



Argentina & Chile 2010











TRIP TO ARGENTINA & CHILE: 16/10 - 19/11/2010

From middle October till middle November 2010 we travelled in Argentina and Chile. Being two biologists, one of the goals of this travel was to enjoy nature. We have already looked a bit for mammals, mainly in Europe. During our trip, we kept an extra eye open for mammals and we tried to visit some good places to see some nice species. Hopefully this trip report can be useful for mammal watchers who want to visit the same areas in the future.

Tim and Stefi

This report includes

- 1. List of sightings for each location + pictures
- 2. Extra information on the locations
- 3. A note on transportation
- 4. Other animal sightings (birds, amphibians and reptiles)

List of locations and mammal sightings

A: NP Iguazu

B: Esteros del Ibera

C : Salta

D : NP El Rey

E: NP Calilegua

F : Quebrada de Humahuaca

G: NP Los Cardones + Cafayate

H: Atacama

I : Chiloé

J: Peninsula Valdes



	Locations and English Names	Info	
Α	Iguazu National Park	Dates: 18 – 19 - 20 - 21 /10	
1	Azara's Agouti	We saw two from the bus in the park on the Brazilian side, one close to the first viewpoint on the Brazilian side, two	
	Dasyprocta azarae	crossing the path on the Mapuco trail on the Argentinean side, one in the bushes near the Sheraton Hotel on the	
		Argentinean side and one during the day crossing the road 101 at around 15pm on a cloudy day.	
2	Coati	We saw several on the Brazilian side while walking along the waterfall sightseeing path and several on the	
	Nasua nasua	Argentinean side as well on the waterfall circuits. They were pretty tame and undisturbed by the visitors.	
3	Brown Capuchin	We saw one on the Brazilian side foraging in the trees above the walking trail, quite near to the end of the trail. We	
	Cebus apella	saw at least three groups during a walk on the Mapuco trail on the Argentinean side. One group just at the entrance	
		at around 8.15am. The biggest group of +6 we saw in the middle of the trail at noon.	
4	Brazilian Cavy	Tim saw two individuals crossing. Although he didn't get a good look they were most probably Brazilian cavies. One	
	Cavia aperea	was seen crossing the Mapuco trail at around 11.00am and one on road 101 at around 3.00pm.	
5	POSSIBLE	We saw one when spotlighting road 101 at around 10.30pm. It was quite close to the abandoned ranger station	
	Pygmy Brocket Deer	(maybe 5km further) It was not so scared of the car and we got very good views before it walked away behind the	
	Mazama nana	car. It was about knee high. It was full moon and quite light. We managed to take some pictures but they are not	
		extremely good. We asked for a second opinion from Dr. Mario Di Bitetti and unfortunately it is still possible that we	
		saw a juvenile red brocket. He gave me the following description to separate both species, which might come in	
		handy for people who visit the region:	
		The white underparts are typical of M. americana (only very ocassionaly you can see some whitish coloration under	
		the tail of M nana). The dark legs (redish-brown in M. nana) are also typical of M. americana. M americana has	
		relatively larger ears. The contrast between the gray of the neck and the brown-red of the body in more marked in	
		M. americana (in M. nana there may be no contrast with the neck also redish-brown). Besides these differences	
		there is a lot of variation among individuals within species, which occasionally makes it difficult to differentiate them,	
		specially if the picture is not good. There is also a lot of variation in body size.	
		Grey brockets are extremely rare in the region.	

 Red Brocket Deer Mazama americana We saw one about 10km from the abandoned ranger station on road 101 and one more about ranger station. The first one showed quite good before running away into the bushes. The second before we got very close. It was full moon and quite light. We saw a third individual the next day around 3.30pm but it ran into the bushes right away. Tapeti Sylvilagus brasiliensis B Esteros del Ibera Dates: 22 – 23 – 24 / 10 Capibara Capybaras were very common on the road into Colonia Carlos Pellegrini, near the Visitor Center boat trips. They could be seen during the day (morning-evening) and during night. On the way 	ond one disappeared ay during the day at
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8 Capibara Capybaras were very common on the road into Colonia Carlos Pellegrini, near the Visitor Cent	
Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris boat trips. They could be seen during the day (morning-evening) and during night. On the way	tre and during the
	back to Mercedes
we saw some families with young next to the road.	
9 Marsh Deer We saw one male along the road while driving towards the village just before passing the visitor	or centre at around
Blastocerus dichotomus 1pm. On the first morning we saw a female on the "sendero de los montes" near the visitor cer	ntre, during the
evening (around 6.00pm) we saw a male and a female on the road out of town about 1km pas	t the visitor centre
and one male around 2km further. On the second morning we saw another male and female o	n the "sendero de los
montes". While driving back to Mercedes we saw two times a female crossing the road at arou	ınd 10-20km from the
village at around 4.30pm	
Brazilian Cavy We saw one individual in the bushes on the right side when leaving the camping side at around	d 6.15am. We got a
good view but it disappeared when we moved to reach for our cameras. We saw a second one	e crossing the road
while driving back to Mercedes.	
10 Grey Brocket Deer They were very common around the visitor centre and not scared at all. We saw two on the first	st morning and one
Mazama gouazoubira on the second morning when walking through the bushes on the "sendero de los montes". The	e first morning we saw
a lone juvenile and a quite tame adult on the "sendero de los monos" and we saw one more at	t around 6.30pm on
the grounds of the visitor centre.	
11 Black Howler A family of around 9 individuals lives along the "sendero de los monos" which starts at the visit	tor centre. We saw
Alouatta caraya them very well on the first morning at around 7.45am. We saw 3 black males and 3 brown fem	ales in the treetops
	-

