

# Paraguay

9th November - 22nd November 2003

## ITINERARY

This tour visited the Atlantic forests of eastern Paraguay, the palm savanna, marshes and Esteros south of Asuncion and the central Chaco to the west.

9th November. Arriving late afternoon we spent remaining part of day at Rio Salado nature reserve near San Bernadino. A huge area of marshes just outside Asuncion. Night Asuncion.

10th November. We drove to the Mbaracayu Forest Reserve in eastern Paraguay, arriving very late. Night spent at the Mbaracayu Forest Reserve.

11th -12th November We spent dawn and dusk birding the forest reserve exploring both Atlantic forests and cerrado. Nights spent at the Mbaracayu Forest Reserve.

13th November Drove to the Laguna Blanca; a superb cerrado site adjacent to a large lake. Night at Laguna Blanca in the Hacienda buildings.

14th November. Dawn and early morning spent of the cerrado reserve above the lake. Night at Laguna Blanca.

15th November. Drove back to Asuncion. Birding along the main highway near Arroyos y Esteros - a vast area of wet grasslands and marshes teeming with wetland and open country species. Night in San Bernadino.

16th November Starting in Rio Salado marshes we then headed south to the Esteros west of San Juan Bautista. Late afternoon we suffered a violent hail storm with hail stones the size of mangos. Night in San Juan Bautista.

17th November. We spent our time in the marshes west of San Juan Bautista driving around the fallen electrical cables festooned across the road. Drove to Coronel Bogado to start our exploration of the Esteros. Night in Coronel Bogado.

18th November. Birded the Esteros near Coronel Bogado and the grasslands at Nu Guazu. Drove to Asuncion. Night in Asuncion.

19th November. Drove to Loma Plata stopping in the Chaco for some birding. Nights in Loma Plata.

20th - 22 November. Days spent exploring fragments of Chaco near Loma Plata. Laguna Ganso and Laguna Maria. Nights at Loma Plata.

23th November Drove to Asuncion. Night in Asuncion.

24th November. flight to Cordoba in Argentina. Night on the Pampa de Achala.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organisation of this trip and running of the logistics were the undertaken by GUYRA Paraguay. A special thanks to Rob Clay for working out and setting up the itinerary. Roderigo Zarate and Alberto Esquivel were with us for various parts of the trip and both made a huge contribution to its success. I look forward to birding with them again.

## HIGHLIGHTS

On arrival we drove to the Rio Salado area close to Asuncion. In this area we found good numbers of White Monjitas, Scarlet-headed Blackbirds and Nanday Parakeets. We also saw the first Giant Wood-rail of the tour along with large numbers of Snail Kites and Limpkins. The following morning we headed north for the Mbaracayu Forest reserve; a large area of near pristine Atlantic forest and cerrado.

As we were staying at the Mbaracayu Forest Reserve headquarters we were able to get into the forest at dawn. Of the forest species we heard Solitary Tinamou and Undulated Tinamous most

days. Along the road adult Black-fronted Piping-Guan was seen on two occasions flying across the road. As hunting is still permitted in the reserve the birds were very shy and quickly disappeared. Throughout the forest Reddish-bellied Parakeets, Surucua Trogons and Rufous-capped Motmots were especially common. We also found a pair of Buff-bellied Puffbirds and a small family group of Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers and a pair of Spot-billed Toucanets. Along the main road again we found a pair of Three-striped Flycatchers holding territory. At all points in the forest Bare-throated Bellbirds could be heard and several were seen. At night although very quiet we did find numerous Rufous Nightjars and caught one for closer inspection. We also found Natterer's Nighthawk in the forest. In the small cerrado area we flushed a female White-winged Nightjar, a very small pale greyish bird. The chorus of sub-oscines was rather limited but there were good numbers of Ochre-breasted Foliage-Gleaner, White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner and Spot-backed Antshrike. On the cerrado one evening we found several Streamer-tailed Tyrants and a Collared Crescentchest on the cerrado. Although mammals were rather scarce with only Brown Capuchin heard we did see a female Jaguar. There were fresh tracks of both Jaguar and Ocelot along the road on all days.

