

Northern Argentina

24th November - 6th December 2003

ITINERARY

This tour of northern Argentina visited the Pampa de Achala west of Cordoba and, heading north, the Yungas Cloud Forests, high Andes and deserts between Tucuman and the Bolivian border.

24th November. Flew to Cordoba. Drove to Il Posto on the Pampa de Achala. Night spent in Il Posto on the Pampa de Achala.

25th November. Day spent exploring the Pampa de Achala. Night spent at Il Posto.

26th November. Drove to Capilla del Monte. Night spent in Capilla del Monte.

27th November. Drove to Cordoba for flight to Salta. Drove to Jujuy birding the Cloud forests at Abra Santa Laura. Night in Jujuy.

28th - 29th November Drove to Huamahuaca via Termes del Reyes and the Yungas Cloud Forests. The following day spent on altiplano at Laguna Pozuelos. Nights in Huamahuaca.

30th November. Drove to Salta. Spent afternoon on the Abra Santa Laura. Night in Salta.

1st December. Drove to Cachi through desert of Los Cardones NP. Night in Cachi.

2nd - 3rd December. Drove to Cafayate through the desert. Day spent exploring the desertic habitats around Cafayate and Amaicha del Valle. Nights in Cafayate.

4th December. Drove to Tafi del Valle. Explored high Andean grasslands. Night in Tafi del Valle.

5th December. Dawn spent on the El Infiernillo pass. Drove to Salta in the afternoon. Night in Salta.

6th - 7th December. Flew to Buenos Aires. Night in Buenos Aires. Following day visited Costenura Sur reserve before flights home.

HIGHLIGHTS

This tour was designed to follow on from visiting Paraguay. In Argentina we therefore concentrated on the Pampa de Achala, the High Andes of the north-west, yungas Cloud Forests between Tucuman and Jujuy and the desertic regions around Cachi, Los Cardones NP and Cafayate. The following, the Chaco having been more or less covered in Paraguay, includes very few true Chaco species.

Our first port of call was the Pampa de Achala near Cordoba. We very quickly found the **Comechingones** and **Olrog's Cinclodes** and the **Cordoba Canstero**, these being the taxa endemic to the isolated Sierras and are currently considered full species. There are several others that also warrant consideration, not least of these is the *achalensis* form of Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant.

Driving north to the El 44 area we found Olive-crowned Crescentchest, **Chaco Earthcreeper** and a good number of **Andean Condors**.



The Pampa de Achala near Cordoba

Continuing north we flew to Salta and drove to Jujuy passing through the semi-humid cloud forest along the old road over the Abra Santa Laura. These forests were packed with **Andean Slaty Thrushes**, **Slaty Eleanias**, Mottle-cheeked and Sclater's Tyrannulets, **Rufous-browed Warbling-Finch** and Golden-winged Caciques. Travelling on from Jujuy we travelled up to Termes del Reyes and on through the Rio Yala catchment reserve. Again the alder forest rang to the song of Andean Slaty Thrushes and Slaty Eleanias. Additionally we found Spot-breasted Thornbird, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Andean Tyrant and Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch. Along the lower stretches we eventually found a **Rufous-throated Dipper** and a pair of Torrent Ducks. On rejoining the main highway north we drove to Huamahuaca, our gateway to the altiplano lakes and grasslands at Lago Pozuelos.



Desert near Huamahuaca

On our long drive to Lago Pozuelos we stopped at the Abra Pampa marsh and found **Tawny-throated Dotterel** and **Andean Avocet**; both superb waders. Travelling on we stopped to see **Scale-throated Earthcreeper**, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, Straight-billed Earthcreeper and Puna Yellow-Finch. At the lake we watched dozens of **Puna Flamingo**, **Andean Flamingo** and Chilean

Flamingos. They were accompanied by Puna Plovers and small numbers of waterfowl. The highlight of the day was watching a group of five **Puna Rheas** and up to 50 Vicuna around the edge of the lake. The common furnarid was **Puna Miner** with some Common Miners. Returning to Salta from Huamahuaca we passed through desertic scrub, dry woodlands and semi-humid cloud forests renewing our acquaintance with many species.

