidae (Penguins)														
	Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>											X	
NEAR THREATENED														
	King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonica</i>										X		
At least 85 in the newly-founded colony at Useless Bay (8 th), with 33 eggs being incubated														
Family Diomedeidae (Albatrosses)														
	Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>		X	X					X	X	X	X	
NEAR THREATENED														
Family Oceanitidae (Southern Storm-Petrels)														
	'Fuegian' Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus chilensis</i>											X	
Family Pelecanoididae (Diving-Petrels)														
	Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>											X	X
Family Procellariidae (Petrels and Shearwaters)														
	Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	
	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>											X	
VULNERABLE: decreasing														
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)														
	Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>			X					X	X	X	X	
	Imperial Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	

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Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises)													
Black-faced Ibis	<i>Theristicus melanopis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Family Cathartidae (New World Vultures)													
Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X					
NEAR THREATENED													
Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles)													
Chilean Hawk	<i>Accipiter chilensis</i>					X							
Cinereous Harrier	<i>Circus cinereus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X				
Variable Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus polyosoma</i>	X											
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>	X		X		X		X		X			
Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)													
Southern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Mountain Caracara	<i>Phalco boenus megalopterus</i>	X											
Chimango Caracara	<i>Milvago chimango</i>		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	X		X	X	X		X					
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus cassini</i>								X				
Family Rallidae (Rails)													
Plumbeous Rail	<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>					X		X					
Austral Rail	<i>Rallus antarcticus</i>							X					
VULNERABLE: decreasing	Two adults and one well-grown chick seen, albeit incredibly briefly, at a rush-fringed pool in Torres del Paine NP on 6th												
White-winged Coot	<i>Fulica leucoptera</i>			X	X		X						
Red-gartered Coot	<i>Fulica armillata</i>					X	X				X		
Family Haematopidae (Oystercatchers)													
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)													
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Two-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>			X					X		X		
Rufous-chested Plover	<i>Charadrius modestus</i>								X				
Tawny-throated Dotterel	<i>Oreopholus ruficollis</i>				X				X				
Family Pluvianellidae (Magellanic Plover)													
Magellanic Plover	<i>Pluvianellus socialis</i>								X		X		
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)													
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Steganopus tricolor</i>								X				
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>			X					X	X	X		
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>			X					X	X	X		
S. American (Magellanic) Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraguayae magellanica</i>			X	H	X			X		X		
Family Thinocoridae (Seedsnipes)													
Grey-breasted Seedsnipe	<i>Thinocorus orbignyianus</i>						X						
Least Seedsnipe	<i>Thinocorus rumicivorus</i>				H	X			X	X			
Family Stercorariidae (Skuas)													
Chilean Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	
Family Laridae (Gulls)													
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	
Dolphin Gull	<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>			X					X	X	X	X	
Brown-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Sternidae (Terns)													
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Family Columbidae (Pigeons)													
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X								X	X	
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Black-winged Ground-Dove	<i>Metriopelia melanoptera</i>	X											