After early morning at the forest reserve we departed for Laguna Blanca. On the way we saw several small flocks of Mississippi Kite, an infrequently seen raptor in South America. Laguna Blanca is in fact an area of cerrado adjacent to a large Lagoon. On our first evening we saw an adult White-winged Nightjar at what is probably its most important site.



White-winged Nightjar on its display mound

The following morning at dawn we found a superb adult Crowned Eagle and watched it for ten minutes. during our stay we saw good numbers of Red-winged Tinamous, Spotted and Lesser Nothuras, Greater Rhea and Red-legged Seriemas. Although we subsequently heard displaying White-winged Nightjar we did not see any. We did find numerous Parakee, Rufous Nightjar, Little Nightjar and Grey Potoo; the latter on a nest. We also located many singing male Black-Masked Finch and Pale-breasted Spinetail, White-rumped Tanager, White-banded Tanager were also common. On the cerrado Toco Toucan was common while we saw many more Streamer-tailed Tyrants. White-rumped Monjitas, Curl-crested Jay and Black-throated Saltator were common. Of some interest was a single male Chestnut Seedeater passing through with a flock of Plumbeous Seedeaters.



White-winged Nightjar habitat at Laguna Blanca

Returning to Asuncion we passed through the vast marshes and wet grasslands at Arroyos y Esteros. We saw huge numbers of Snail Kites and Limpkins along with Plumbeous Ibises, Bare-faced Ibises, Maguari Stork and good numbers of Icterids and seedeaters. The following day we headed off to San Juan Bautista to visit the marshes nearby. We found good numbers of Strange-tailed Tyrants which exceeded all expectations and we were able to watch them display.



Strange-tailed Tyrant

In the same area we found huge numbers of Chestnut Seedeaters, Capped Seedeaters, Dark-throated and Tawny-bellied Seedeaters. Rusty-collared and Double-collared Seedeaters together with numerous Streamer-tailed Tyrants which provided a supporting cast. Long-winged Harrier, Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures and Aplomado Falcon hunted over the plains for the numerous Icterids. In the tall grasslands in the esteros we found Lesser Grassfinch and Saffron-cowled Blackbirds. This region is the stronghold for the latter species. Despite this and lengthy searches at known sites of breeding colonies we only managed to see a single pair of this species. We also visited an area of grasslands north of Coronel Bogado at Nu Guazu and found Ochre-breasted Pipits displaying, several pairs of Chestnut Seedeaters singing together with displaying South-American Snipe.

After a very successful couple of days in the marshes we headed for the Chaco. Driving across the wet Chaco towards Loma Plata we made numerous stops to watch wetland species. We found Little Thornbird and numerous flocks of Nanday Parakeets. In the Chaco we concentrated on seeing the wetland specialities as well as the Chaco endemics. At Laguna Maria we found large numbers of Ringed Teal, Jabiru, Fulvous, Black-bellied and White-faced Whistling Ducks. We also saw many Plumbeous and Bare-faced Ibises along with about 20 Southern Screamers. Giant Wood-Rail was common in the Chaco as well as in the marshy areas.



Monk Parakeet colony

We visited two areas of Chaco. In the first we found Stripe-backed Antbird, Crested Gallito, Cream-backed Woodpecker, Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, Chaco Earthcreeper, Crested Hornero, Lark-like Brushrunner, Many-coloured Chaco-Finch and Brushland Tinamous. At another site at Laguna Gansu we decided to spend a whole morning. We were rewarded with fantastic views of a pair of Black-bodied Woodpeckers, Brown Cachalote and Black-legged Seriemas along with much of the Chaco avifauna we had seen earlier. The Black-bodied Woodpeckers were quite unexpected and we spent considerable amount of time watching these birds on both our visits on consecutive days. Around the Laguna Gansu we located several Brushland Tinamous, a pair of Great Rufous Woodcreepers, a female Blue-tufted Starthroat on its nest, several pairs of Short-billed Canastero and numerous Crested Gallito. Night birding produced good views of Scissor-tailed Nightjars, Parakeets and Little Nightjars and we saw a single Barn Owl but no Chaco Owl. We were unlucky on our planned night-birding evening as the car broke down. At Laguna Gansu we also saw three Grey-brocker Deer. A female Tapir with young was on the road during the late afternoon. A pair of Collared Peccary were seen one morning at the same site.