The next main region to visit was the desertic valles and high andean grasslands on the way to Cachi and Cafayate. The route was quite superb for furnarids and we quickly found Streak-fronted Thornbird, Rusty-vented Canastero, Puna Canastero, Straight-billed Earthcreeper and Plain-mantled and Brown-capped Tit-Spinetails. We had the luck of finding a pair of **Maquis Canasteros** which was a surprise as I was unaware they occurred so far south. At the pass we saw three Ornate Tinamous by the road and watched two small herds of Guanacos. In the Los Cardones National Park we found **White-throated Catchalote** at their huge nests and watched them constructing the elaborate structures. Driving on to Cafayate we stopped to admire more spectacular scenery and search for Sandy Gallito. In the tall dunes near Cafayate we quickly found this enigmatic tapaculo. Also present were good numbers of **Sharp-billed Cansteros**. The **Sandy Gallitos** were singing and perched up on dry branches in full view. We also watched them scurrying across the dunes feeding.



Dunes at Cafayate

Along the highway to Amaicha del Valle we found more White-throated Cachalote nests and birds while searching through the furnarids. Higher up we located a pair of **Steinbach's Canastero**. This is an odd species, clearly related to Rusty-vented Canastero and not well differentiated from it although here found to occur together. Higher up on the pass at El Infiernillo we found a pair of **Buff-breasted Earthcreepers** at their nest feeding young.

In the same gully there were at least twenty **Moreno's Ground-Doves** and White-winged Cinclodes, Bar-winged Cinclodes and Cordilleran Canasteros. Descending the eastern side of the sierras we stopped to search for **Tucuman Mountain-Finches**. We found the latter after an exhaustive search of the gully at KM80. At this site we also found Andean Condor, Puna Canastero, White-browed Chat-Tyrant and Paramo Pipit.

At Tafi del Valle we explored the lake below the town and the yungas cloud forests along the road to Tucuman. Along the lake edges we found **Coscoroba Swan**, Andean Flamingo, Red Shoveler and a pair of the *occipitalis* form of **Silvery Grebe**. In the cloud forests we caught up with several pairs of Torrent Ducks. We saw two pairs of **Rufous-throated Dippers** which we were able to watch at length while **Yellow-striped Brush-Finch** was common. **White-browed Tapaculo** put on

a display and we were able to watch a pair for some time. In these forests Andean Slaty-Thrush and Slaty Eleania were again common. The only difference was that here we were able to find **Buff-banded Tyrannulet**.



Abra Santa Laura

Our last day was spent at the Costenura Sur reserve in Buenos Aires. This superb reserve is packed with wildfowl and we kicked off with huge numbers Black-necked and Coscoroba Swans. Amongst many other wildfowl, Rosy-billed Pochard, Silver Teal and Red Shoveler were common and we found up to twenty five **Black-headed Ducks**. The occurrence of White-winged, Red-gartered and Red-fronted Coots and Common gallinules in the same area is also a constant surprise. **Spot-flanked Gallinules** were also present in good numbers. Amongst the passerines present we found **Freckle-breasted Thornbird** and **Black and Rufous Warbling-Finch** which ended a fantastic last day.

SYSTEMATIC LISTS

BIRDS

TINAMOUS

Ornate Tinamou (*Nothoprocta ornata*). Several seen and heard on Cuesta del Obispo. Also 7 seen at Abra el Infiernillo. Superb sightings of 7 birds here, where seen walking in short grass near the road.

Andean Tinamou (*Nothoprocta pentlandii*). Several birds heard near El Capilla near Cordoba.

Darwin's Nothura (*Nothura darwini*). A single bird seen on Pampa de Achala.

Spotted Nothura (*Nothura maculosa*) Several birds heard on Pampa de Achala.

RHEAS.

Puna Rhea (*Rhea pterocnemio pennata*) A group of 5 seen at Laguna Pozuelos. A real highlight as we were able to drive right up to the group without spooking the birds at all.

GREBES.