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Family Psittacidae (Parrots)														
	Austral Parakeet	<i>Enicognathus ferrugineus</i>			X		X						X	
	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	X											
INTRODUCED														
Family Strigidae (Owls)														
	Magellanic Horned Owl	<i>Bubo magellanicus</i>	X							X				
	Austral Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium nanum</i>						X						
Family Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)														
	Greater Band-winged Nightjar	<i>Systellura longirostris</i>				X								
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)														
	Magellanic Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus magellanicus</i>					X							
	Chilean Flicker	<i>Colaptes pitius</i>			X	X		X	X					
Family Furnariidae (Ovenbirds)														
	Common Miner (Patagonia)	<i>Geositta cunicularia cunicularia</i>								X		X		
	Short-billed Miner	<i>Geositta antarctica</i>									X	X		
	Rufous-banded Miner	<i>Geositta rufipennis</i>	X					X						
	Scale-throated Earthcreeper	<i>Upucerthia dumetaria</i>	X			X	X	X			X			
	Band-tailed Earthcreeper	<i>Ochetorhynchus phoenicurus</i>								X				
	Dark-bellied Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes patagonicus</i>			X			X	X				X	
	Grey-flanked Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes oustaleti</i>	X											
	Buff-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>	X		X			X		X	X	X		
	White-throated Treerunner	<i>Pygarrhichas albogularis</i>					X							
	Thorn-tailed Rayadito	<i>Aphrastura spinicauda</i>					X							
	Wren-like Rushbird	<i>Phleocryptes melanops</i>					X							
	Plain-mantled Spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura aegithaloides</i>	X									X		
	Sharp-billed Canastero	<i>Asthenes pyrrholeuca</i>						X						
	Cordilleran Canastero	<i>Asthenes modesta</i>						X						
	Austral Canastero	<i>Asthenes anthoides</i>					H					X		
Family Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)														
	Moustached Turca	<i>Pterotochos megapodius</i>	X											
Family Tyrannidae (Tyrants)														
	Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis montana</i>			X									
	Chocolate-vented Tyrant	<i>Neoxolmis rufiventris</i>								X				
	White-browed Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola albilora</i>	X			X								
	Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola flavinucha</i>						X						
	Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola capistrata</i>				X	X	X						
	Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola macloviana</i>				X								
	Austral Negrito	<i>Lessonia oreas</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Fire-eyed Diucon	<i>Xolmis pyrope</i>			X	X	X							
	Chilean (White-crested) Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>	X			X	X						X	
	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>			X		X							
Family Cotingidae (Cotingas)														
	Rufous-tailed Plantcutter	<i>Phytotoma rara</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X					
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)														
	Chilean Swallow	<i>Tachycineta meyeri</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)														
	Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus (platensis) platensis</i>					X		H					
	Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)														
	Austral Thrush	<i>Turdus falcklandii</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
Family Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)														
	Chilean Mockingbird	<i>Mimus tenca</i>	X											
	Patagonian Mockingbird	<i>Mimus patagonicus</i>						X						
Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)														
	Correndera Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera</i>			X		X		X		X			
Family Thraupidae (Tanagers and relatives)														
	Greater Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis auriventris</i>	X											
	Patagonian Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis lebruni</i>						X		X				
	Patagonian Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus patagonicus</i>					X							
	Grey-hooded Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus gayi</i>	X					X		X				
	Mourning Sierra-Finch	<i>Rhopospina (Phrygilus) fruticeti</i>	X		X	X		X						
	Plumbeous Sierra-Finch	<i>Geospizopsis unicolor</i>						X		X				
	Common Diuca-Finch	<i>Diuca diuca</i>	X											
	White-bridled Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>								X				
	Yellow-bridled Finch	<i>Melanodera xanthogramma</i>						X						
Family Passerellidae (American Sparrows)														
	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)														
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Fringillidae (Finches)														
	Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Carduelis barbatus</i>	X		X	X	X	X				X		
	Yellow-rumped Siskin	<i>Carduelis uropygialis</i>	X											
Family Icteridae (New World Blackbirds and Orioles)														
	Austral Blackbird	<i>Curaeus curaeus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
	Yellow-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius thilius</i>							X					
	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>		X	X	X	X				X		X	
	Long-tailed Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella loyca</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	



Band-tailed Earthcreeper (top left), Chocolate-vented Tyrant (top right)
 Greater Yellow-finch (bottom left), Tawny-throated Dotterel (bottom right)

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MAMMALS													
Armadillos													
Big Hairy Armadillo	<i>Chaetophractus villosus</i> An active burrow on 3 rd , and a wonderful friendly adult in the picnic site on 4 th				S	1							
Carnivores													
Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk	<i>Conepatus humboldtii</i>				4	2		1					
Chilla (=S American Grey Fox)	<i>Lycalopex griseus</i>			2	2	1	2		4	3			
Puma	<i>Puma concolor</i> A total of six animals seen on four days: a mother with her three cubs on 3 rd ; a male on 5 th and another, lazy male the next morning.				4		1	1					
Ungulates													
Guanaco	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Rodents and Lagomorphs													
Coruro	<i>Spalacopus cyanus</i> The hillside at Farellones was peppered with burrows of this rodent	S											
Magellanic Tuco-tuco	<i>Ctenomys magellanicus</i> A busy colony by the penguins at Useless Bay, but again the rodents chose to remain hidden									S			
VULNERABLE													
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	X	X									X	
Marine Mammals													
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i> One male seen from the ferry, 9 th										1		
South American Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i> A male near Rio Verde on 2 nd ; on 9 th , a juvenile in the harbour at Porvenir and a female seen from the ferry.			1							2		
Commerson's Dolphin DATA DEFICIENT	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i> Two or three came to the ferry across to Tierra del Fuego on 7 th								4				
Peale's Dolphin DATA DEFICIENT	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i> Seen from the shore and from the ferry at Porvenir on 9 th , and then again from the shore south of Punta Arenas on 10 th										5	5	



Guanaco, Torres del Paine.