## SYSTEMATIC LISTS

### BIRDS

#### TINAMOUS

- Solitary Tinamou** (*Tinamus solitarius*). A couple heard at Mbaracayu Forest Reserve.
- Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulatus*). Commonly heard at Mbaracayu and Laguna Blanca.
- Small-billed Tinamou (*Crypturellus parvirostris*). Commonly heard throughout lowlands.
- Tataupa Tinamou (*Crypturellus tataupa*) Heard at many sites.
- Red-winged Tinamou (*Rhynchotus rufescens*). Common at drier cerrado and savanna sites. Several birds seen at close quarters at Laguna Blanca.
- Brushland Tinamou** (*Nothoprocta cinerascens*). Common in the Chaco near Loma Plata.
- White-bellied Nothura (*Nothura boraquira*). Common in the Chaco.
- Spotted Nothura (*Nothura maculosa*). Commonly seen in cleared areas and cerrado. The Chaco form *chacoensis* was seen and heard at sites around Loma Plata.
- Lesser Nothura** (*Nothura minor*) Heard and seen at Laguna Blanca on the cerrado.

#### RHEAS.

- Greater Rhea** (*Rhea americana*) Two groups seen at Laguna Blanca and another group of 3 seen in the grasslands near esteros y Arroyos.

#### GREBES.

- Least Grebe (*Tachypaptus dominicus*) 1 seen in a small pond near Mbaracayu Forest Reserve.

#### CORMORANTS

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

#### SCREAMERS

- Southern Screamer (*Chauna torquata*). Common in marshes in the Chaco.

#### DUCKS AND GEESE.

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). Common in the Chaco.
- White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) Fairly common in the Chaco and in the marshes around Asuncion.
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) Fairly common in the Chaco.
- Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) 4 seen at Mbaracayu Forest Reserve.
- Ringed Teal** (*Callonetta leucophrys*) Up to 40 seen in the Chaco on saline pools near Loma Plata.
- Brazilian Duck (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*) Very common in the marshes near Asuncion and in the Chaco.
- White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) Up to 60 in the Chaco.

#### HERONS

- Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*). Fairly common throughout.
- Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) Common throughout.
- Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) Common.
- Great Egret (*Casmerodius alba*) Small numbers throughout.
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Very common throughout.
- Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) A few at many sites throughout.
- Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) Small numbers throughout.

## IBISES

Bare-faced Ibis (*Phimosus infuscatus*). Small groups in marshes near Asuncion.

**Plumbeous Ibis** (*Theristicus caerulescens*). A few seen in the Chaco.

Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus caudatus*). Small numbers in the Chaco.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaia*). Fairly common in the Chaco.

## STORKS

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) Fairly common in marshes around Asuncion and in the Chaco.

Maguari Stork (*Ciconia maguari*) Up to 25 seen in marshes around Asuncion and a few seen in the Chaco.

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) A total of 8 seen in the Chaco.

## HAWKS AND EAGLES

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) A few seen in dry grasslands south of Asuncion.

Snail Kite (*Rostrahmus socialbilis*) Abundant in the marshes around Asuncion and in the wet Chaco.

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) A total of 180 seen between Mbaracayu and Laguna Blanca.

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) Fairly common in the eastern areas.

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) Small numbers in the Chaco.

**Long-winged Harrier** (*Circus buffoni*) Several stunning males seen in marshes south of Asuncion.

Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) A few in the humid Chaco.

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) Fairly common in the Chaco.