White-tufted Grebe (*Rollandia rolland*) 3 seen at lakes near Cordoba and a few on a lake near Jujuy.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Small numbers throughout.

Great Grebe (*Podiceps major*) Up to 50 near La Capilla north of Cordoba.

Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps o. occipitalis*) 2 seen on lake near Tafi del Valle. Distinctive southern form seems to deserve specific status. It looks very different and was definitely feeding in a manner I have not observed in *P.o.juninensis*. The pair were moving quickly across a weed covered surface feeding in the manner of a Coot or a Common Gallinule.

CORMORANTS

Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*) Small numbers throughout.

DUCKS AND GEESE.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). 25 on lake near Jujuy.

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) 150 on lake near Jujuy.

Coscoroba Swan (*Coscoroba coscoroba*) 7 seen on a lake near Tafi del Valle. 150 at Costenura Sur reserve in Buenos Aires.

Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melanocorhypha*) 1 on a lake near La Capilla north of Cordoba, 85 at Costenura Sur in Buenos Aires.

Andean Duck (*Oxyura ferruginea*) Small numbers on lakes near Cordoba and Salta. 70 on lake at Tafi del Valle.

Argentine Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura vittata*) 25 Costenura sur in Buenos Aires.

Andean Goose (*Chloephaga meloptera*) 40 seen at Lago Pozuelos.

Brazilian duck (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*) 20 on lakes near Salta.

Torrent Duck (*Merganetta armata*) 2 pairs seen at Tafi del Valle along Rio Los Sosos, 1 pair at Rio Yala

Crested Duck (*Anas specularoides*) 65 at Lago Pozuelos.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) Small numbers at all bodies of water.

Red Shoveler (*Anas platalea*) 45 at Tafi del Valle, 6 at Costenura sur in Buenos Aires.

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) Small numbers at most bodies of water.

Rosy-billed Pochard (*Netta peposca*) 75 at Costenura Sur in Buenos Aires.

Black-headed Duck (*Heteronetta atricapilla*) 25 at the costenura reserve in Buenos Aires. Good numbers of this rather local species.

Speckled Teal (*Anas flavirostris*) Up to 30 at most lake sites visited.

Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*) Good numbers at most wetland sites.

Silver Teal (*Anas versicolor*) 25 at Costenura Sur reserve in Buenos Aires.

FLAMINGOS

Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) 70 Lago Pozuelos.

Andean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus andinus*) 150 at Lago Pozuelos, 1 at Tafi del Valle..

Puna Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus jamesi*) 300 at Lago Pozuelos.

HERONS

Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*). Fairly common throughout.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) Common throughout.

Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*) A couple in Beni. Fairly common at Flor d'Oro.

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) Small numbers throughout.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius alba*) Small numbers throughout.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Common throughout.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) 6 at costenura reserve.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) 45 on lake at Tafi del Valle.

IBISES

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). Good numbers on two large lakes near Salta and Jujuy.

Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus caudatus*). Small numbers near Salta.

Puna Ibis (*Plegadis ridgwayi*). Small numbers on lakes near Jujuy and Salta.

STORKS

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) 20 on lake near Salta.

HAWKS AND EAGLES

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) 1 near Cachi.

Cinereous Harrier (*Circus cinereus*) 1 at the Abra Pampas marsh.

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo uncinatus*) A pair near Salta.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) 4 seen near Huamahuaca.

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) Common throughout.

Variable Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*) A few a many sites in the Andes.

FALCONS

Mountain Caracara (*Phalacrocorax megalopterus*) 6 at Lago Pozuelos.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) Recorded at most sites.

Chimango Caracara (*Milvago chimango*) Common.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) A few seen throughout.

Applomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) A pair seen near Huamahuaca.

AMERICAN VULTURES

Black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Common.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aurea*) Common.

Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*). A few seen on the Pampa de Achala and northwards. Several seen most days around Cafayate.

GUANS AND CURRASSOWS.

Dusky-legged Guan (*Penelope obscura*) 1 seen along highway from Tucuman and Salta.