		about 100m from the entrance. The next morning we heard them calling and we saw one female disappearing into
		the foliage.
12	Plain's Vizcacha	We walked around 7km along the road towards Mercedes. At around km5 there is a colony of plain's vizcacha. We
	Lagostomus maximus	saw 6 individuals outside of their burrows at around 6.30pm on the left side of the road. We approached them and
		saw two individuals from closer. One sentinel kept in place but we did not approach further. We could hear the
		others making noises in the burrows but they didn't show anymore. Upon returning to the village, we saw at least
		four more on the grounds of the visitor centre, between the capybaras (around 10pm). Pretty cool to see two such
		big rodent species on the same spot!!
13	Six-banded Armadillo	We saw one about 2-3km from the village at around 9pm. It first ran along the road and disappeared into the grass.
	Euphractus sexcinctus	A bit later we saw it again behind us, while it was examining a road kill capybara.
14	Crab-eating Fox	We saw two which approached the road kill capybara at around 9pm. They were not very shy and we could
	Cerdocyon thous	approach them quite well until they disappeared into the tall grass. A bit further we saw eye shine of what was most
		probably another individual.
15	Lesser Bulldog Bat	People from the camp ground told us this was the species we could see flying over and next to the bridge into town
	Noctilio albiventris	at night. They also flew above the water, but we didn't see them catching anything. They were smaller bat species
		with a very pale whitish colour.
16	Wild Boar	We saw one on the second morning in the bushes on the "sendero de los montes". It hadn't seen us and upon
	Sus scrofa	noticing us, it made a funny noise and ran for its life.
С	Salta	Dates: 26 / 10
17	Common Yellow-Toothed Cavy	When walking the dusty streets of San Lorenzo near the last bus terminal, I saw a cavy which crossed the road and
	Galea musteloides	ran into one of the gardens. It disappeared super fast and I didn't get a very good view but it was most probably this
		species.
D	El Rey	Dates: 27 – 28 – 29 /10
18	White-lipped Peccary	Just after driving past the first ranger station, we saw four crossing the track at around 4pm. We saw them for a
	Tayassu pecari	little while longer as they were hiding in the bushes. We could distinguish at least two more individuals in the

		bushes and they were making quite some noise. We startled one more on the first morning at around 11am while
		driving on the track that leads to Chorro de Los Loros (you can't go all the way by car but quite some kilometres)
	Tapeti	We saw one while walking on the sendero chuña with the spotlight, one from the car that stayed on the side of the
		road to watch us while spotlighting along the track to Chorro de Los Loros and one in the bushes on the track to
		Cascada de los Lobitos.
	Grey Brocket Deer	We saw one at around 5pm while driving along the road to Cascade de los Lobitos, two while spotlighting the same
		road at around 9pm and one on the final morning while driving back just past the camp site while crossing the first
		river
	Brown Capuchin Monkey	We saw a group of at least four individuals in a large tree over the track to Chorro de los Loros . We noticed them
		from the car at around 8am. They were quite shy and only one individual stayed to watch us.
19	Brazilian Tapir	We saw many tracks on the sendero chuña. We had cracking views of one individual at around 4pm on the main
	Tapirus terrestris	track into the park. We stopped for a view on a little valley (the only spot along the road with little white poles, on
		the right hand side when coming form the first ranger station). The tapir sat in a mud pool next to the river stream,
		closest to the road. We hadn't been particularly silent when stepping out of the car but somehow the tapir hadn't
		noticed us. It flapped its ears but then started sniffing around - giving us nice views of its big nose. Then the tapir
		stood up and walked away, quickly disappearing into the bushes. The second night at around 9.30pm, we saw
		another tapir while spotlighting the first stretch from the Cascada de los Lobitos back to the camp site on the left
		side of the track. The animal walked on for a bit and crossed the track about 30m in front of the car.
Е	Calilegua	Dates: 29 – 30 /10
	Tapeti	We saw two while spotlighting along road 83. The next day we saw a dead individual along the same road.
	Brown Capuchin Monkey	We saw only one individual in the trees of what was probably a family while walking along the sendero that starts at
		Mesada de las Colmenas at around 7.30am. We only walked the first part of the sendero, as it was very steep and
		quite tiring to go back up.
20	Yungas Squirrel	I got a very short and not so good view of a squirrel with a long bushy tail which ran down a dead tree, head-first
	Sciurus ignitus	while walking along the sendero that starts at Mesada de las Colmenas. We stayed a little longer but didn't see, nor
		hear it anymore.