**CROWNED EAGLE** (*Harpyhalietus coronatus*) A single adult watched at length at Laguna Blanca.

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) Common throughout.

White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*) A pair at Laguna Blanca.

## FALCONS

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

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) Recorded at sites in the east.

Chimango Caracara (*Milvago chimango*) Small numbers found in the west, especially in the Chaco.

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinans*) Recorded at Laguna Blanca.

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*) Heard at Mbaracayu.

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

Applomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) A single at Laguna Blanca and a pair near San Juan Bautista.

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) A pair at Mbaracayu.

## AMERICAN VULTURES

Black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Common.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aurea*) Common.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*). Small numbers throughout.

## GUANS AND CURRASSOWS.

Chaco Chachalaca (*Ortalis canicollis*) Good numbers seen near Loma Plata.

**Black-fronted Piping-Guan** (*Pipile jacutinga*) Singles seen crossing main track through Mbaracayu. .

## QUAILS.

Spot-winged breasted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus capuera*). Heard at Mbaracayu.

## RAILS

Grey-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) Common.

**Giant Wood-Rail** (*Aramides ypecaha*) Small numbers found in marshes around Asuncion and several seen most days in the Chaco.

Ash-throated Crake (*Porzana albicollis*). Heard at many sites.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) A few seen around Asuncion and a couple in the Chaco.

## LIMPKIN

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) Abundant in marshes around Asuncion. Fairly common in the Chaco.

## SERIEMAS

Red-legged Seriema (*Caiama cristata*). A single pair at Laguna Blanca and several in the Chaco.

**Black-legged Seriema** (*Chunga burmeisteri*) A pair at Laguna Gansu near Loma Plata.

## JACANAS

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) Common at all wetland sites.

## SNIPES

South American Snipe (*Gallinago paraguaiiae*). A single pair found displaying at Nu Guazu south of Asuncion.

## SANDPIPERS

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) A few seen.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) Fairly common in the Chaco.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) Singles throughout.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) Up to 8 in the Chaco.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) A single near Loma Plata.

## PLOVERS AND STILTS

White-backed Stilt (*Himantopus melanurus*) 40 seen near Loma Plata.

Southern Lapwing (*Charadrius chilensis*) Common throughout.

## PIGEONS AND DOVES

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

Scaled Pigeon (*Columba speciosa*) A few seen at Mbaracayu.

Picazuro Pigeon (*Columba picazuro*) Common throughout.

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Columba cayennensis*) Common.

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) Common.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) Common.

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

Blue ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) Fairly common in Beni.

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

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*). Heard at Mbaracayu.

## PARROTS

Peach-fronted Parakeet (*aratinga aurea*) Fairly common at Laguna Blanca

Nanday Parakeet (*Nandayas nendey*) Common to abundant in humid Chaco and palm savannas.

Reddish-bellied Parakeet (*Pyrrhura frontalis*) Reasonably common at Mbaracayu.

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) Commonly found throughout.

Blue-winged Parrotlet (*Forpus xanthopterygius*) Fairly common.

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*) Common throughout.

Scaly-headed Parrot (*Pionus maximilliani*) Small numbers recorded most days at Mbaracayu.

Blue-fronted Amazon (*Amazona aestiva*). Seen throughout in good numbers.

#### CUCKOOS

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) Common at Mbaracayu.

#### ANIS

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

Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*) Common throughout.

#### GROUND-CUCKOOS

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) Heard throughout.

#### OWLS

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) A beautiful adult bird seen around Loma Plata.

Tropical screech-Owl (*Otus choliba*) Heard at many sites.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) Common throughout.

Burrowing Owl (*Athena cunicularia*) Common throughout.

#### POTOOS

Grey Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) Birds heard at Mbaracayu and a bird on a nest at Laguna Blanca.

#### NIGHTHAWKS AND NIGHTJARS

**Natterer's Nighthawk** (*Lurocalis nattereri*) 2 seen at Mbaracayu.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) A single bird seen near Asuncion.