RAILS

Plumbeous Rail (*Pardirallus sanguinolenta*) 4 seen along river valley near Cachi.

Spot-flanked Gallinule () 3 seen at close quarters at Costenura Sur.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) Common in Beni and up to 20 seen near Saipina.

White-winged Coot (*Fulica leucoptera*) Very common on all bodies of water from Cordoba to Salta and Buenos Aires.

Red-fronted Coot (*Fulica rufifrons*) Common at Costenura sur.

Red-gartered Coot (*Fulica armillata*) small numbers around Cordoba and Salta. Common at Costenura Sur.

Slate-coloured Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*) Small numbers seen at Lago Pozuelos.

Giant Coot (*Fulica gigantea*) A single adult at Lago pozuelos.

SERIEMAS

Red-legged Seriema (*Caiama cristata*). A single pair heard near Jujuy.

JACANAS

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) Common in the costenura Sur rerserve.

SANDPIPERS

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) 1 Costenura Sur.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) 1 near Salta.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) Small numbers at Lago Pozuelos.

SEEDSNIPE

Grey-breasted Seedsnipe (*Thinocorus orbignyianus*) 3 near Abra Pampa.

Least Seedsnipe (*Thinocrus rumicivorus*) 15 at Lago Pozuelos.

PLOVERS AND STILTS

White-backed Stilt (*Himantopus melanurus*) Small numbers seen on all bodies of water.

Andean Avocet (*Recurvirostra andina*) 6 seen at the Abra Pampa marsh.

Puna Plover (*Charadrius alticola*) A single bird seen on the pampas at Los Fierros.

Tawny-throated Dotterel (*Oreopholus ruficollis*) A single superb adult seen at the Abra Pampa marsh.

Southern Lapwing (*Charadrius chilensis*) Common throughout.

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*) 6 seen near Abra Pampa.

GULLS AND TERNS

Grey-hooded Gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*) 2 seen at Costenura Sur.

Brown-hooded Gull (*Larus maculipennis*) 250 at Costenura Sur

Andean Gull (*Larus serranus*) Small numbers throughout the high Andes.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) 1 at Costenura Sur.

Kelp Gull (*Larus atlanticus*) 2 at Costenura sur.

South American Tern (*Sterna hirundinacea*) A single bird seen at Costenura Sur.

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*). Common throughout.

Picazuro Pigeon (*Columba picazuro*) Common throughout the lowlands.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) heard near Termas del Reyes.

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) Common.

Picui Ground-Dove (*Columbina picui*) Common to abundant.

Moren's Ground-dove (*Metriopelia moroeni*) Fairly common at El Infiernillo.

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) Common throughout.

Large-tailed Dove (*Leptotila megalura*) Seen at Termas del Reyes and in Yungas forest near Jujuy.

PARROTS

Blue-crowned Parakeet (*Aratinga acuticauda*). 3 near Cafayate.

Mitred Parakeet (*Aratinga mitrata*) Fairly common on the road to Cachi.

Nanday Parakeet (*Nendayus nenday*) Small numbers seen at Costenura Sur. These are feral birds.

Burrowing Parrot (*Cyanoliseus patagonicus*) Common around Cachi and Cafayate. Up to 200 seen in dunes near Cafayate.

Grey-hooded Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus aymara*) Small numbers in the Andes near Cafayate and Cachi.

Scaly-headed Parrot (*Pionus maximilliani*) Small numbers recorded most days in cloud forest near Jujuy.

ANIS

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) Common throughout.

Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*) Common throughout.

GROUND-CUCKOOS

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) Heard throughout.

OWLS

Burrowing Owl (*Athena cunicularia*) Small numbers seen throughout.

SWIFTS

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) A few seen at Cafayate.

Andean swift (*Aeronautes andaecolus*) Common in the dry valleys.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*) A few seen along the road to Cachi.

Glittering-bellied Emerald (*Chlorostilbon aureoventris*) a few seen at Costenura Sur. and in the dry valleys.

White-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia chionogaster*) Common throughout.

Giant Hummingbird (*Lesbia nuna*) A single bird near Huamahuaca.