Peale's Dolphin, Porvenir

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PLANTS		
FERNS		
<i>Botrychium dusseii</i>	Dussen's Moonwort	The strange fern in the 'dunes' by the salt lake, north of Punta Arenas
DICOTYLEDONS		
Apiaceae		
<i>Apium australe</i>	Southern Celery	The white umbellifer around shorelines, Tierra del Fuego
<i>Bolax gummifera</i>		The hard, cushion-forming plant growing on the hilltops in Torres del Paine.
<i>Mulinum spinosum</i>	Mata Barrosa, Spiny Bush	The very spiky bush on hilltops and steppe, with yellowy flowers
Asteraceae		
<i>Baccharis patagonica</i>		Shrub with white groundsel-like flowers: Torres del Paine
<i>Chilotrichum diffusum</i>		The daisy bush, steppe areas throughout
<i>Hyochoeris incana</i>	Blanquita	The white 'dandelion' with contrasting maroon thread-like florets: eg Sierra Baguales
<i>Leucheria purpurea</i>	Purpurea	The maroon-red 'dandelion' by the penguin colony
<i>Nassauvia glomerulosa</i>		A low-growing white-flowered mat-forming steppe plant: eg Sierra Baguales
<i>Perezia recurvata</i>		The blue 'dandelion' by the penguin colony
Berberidaceae		
<i>Berberis empetrifolia</i>	Dwarf Barberry	Dwarf, spiky shrub
<i>Berberis ilicifolia</i>	Holly-leaved Barberry	Holly-like leaves
<i>Berberis microphylla</i>	Calafate	The common barberry: berries used to make jam, and one of the desserts at Torres Lodge
Boraginaceae		
<i>Phacelia secunda</i>		Flower heads growing in 'scorpion tail' formation. Eg Torres del Paine, the penguin colony
Calceolariaceae		
<i>Calceolaria biflora</i>		The common, small yellow 'lady's slipper'
<i>Calceolaria uniflora</i>	Virgin's Slipper	The beautiful, orange, yellow and white, large-flowered 'lady's slipper', low growing
<i>Calceolaria polyrhiza</i>		The larger yellow 'lady's slipper' in the woodland, Grey Lagoon, Torres del Paine
<i>Calceolaria arachnoides</i>		A dark purple-flowered Calceolaria, Farellones
Campanulaceae		
<i>Pratia repens</i>		The little star-like 'lobelia' flower, growing on draw-down zones around lakes. Eg Laguna Verde, Porvenir
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Silene magellanica</i>		The campion, by a scenic lookout (I know!), Torres del Paine
<i>Arenaria serpens</i>		The white cushion-forming plant on the shores of the salt lake, north of Punta Arenas
Celastraceae		
<i>Maytenus magellanica</i>		Leathery leaved shrub, Torres del Paine
Donatiaceae		
<i>Donatia fascicularis</i>		A hard, cushion-forming mountain-top plant, with star-shaped florets. The only other species of Donatia grows in the same habitats in Tasmania and New Zealand.
Empetraceae		
<i>Empetrum rubrum</i>		Low-growing shrub: the plant that makes up Rufous-chested Dotterel nesting habitat