Nacunda Nighthawk (*Podager nacunda*) 1, poorly seen at Loma Plata.

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) Common.

**Rufous Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus rufus*) Common at Mbaracayu where one was caught.

Little Nightjar (*Caprimulgus parvulus*) Common in the Chaco.

Scissor-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis brasiliiana*) This species is very common in the Chaco.

**WHITE-WINGED NIGHTJAR** (*Eleothreptus candicans*). a single female cseen at Mbaracayu Forest Reserve. A male seen at Laguna Blanca and at least one heard displaying.

#### SWIFTS

Ashy-tailed Swift (*Chaetura andrei*) Small numbers in the Chaco.

#### HUMMINGBIRDS

Glittering-bellied Emerald (*Chlorostilbon aureoventris*) small numbers seen at Mbaracayu.

Rufous-throated Sapphire (*Hylocharis cyanus*) A single bird seen at Laguna Maria.

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Amazilia fimbriata*) 2 at Laguna Blanca.

White-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus gainumbi*) 2 near Encarnacion.

**Blue-tufted Starthroat** (*Heliomaster furcifer*) A single female seen attending nest at Laguna Gansu.

#### TROGONS

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) A pair at Mbaracayu.

**Surucua Trogon** (*Trogon surucua*) common at Mbaracayu.

#### KINGFISHERS

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) A few at sites throughout.

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) Small numbers throughout.

## MOTMOTS

Rufous-capped Motmot (*Baryphengus ruficapillus*) Very common at Mbaracayu.

## PUFFBIRDS

White-eared Puffbird (*Nystalus chacuru*) A few in cerrado areas.

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

**Buff-bellied Puffbird** (*Notharcus tectus*) A pair found along the road through the Mbaracayu reserve.

## WOODPECKERS.

White-barred Piculet (*Piculus cirratus*) Several at Mbaracayu.

White Woodpecker (*Melanerpes candicans*) Small numbers seen at many sites throughout.

**Yellow-fronted Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes flavifrons*) A pair found in Mbaracayu.

White-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cactorum*) Common in the Chaco.

**Checkered Woodpecker** (*Picoides mixtus*) A few seen in the Chaco.

Green-barred Woodpecker (*Colaptes melanochloros*) A few seen in the east.

Campo Flicker (*Colaptes campestris*) Common throughout.

**Pale-crested Woodpecker** (*Celeus lugubris*) A single bird seen at Laguna Gansu.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) A pair in Mbaracayu.

**BLACK-BODIED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus schultzi*) A pair was found in low Chaco at Laguna Gansu.

**Cream-backed Woodpecker** (*Campephilus leucopogon*) A pair at Laguna Maria and another pair at Laguna Gansu.

## TOUCANS AND ARACARIS

Chestnut-eared Aracari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*). A few seen at Mbaracayu.

Spot-billed Toucanet (*Selenidera maculirostris*). A pair at Mbaracayu.

Red-breasted Toucan (*Rhamphastos dicolors*) A pair at Mbaracayu.

**Toco Toucan** (*Rhamphastos toco*) Several pairs of this spectacular species at Laguna Blanca and at Mbaracayu.

## FLYCATCHERS

Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) A few at Mbaracayu.

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

**Rough-legged Tyrannulet** (*Phyllomyias burmeisteri*) 2 seen at Mbaracayu.

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

Yellow-bellied Eleania (*Eleania flavogaster*) Small numbers recorded Laguna Blanca and Mbaracayu.

**Greater Wagtail-Tyrant** (*Stigmatura budytoides*) Commonly recorded in the Chaco.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*) heard at Mbaracayu.

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis auricularis*) Several pairs at Mbaracayu.

Fuscous Flycatcher (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*) 2 seen in the Chaco.

Euler's Flycatcher (*Lathrotriccus euleri*) Common at Mbaracayu.

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubiginosus*) Small numbers throughout.

White-rumped Monjita (*Xolmis velata*) Fairly common at Laguna Blanca.