Red-tailed Comet (*Sappho sparganura*) Fairly common throughout.

Slender-tailed Woodstar (*Acestrura mulsant*) A single bird below tafi del Valle.

PUFFBIRDS

Spot-backed Puffbird (*Nystalus maculatus*) Common in the dry valleys.

WOODPECKERS.

Ocellated Piculet (*Piculus dorbignyanus*) A single bird heard drumming at Abra Santa Laura.

White-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cactorum*) Common in the canyons and dry woodlands.

‘Green-barred’ Woodpecker (*Colaptes melanochloros*) A few at Costenura Sur.

‘Golden-breasted’ Woodpecker (*Colaptes melanolaimus*) Several seen in the Andes.

Campo Flicker (*Colaptes campestris*) Fairly common in lower lying areas.

Andean Flicker (*Colaptes rupicola*) Found only at El Infiernillo.

FLYCATCHERS

Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) 1 at Abra Santa Laura.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*) Common throughout.

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum plumbeiceps*) Heard at Abra Santa Laura.

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes ventralis*) Fairly common at Abra Santa Laura.

Sclater’s Tyrannulet (*Ornithion inerme*) Several seen and heard at Abra Santa Laura. The form here having a pale yellow wash on the belly.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) Common at most sites.

White-crested Eleania (*Eleania albiceps*) A few seen in alder forests at Termes del Reyes.

Slaty Eleania (*Eleania cinereum*) Very common in alder forests at Termes del Reyes and below Tafi del Valle. Fairly common along the Abra Santa Laura road. A bird much harder to find further north in its breeding range.

Highland Eleania (*Eleania pallatangae*) A single bird below Tafi del Valle.

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) Seen at all cloud forest sites.

Buff-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus hellamyri*) A few below Tafi del Valle.

White-bellied tyrannulet (*Serpophaga munda*) A few at Abra Santa Laura on edge of forests.

Greater Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura budytoides*) Commonly recorded in desertic areas around Cafayate.

Yellow-billed Tit-tyrant (*Anairetes flavirostris*) Several pairs seen near Cordoba in scrubby canyons.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*) A pair seen near Cachi.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) Several heard and seen below Abra Santa Laura.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) 2 seen near Termes del Reyes.

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*) A few seen at Abra Santa Laura.

Cliff Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea*) Small numbers throughout.

Smoke-coloured Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*) Recorded at Abra Santa Laura.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) A few recorded along streams below Tafi del Valle, Termes del

Reyes and along the road to Cachi.

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubiginosus*) .

White-browed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*) Several pairs recorded. Birds here have rufous wing bars and behave much like Crowned Chat-Tyrant.

White Monjita (*Xolmis irupero*) Small numbers along the road to Abra Santa Laura.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant (*Agriornis montana*) The form *fumosus* recorded on the Pampa de Achala. Several birds seen at El Infiernillo. .

Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola rufivertex achalensis*) This distinctive form recorded in small numbers on the Pampa de Achala.

Cinereous Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola cinerea*) A few seen near Huamahuaca.

Andean Negrito (*Lessonea oreas*) Fairly common at Abra Pampa marsh.

Andean Tyrant (*Knipolegus signatus*) A single female found above Termes del Reyes.

White-winged Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus atterimus*) Small numbers seen throughout.

Spectacled Tyrant (*Hymenops perspicillata*) Common on the Pampa de Achala where birds were displaying. Also seen in elsewhere throughout the north-west and at Costenura Sur.

Black-backed Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola albiventer*) 2 pairs seen in Costenura Sur.

Yellow-browed Tyrant (*Satrapa icterohrys*) 1 seen near Huamahuaca.

Cattle Tyrant (*Machetornis rixosus*) Common throughout.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) Fairly common in Alder forests between Jujuy and Salta and below Tafi del Valle.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) Heard in dry woodlands near Jujuy.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) Common.

Fork-tailed flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*) Small numbers found throughout.

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucocephalus*) Commonly heard at Abra Santa Laura.

Greater Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) Common throughout.