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Ericaceae		
<i>Gaultheria mucronata</i>	Prickly Heath	The 'cheese-berry', eg Torres del Paine
Escalloniaceae		
<i>Escallonia rubra</i>		Pink-flowered mountain shrub, eg Torres Lodge
Fabaceae		
<i>Adesmia boronioides</i>	Paramela	The sickly-scented yellow pea-flowered shrub, Torres del Paine
<i>Adesmia corymbosa</i>		A low-growing yellow pea, with spreading, mimosa-like leaves
<i>Adesmia lotoides</i>		The grey-leaved yellow pea, by the penguin colony
<i>Adesmia salicornioides</i>		A cushion-forming yellow pea, Sierra Baguales
<i>Anarthrophyllum desideratum</i>	Guanaco Bush, Scarlet Gorse, Neneo Macho	The bright red-flowered 'gorse' bush, Sierra Baguales
<i>Astragalus palenae</i>		Low-growing, lilac-flowered 'pea', Torres del Paine
<i>Lathyrus nervosus</i>		The common, purple and white 'pea', eg Torres del Paine
Geraniaceae		
<i>Geranium magellanicum</i>		The pink native geranium, common throughout
Grossulariaceae		
<i>Ribes magellanicum</i>	Magellanic Currant	Torres del Paine
Misodendraceae		
<i>Misodendrum punctulatum</i>	Chinese Lantern, Chilean Mistletoe	The mistletoe, common on Nothofagus trees
Nothofagaceae		
<i>Nothofagus betuloides</i>	Evergreen Beech	The common, big forest tree. Eg Lake Grey
<i>Nothofagus antarcticus</i>	Antarctic Beech	The small scrubby 'tree' from Punta Arenas onwards
<i>Nothofagus pumilio</i>	Deciduous Beech	
Onagraceae		
<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	Fuchsia	
<i>Oenothera magellanica</i>		The yellow evening primrose, Torres del Paine
<i>Oenothera acaulus</i>		The large, white evening primrose, Farellones
Orobanchaceae		
<i>Euphrasia Antarctica</i>		The tiny eyebright, around the shores of Laguna Verde, Porvenir
Oxalidaceae		
<i>Oxalis enneaphylla</i>		The beautiful pink Oxalis, Sierra Baguales
Plumbaginaceae		
<i>Aremeria maritima</i>	Thrift	Common throughout
Primulaceae		
<i>Samolus spathulatus</i>		Broad-leaved rosettes growing in the damp edges of dry ponds, Torres del Paine
Proteaceae		
<i>Embothrium coccineum</i>	Chilean Fire Bush	The red-flowered bush, found throughout. Closely related species grow in Australia and South Africa.
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Anemone multifidi</i>		The white anemone, Torres del Paine
<i>Caltha sagittata</i>		Broad-leaved rosettes and short yellow flower, growing on stream edges, Sierra Baguales
<i>Ranunculus peduncularis</i>		The buttercup, Torres del Paine
Rhamnaceae		
<i>Discaria chacaye</i>	White Thorn, Espino Blanco	The sprawling, prickly, white-flowered shrub, Torres del Paine
Rosaceae		
<i>Acaena magellanica</i>	Stick Tight	Common throughout

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	<i>Acaena pinnatifida</i>		Flower heads like Salad Burnet: common throughout
	<i>Geum magellanicum</i>		The tall, golden-yellow flower in damp areas near the lodge, Torres del Paine
Saxifragaceae			
	<i>Saxifraga magellanica</i>		The saxifrage, finished flowering, on rocks in Torres del Paine
Scrophulariaceae			
	<i>Ourisia rupestris</i>	Waterfall Flower, Drops of Blood	Red flower, by the damp shrine, Torres del Paine
Solanaceae			
	<i>Schizanthus hookeri</i>		The 'butterfly flower', Farellones
Valerianaceae			
	<i>Valeriana carnosa</i>	Fleshy Valerian	Torres del Paine
Verbenaceae			
	<i>Mulguraea (=Junellia) tridens</i>	Mata Negra, Black Bush	The common shrub in the steppe and Torres del Paine, white-pink, sickly sweet scented flowers
Violaceae			
	<i>Viola recurvata</i>		The common yellow Viola in steppe
	<i>Viola magellanica</i>		The yellow Viola in Nothofagus woodland
MONOCOTYLEDONS			
Alstroemeriaceae			
	<i>Alstroemeria patagonica</i>		The single, yellow-flowered Alstroemeria, Torres del Paine
	<i>Alstroemeria pallida</i>		The pink-flowered Alstroemeria, Farellones
Iridaceae			
	<i>Olsynium biflorum</i>	Streaked Maiden	Tall, white flowered 'iris' striped with pink. Sierra Baguales, common Tierra del Fuego roadsides
	<i>Sisyrinchium arenarium</i>		Plain yellow-flowered 'iris', Sierra Baguales
	<i>Sisyrinchium patagonicum</i>		Dark-centred, yellow-flowered 'iris', Torres del Paine
	<i>Solenomelus segethii</i>		Pale purple 'iris', Sierra Baguales
Orchidaceae			
	<i>Chloraea magellanica</i>	Porcelain Orchid	Common throughout: white flowers intricately marked with dark green
	<i>Chloraea leptopetala</i>		The very tall, unopened orchid on the floodplain 'steppe', Torres del Paine
	<i>Codonorchis lessonii</i>	White Dog Orchid	The single-flowered white orchid, Nothofagus forest near Lake Grey
	<i>Gavilea litoralis</i>		The tall yellow orchid, floodplain 'steppe', Torres del Paine
	<i>Gavilea lutea</i>		The yellow orchid in the woodland, near Lake Grey
	<i>Gavilea supralabellata</i>		The common yellow orchid, with green-tipped petals