White Monjita (*Xolmis irupero*) Fairly common in drier grasslands around Asuncion.

Black-backed Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola albiventer*) Small numbers seen Rio Salado. Asuncion.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant (*Arundinicola leucocephala*) A few seen Esteros y Arroyos.

**STANGE-TAILED TYRANT** (*Alectrurus risora*) 5 males and 1 female seen near San Juan Bautista. A single male watched displaying to the female for about an hour. Probably the highlight of the Paraguay tour.

**Streamer-tailed Tyrant** (*Gubernetes yetapa*) generally common in wet grasslands. 6 Mbaracayu,

15 Laguna blanca, 4 Arroyos y esteros, 5 near Coronel Bogado, 10 near San Juan Bautista.

Yellow-browed Tyrant (*Satrapa icterohrys*) 1 Rio Salado.

Cattle Tyrant (*Machetornis rixosus*) Common throughout.

Rufous Casiornis (*Casiornis rufa*) 1 seen in Chaco.

Sirystes (*Sirystes sibilator*) Fairly common at Mbaracayu.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) 1 in Chaco near Loma Plata.

Swainson's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus swainsonii*) Several seen at Laguna Gansu of the distinctive southern form.

Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*) Recorded Laguna Blanca and sites around Asuncion.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) Fairly common in the Chaco.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) Common.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*) Good numbers throughout.

Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonax varius*) 2 seen at Mbaracayu.

Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*) Common in the Chaco areas.

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) Small numbers throughout eastern sites.

**Three-striped Flycatcher** (*Conopias trivirgata*) A pair found along the main track at Mbaracayu.

This is local species nowhere common.

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) 1 at Laguna Blanca.

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) small numbers throughout.

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucocephalus*) Heard Mbaracayu.

Greater Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) Common throughout.

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) 2 at Mbaracayu.

**Masked Tityra** (*Tityra semifasciata*) A pair at Mbaracayu - a species I now realise has not been recorded from Paraguay before.

## COTINGAS

**Bare-throated Bellbird** (*Procnias nudicollis*) Very common at Mbaracayu.

A single bird at Laguna Blanca.

## MANAKINS

Band-tailed Manakin (*Pipra fasciicauda*) Heard and seen at Mbaracayu. Another Amazonian species found in the Atlantic forests.

Wing-barred Piprites (*Piprites chloris*) Several pairs heard at Mbaracayu.

## FURNARIDS

**CHACO EARTHCREEPER** (*Upucerthia certhiodes*) A pair at Laguna Maria. Evidently not common in the Chaco here.

Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*) Abundant throughout.

Chotoy Spinetail (*Schoenophylax phryganophila*) Small numbers in marshes near Asuncion and in the Chaco.

Rufous-capped Spinetail (*Synallaxis ruficapillus*) Several pairs in Mbaracayu.

Pale-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albescens*) small numbers seen at cerrado sites.

Spix's Spinetail (*Synallaxis spixi*) A pair at Nu Guazu.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Cranioleuca cinnamomea*) Common in the wetlands.

**Short-billed Canastero** (*Asthenes baeri*) Common lakeside scrub in the Chaco.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*) A few seen and heard near Asuncion.

**Little Thornbird** (*Phacellodomus sibilatrix*) Fairly common in the wet Chaco.

Greater Thornbird (*Phacellodomus ruber*) Common in the eastern sites.

**Lark-like Brushrunner** (*Annumbius anumbi*) Common in the Chaco.

**Brown Cacholote** (*Pseudoseisura lophotes*) Several pairs in the Chaco

Ochre-breasted Foliage-Gleaner (*Phylidor lichenstenii*) A pair at Mbaracayu.

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus leucophthalmus*) 1 seen at Mbaracayu.

## WOODCREEPERS

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) Heard in Mbaracayu.

**Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper** (*Drymornis bridgisi*) Fairly common in the Chaco.

**Great Rufous Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus major*) A pair at Laguna Gansu.

Planalto Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus platyrostris*) Heard at Mbaracayu.