COTINGAS

White-tipped Plantcutter (*Phytotoma rutilius*) Seen at many sites from Cordoba to Huamahuaca in more desertic habitats.

FURNARIDS

Common Miner (*Geositta cunicularia*) 15 seen at Lago Pozuelos.

Puna Miner (*Geositta punensis*) 25 seen around Lago Pozuelos.

Rufous-banded Miner (*Geositta rufipennis*) Several seen of form *ottowi* on Pampa de Achala, common in drier hills near Huamahuaca.

Straight-billed Earthcreeper (*Upucerthis ruficauda*) Several seen near Huamahuaca, at Cuesta del Obispo and at El Infiernillo.

Rock Earthcreeper (*Upucerthis andaecola*) A pair seen near Huamahuaca.

Scale-throated Earthcreeper (*Upucerthis dumetaria*) A pair seen near Abra Pampa in a narrow gully in arid scrub.

Buff-breasted Earthcreeper (*Upucerthis validirostris*) A pair found feeding young at El Infiernillo - a nest that seems to have appeared in the latest volume of Birds of the World.

Chaco Earthcreeper (*Upucerthis harterti*) Common in semi-arid woodlands and scrub.

Bar-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*) Small numbers seen around Abra Pampa and at El Infiernillo.

Comechingones Cinclodes (*Cinclodes comechingones*) Common on the Pampa de Achala.

Olog's Cinclodes (*Cinclodes ologi*) Small numbers found along streams on the Pampa de Achala.

White-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes atacamensis*) The form *schocolatinus* was seen on Pampa de Achala

Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*) Abundant throughout.

Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura fuliginiceps*) A few seen near Cachi and at El Infiernillo.

Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail (*Leptastenura aegithaloides*) A few seen near Abra Pampa and and El Infiernillo.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail (*Synallaxis frontalis*) Fairly common near Cordoba.

Azara's (Buff-browed) Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae superciliosa*) Several pairs seen and heard at Abra Santa Laura and below Tafi del Valle.

Stripe-crowned Spinetail (*Cranioleuca pyrrhophia*) Common in drier wooded areas.

Sharp-billed Canastero (*Asthenes pyrrholeuca*) Several pairs in sand dunes near Cafayate. All birds were singing and appeared to be holding territory. This would then be another isolated population of this species well north of generally mapped breeding season range.

Maquis Canastero (*Asthenes heterura*) A single pair along the road to Cachi just below Cuesta del Obispo at 3000m.

Cordilleran Canastero (*Asthenes modesta*) Common in the Pampa de Achala (*C.m.cordobae*) and in all upland areas near Jujuy and Tafi del Valle.

Rusty-vented Canastero (*Asthenes dorbignyi*) Common in the higher areas visited near Huamahuaca and Amicha del Valle.

Steinbach's Canastero (*Asthenes steinbachi*) A pair of birds thought to be this species found on cactus covered slopes above Amaicha del Valle. Found in association with *Asthenes dorbignyi*. The similarity of these species is striking and one would have thought they would be sister species found allopatrically. In the field the Steinbach's Canastero appears greyer and has a clear throat although flecks of black do appear on the lower throat. The birds were observed at a nest built in a small cactus very close to the ground. Nearby pairs of Rusty-vented Canasteros had their nests much higher up in larger cactus plants.

Puno Canastero (*Asthenes punensis*) Fairly common along the Cachi road.

Cordoba Canastero (*Asthenes sclateri*) Common on the Pampa de Achala. Very similar to preceding species. Slightly more rufous wing but overall rather paler. The primary vocalisation differed only very slightly. My impression is that these Pampa de Achala species are only partially differentiated at best.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*) A few seen Jujuy.

Streak-fronted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus striaticeps*) Fairly common in the higher areas along the Cachi road.

Freckle-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus striaticollis*) Common in the Costenura reserve.

Spot-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus maculipectus*) Generally common in higher areas of alder forest and forest edge habitats. Not found above treeline here.

Wren-like Rushbird (*Pleocryptes melanops*) Heard at wetland sites..

Lark-like Brushrunner (*Coryphistera alaudina*) Several pairs found in scrub near Huamahuaca.