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

Red-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*) Heard in the Chaco.

## ANTBIRDS

**Spot-backed Antshrike** (*Hypoedalius guttatus*) Commonly heard at Mbaracayu.

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) Common in eastern lowlands.

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) Common in lowlands.

Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caerulescens*) Heard and seen in the Chaco.

Plain Antvireo (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) Common at Mbaracayu.

**Stripe-backed Antbird** (*Myrmorchilus strigilatus*) Common in the Chaco and easily seen.

Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*) Common at Mbaracayu.

White-shouldered Fire-eye (*Pyriglena leucoptera*) heard at Mbaracayu

## ANTPITTAS

Variegated Antpitta (*Grallaria varia*) Heard at Mbaracayu.

## TAPACULOS

**Collared Crescentchest** (*Melanopareia torquata*) Several birds heard at Mbaracayu.

**Crested Gallito** (*Rhinocrypta lanceolata*) Commonly heard at all Chaco sites, particularly in lakeside scrub. A single bird taped in at Laguna Maria and another at Laguna Gansu.

## VIREOS

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) Heard a few times throughout.

Chivri (Red-eyed) Vireo (*Vireo chivri*) Common in the Chaco.

## JAYS

Purplish Jay (*Cyanocorax cyanomelas*) Fairly common.

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

**Curl-crested Jay** (*Cyanocorax cristatellus*) Common at Laguna Blanca in the open cerrado.

## THRUSHES

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

Creamy-bellied Thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*) Common in the lowlands.

Pale-breasted Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*) Fairly common in Mbaracayu.

## MOCKINGBIRDS

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

## WRENS

Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapillus*) Common in marshes near Asuncion.

Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*) Seen around Asuncion.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Common.

## GNATCATCHERS

Masked Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila dumicola*) Common in the Chaco. This form is possibly distinct from *P. d. berlepschi*

## SWALLOWS

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

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

Grey-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) Common.

Southern Roughwing (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) Common in lowlands.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) A few seen in Rio Salado and common in marshes south of Asuncion..

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Common at wetland sites.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) Common in marshland sites.

## SPARROWS

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Common.

## PIPITS

**Ochre-breasted Pipit** (*Anthus nattereri*) A displaying bird watched at length at Nu Guazu north of Coronel Bogado.

Yellowish Pipit (*Anthus lutescens*) Fairly common on heavily grazed grasslands near San Juan Bautista.

## FINCHES

Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanica*). A pair seen near Asuncion.

## WOOD WARBLERS

Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*) Very common at Mbaracayu and in eastern Paraguay.

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus bivittatus*) Common at Mbaracayu.

## EMBERIZIDS

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

Grassland Sparrow (*Ammodramus humeralis*) Common.

Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*) Common.

Yellow-billed Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis*) Common in eastern areas.

Chestnut-vented Conebill (*Conirostrum speciosum*) 1 pair seen at Mbaracayu.

**White-rumped Tanager** (*Cypsnagra hirundinacea*) Two pairs recorded at Laguna Blanca

**White-banded Tanager** (*Neothraupis fasciata*) Several seen at Laguna Blanca.

Black-goggled Tanager (*Trichothraupis melanops*) Fairly common at Mbaracayu.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) Heard at Mbaracayu.

Lowland Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) Small numbers in the Chaco.

Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) Common throughout.

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) a few at Mbaracayu.

Purple-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chlorotica*) Common in the Chaco.

Violaceous Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*) Several pairs noted at Mbaracayu.

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia rufiventris*) Several seen at Mbaracayu.

Burnished-Buff Tanager (*Tangara cayana*) A few seen on the savanna at Mbaracayu

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) Small numbers at Mbaracayu.

Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*) A few at Mbaracayu.

**Black-masked Finch** (*Coryphaspiza melanotis*) Fairly common at Laguna Blanca where at least 5 males singing and several other pairs seen.

**Many-coloured Chaco-Finch** (*Saltacolor muticolor*) Fairly common at Chaco sites, especially partly cleared areas.

Red-crested Finch (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*) Seen at many sites.