White-throated Cachalote (*Pseudosiesura gutturalis*) Common along the road to Cachi in Los Cardones NP. Also in cactus dominated scrub below Amaicha del Valle.

Brown Cachalote (*Pseudoseisura lophotes*) The weird song of this species was heard in El Capilla and several birds were seen.

Buff-browed Foliage-Gleaner (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*) Common in the cloud forest sites.

WOODCREEPERS

Great Rufous Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes major*) Heard in tall dry woodlands near Jujuy.

Narrow-billed woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*) Common in drier woodlands throughout.

ANTBIRDS

Rufous-capped Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ruficapillus*) common in alder scrub and scrubby habitats around Jujuy and Salta.

Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caerulescens*) Heard at several sites around Salta.

TAPACULOS

Olive-crowned Crescentchest (*Melanopareia m. maximilliani*) A pair seen near El Capilla. These were of the lowland form with a fast song. Probably represents a distinct species from the montane forms found further north in Bolivia.

Sandy Gallito (*Telodromus fuscus*) Common in dunes near Cafayate. Several birds watched without aid of tapes singing from exposed perches and feeding on the ground.

White-browed Tapaculo (*Scytalopus superciliaris*) A pair of this distinct species taped in at a narrow gully just below Tafi del Valle. Visually and vocally unlike any other *Scytalopus* species.

VIREOS

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) Common.

Chivri (Red-eyed) Vireo (*Vireo chivri*) Common.

JAYS

Plush-crested Jay (*Cyanocorax chrysops*) Common.

DIPPERS

Rufous-throated Dipper (*Cinclus schultzi*) A pair found and watched at length at Rio Yala. Several pairs watched along the Rio Los Sosos below Tafi del Valle.

THRUSHES

Spotted Nightingale Thrush (*Catharus dryas*) Heard along Abra Santa Laura road.

Chiguanco Thrush (*Turdus chiguanco*) Common higher up.

Andean Slaty Thrush (*Turdus nigriceps*) Common to abundant in alder forests along Abra Santa Laura road and Termes del Reyes road and below Tafi del Valle. The song of this species rang out in all stretches semi-humid forest.

Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*) Common to abundant.

Creamy-bellied Thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*) 1 seen near Jujuy.

MOCKINGBIRDS

Chalk-browed Mockingbird (*Mimus saturninus*) Common to abundant.

Brown-backed Mockingbird (*Mimus dorsalis*) Several pairs seen most days in drier habitats.

WRENS

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) Common on the Pampa de Achala and at Cuesta del Obispo.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Common.

Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*) Several seen and heard along the road to Abra Santa Laura.

GNATCATCHERS

Masked Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila dumicola berlepschi*) Common.

SWALLOWS

White-rumped Swallow (*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*) Fairly common around los Fierros.

Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*) Common in lowlands.

Southern Martin (*Progne modesta*) Generally common.

Blue and white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) Common in the dry valleys.

Tawny-headed Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx fucata*) Several seen around Cordoba.

Southern Roughwing (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) A few near Jujuy.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) A few seen at lakes around Salta and Jujuy.

SPARROWS AND STARLINGS

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Common.

Common starling (*Sturna vulgaris*) Several pairs seen in Buenos aires.

PIPITS

Correndera Pipit (*Anthus correndera*) Several seen at the Abra Pamps Marsh.

Short-billed Pipit (*Anthus furcatus*) Several singing bird taped at Abra Pampa and also seen at Lago Pozuelos.

Hellmayr's Pipit (*Anthus hellmayri*) Fairly common on the Pampa de Achala where taped. Several birds seen at El Infiernillo.

Paramo Pipit (*Anthus bogotensis*) Several individuals seen at the El Infiernillo.

Yellowish Pipit (*Anthus lutescens*) A few pairs found around lake edges near Salta.

FINCHES

Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanica*) Common.

WOOD WARBLERS

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) Common throughout.

Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*) Common.

Brown-capped Whitestart (*Myioborus bruniceps*) Common.

Two-banded Warbler (*Basileuterus bivittatus*) Common.