Black-capped Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza melanoleuca*) Seen most days in the Chaco.

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) Common.

Misto Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis luteiventris*) A few seen in marshes south of Asuncion.

Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch (*Emberizoides herbicola*) Small numbers seen in most areas of grassland.

**Lesser Grassfinch** (*Emberizoides ypiranganus*) Several pairs noted near San Juan Bautista.

Great Pampa-Finch (*Embernagra platensis*) Small numbers seen in marshland areas.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatina jacarina*) Common.

Rusty-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila collaris*) Small numbers seen daily in marshes around Asuncion.

Plumbeous Seedeater (*Sporophila plumbea*) small migratory flock noted at Laguna Blanca.

Double-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila caerulescens*) Fairly common throughout.

**Tawny-bellied Seedeater** (*Sporophila hypoxantha*) Large flocks noted near San Juan Bautista.

**Dark-throated Seedeater** (*Sporophila ruficollis*) A few noted in near San Juan Bautista.

**Grey and Chestnut Seedeater** (*Sporophila hypochroma*) Small numbers seen near San Juan Bautista.

**Chestnut Seedeater** (*Sporophila cinnamomea*) Fairly common at San Juan Bautista, several pairs found at Nu Guazu and a single migratory bird at Laguna Blanca. Considered vulnerable.

**Capped Seedeater** (*Sporophila bouvreil*) Fairly common along the San Juan Bautista road. Black-throated Saltator (*Saltator atricollis*) Fairly common at Laguna Blanca

Greyish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) Small numbers throughout.

Golden-billed Saltator (*Saltator aurantirostris*) A few in the Chaco near Loma Plata.

Ultramarine Grosbeak (*Cyanocopsa brisonii*) 2 seen in the Chaco.

## ICTERIDS

Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*) common Mbaracayu.

Solitary Cacique (*Cacicus solitarius*) A few seen in the Chaco.

Epaulet Oriole (*Icterus canannensis*) Common in the Chaco.

Orange-backed Troupial (*Icterus jamaicaii*) Heard and seen in the Chaco.

Unicoloured Blackbird (*Agelaius cyanopus*) Very common throughout.

Chestnut-capped blackbird (*Agelaius ruficapillus*) Small numbers throughout.

Yellow-rumped Marshbird (*Pseudoleistes guirahuro*) Common at many sites in eastern Paraguay.

**Saffron-cowled Blackbird** (*Xanthopsar flavus*) A pair seen at General Delgado. We were unlucky with weather here as we should have seen good numbers of this species as it is staked out at breeding colonies. Unfortunately because of the weather we could not access the roads.

White-browed Blackbird (*Leistes superciliaris*) Fairly common in drier grasslands.

Scarlet-headed Blackbird (*Amblyramphus holosericeus*) Small numbers seen in the marshes near Asuncion.

Chopi Blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*) Common in drier areas.

Bay-winged Cowbird (*Molothrus badius*) Common.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) Common.

Screaming Cowbird (*Molothrus rufoaxillaris*) Small numbers throughout.

287 species.

## MAMMALS

A good trip for mammals with Jaguar and Tapir seen. This is hard to achieve outside the Pantanal in South America.

Southern Coatimundi (*Nasua nasua*) A single animal seen in the Chaco.

Brown Capuchin Monkey (*Callicebus apella*) Heard at Mbaracayu.

**JAGUAR** (*Panthera onca*) A single female animal seen near the guard station at Mbaracayu.

Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) 2 seen at Laguna Gansu.

Grey-brocket Deer (*Mamzana gouazoubira*) 3 seen in the Chaco at Laguna Gansu.

**TAPIR** (*Tapirus terrestris*) a female with a single young animal seen at Laguna Gansu.  
Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) Single animal seen in cerrado reserve at Mbaracayu.  
Chacoan Armadillo (*Cabassous chacoensis*) Several seen at Laguna Gansu.

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