EMBERIZIDS

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) Very common.

Saffron-billed Sparrow (*Arremon flavirostris*) Common in dry woodlands.

Yellow-striped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes citrinella*) Quite common below Tafi del Valle.

Fulvous-headed Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes fulviceps*) Several pairs found in alder woods above Termes del Reyes

Stripe-headed Brush-finch (*Atlapetes torquatus*) Several birds seen along Abra Santa Laura road.

Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*) Common in Costenura Sur reserve.

Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) Common. This very distinctive taxon has been given the English name Brown-headed Bush-Tanager.

Orange-headed Tanager (*Thlypopsis sordida*) Several pairs noted near Jujuy singing.

Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) Common throughout.

Blue and yellow Tanager (*Thraupis bonariensis*) Common in the dry valles.

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) Several pairs noted near Termes del Reyes.

Purple-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chlorotica*) Common.

Rusty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa sittoides*) Common in the higher mountains, especially along the Cachi road.

Black-hooded sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus atriceps*) Up to 35 seen each day above Huamahuaca.

Grey-hooded Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus gayi*) A few seen in valles near Amaicha del Valle.

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus unicolor*) Common in high Andes and on Pampa de Achala.

Mourning Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus fruticeti*) Common above Huamahuaca.

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus plebejus*) Common on Pampa de Achala (*naroskyi*) and in the high Andes of the north-west.

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus alaudinus*) several pairs seen at Cuesta del Obispo and at lago Pozuelos.

Common Diuca Finch (*Diuca diuca*) A few seen in los Cardones NP and in desertic habitats on the road to Cafayate.

Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza hypochondria*) A few birds found on Pampa de Achala.

Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza erythrophrys*) Fairly common in alder scrub and woodlands from Jujuy to Tucuman.

Black and Chestnut Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza whitii*) Fairly common.
Black and Rufous Warbling-Finch (*Phrygilus*) Very common in the Costenura Sur reserve.
Tucuman Mountain-Finch (*Poospiza baeri*) A pair seen at the end of the gully below the road at KM80 east of El Infiernillo
 Ringed Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza torquata*) Not uncommon.
 Black-capped Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza melanoleuca*) Seen most days in dry valles.
 Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) Common.
Puna Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis lutea*) Fairly common along the road to Lago Pozuelos from Abra Pampa.
 Greenish Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis olivascens*) Fairly common above Huamahuaca.
 Misto Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis luteiventris*) Fairly common around Cordoba.
 Great Pampa-Finch (*Embernagra platensis*) Small numbers throughout.
 Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatina jacarina*) A few near Cachi.
 Double-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila caerulescens*) A few near Cordoba.
 Band-tailed Seedeater (*Catamenia analis*) Common in dry valles.
 Plain-coloured Seedeater (*Catamenia inornata*) Fairly common.
 Black backed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus aureoventris*) Several pairs found at Abra Santa Laura.
 Golden-billed Saltator (*Saltator aurantirostris*) Fairly common.

ICTERIDS

Golden-winged Cacique (*Cacicus chrysopterus*) Several pairs found at Abra Santa Laura.
 Solitary Cacique (*Cacicus solitarius*) Heard near cachi.
 Epaulet Oriole (*Icterus canannensis*) Seen near Cachi. .
 Yellow-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius thillus*) Common at Costenura Sur reserve.
 Screaming Cowbird (*Molothrus rufoaxillaris*) Fairly common.
 Bay-winged Cowbird (*Molothrus badius*) Common.
 Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) Common.
 Long-tailed Meadowlark (*Sturnella loyca*) Fairly common on Pampa de Achala (*obscura*)

MAMMALS

Vicuna (*Lama vicuna*) Up to 50 seen at Lago Pozuelos where protected now. None seen outside the reserve.
Guanaco (*Lama guanaco*) One herd of 7 and another of 8 seen in the Los Cardones NP. Rather shy.
 Andean Fox (*Dusicyon culpaeus*) Single animal seen at El Infiernillo.
 European Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) Fairly common throughout.
 Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) Numerous in Costenura Sur reserve.

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