F	Quebrada de Humahuaca	Dates: 30 – 31 /10 & 1/11	
21	Andean Red Fox	We saw one individual along road 52 that leads through Purmamarca when spotlighting at around 9.30pm. We saw	
	Lycalopex culpaeus	another fox from the public bus from Jujuy to San Pedro de Atacama at around 9am which might have been this	
		species as well.	
22	European Hare	While walking the site of the pucara de Tilcara (Inca fortress) we starlted one of these which ran of very quickly.	
	Lepus europaeus		
23	Vicuña	We saw lots of them on the bus from Salta to San Pedro de Atacama. The first were seen just after the highest	
	Vicugna vicugna	point of the pass. We saw little and bigger herds from there on, sometimes even between the lamas.	
G	Los Cardones	Dates: 2 – 3 /11	
24	Mountain Vizcacha	We saw just one individual on the rocks in the Valle Encantada	
	Lagidium viscacia		
	European hare	We saw one while spotlighting our way out of Valle Encantada	
25	Guanaco	We saw a Group of 13 far away on the hills while driving through the national park.	
	Lama guanicoe		
26	Pampas Fox	We saw one crossing the road 68 (Salta to Cafayate) at around 11pm while driving back from El Carril to Coronel	
	Lycalopex gymnocercus	Moldes. We saw a second one in a field while spotlighting the dirt road off road 68 from Guachipas to Pampa	
		Grande.	
	Grey Brocket Deer	We saw a mother and her young while spotlighting the dirt road off road 68 from Guachipas to Pampa Grande at	
		around 10pm	
Н	San Pedro de Atacama	5 - 6 - 7 /11	
	Mountain Vizcacha	We saw one from the bus when driving out of San Pedro de Atacama at around 8.30am. We saw four individuals in	
		the rocks at the Tatio Geysers at around 8am and three more during the "tourist stop to look for vizcachas" just	
		before a tiny village which was a tourist stop, but they were quite far away.	
	Vicuña	We saw many on the altiplano, during the excursion to the Salar the Tara, including at the salar, and around the	
		Tatio Geysers	

27	Tawny Tuco-tuco	We saw many burrows at the Salar the Tara and one individual even came out of its burrow to inspect the	
	Ctenomys fulvus	surroundings.	
I	Chiloé	Dates: 8 – 9 – 10 - 11 – 12 /11	
28	Southern River Otter	We saw one from the kayak as it swam away quite distantly. Upon kayaking back, just before reaching the end	
	Lontra provocax	point, we saw one swimming away at around 5m from the boat. We could see it very well, but unfortunately only the	
		back of its head. We saw, probably the same individual, a few minutes later in the middle of the river about 100m	
		away while it was eating something. It was too far for photographs but we saw it very nicely through the binoculars	
29	Pudu	We saw just one individual, a young male, while hiking the "sendero de chilli" on the Chepu sector at around 12am.	
	Pudu puda	It was standing on top of a dune, next to the sea. We could circle it and approach it quite well before it ran off. We	
		also saw a dead male on the road.	
30	South American Sea Lion	We saw a group of around 30 individuals laying on the rocks at Punihuil	
	Otaria flavescens		
31	Marine Otter	We saw several individuals during the boat trip at Punihuil. We saw some eating while they were lying on their back	
	Lontra felina	in the water. We saw one sleeping on the rocks, but it ran away and disappeared behind the rock when it noticed	
		us.	
32	Minke Whale	While driving back from Punihuil beach, just about 100m further we saw close to the shore a whale surfacing. We	
	Balaenoptera acutorostrata	stopped the car and saw it three times more.	
J	Peninsula Valdes	Dates: 14 – 15 - 16 - 17 /11	
	Guanaco	We saw a large herd with young on the way to Punta Tombo. There were many guanacos at Punta Tombo, some	
		were very close and were not disturbed by the tourists. We also saw many herds, including herds with young, while	
		driving to Punta Norte. We only saw a few herds on the first part of the way to Punta Delegada and (almost) none	
		on the other roads of Peninsula Valdes.	
33	Southern Montane Cavy	We saw over 5 individuals at Punta Tombo. They were running between the penguin burrows. We got the best	
	Microcavia australis	views on the boardwalk just upon entering the actual penguin colony.	

34	Southern Right Whale	We saw the first ones from shore at the main beach in Puerto Piramides. We saw them up close during a boat trip.
	Eubalaena australis	There were mostly mothers with their calves. We could see them turning around and even saw some breaching.
		We saw one swimming by at Punta Norte. We saw one very close to the beach on one of the view point on the dirt
		road that goes through Area Natural Protegida El Doradillo (from the Peninsula to Puerto Madryn) . There are many
		view points along this road and on less windy days, the views could be amazing! We saw at least 15 individuals
		(mostly mothers and calves) from the pier just in the centre of Puerto Madryn. We could even see them breaching
		and hear them splashing their fins and tales on the water.
	South American Sea Lion	We saw one colony near Puerto Piramides with about 50 individuals.
35	Argentinian Grey Fox	We saw two crossing the road on the way to Punta Norte in the late morning. Later on we saw three more along the
	Lycalopex griseus	road while driving to Caleta Valdés from Punta Norte and one at the restaurant that ran away with a prey. This last
		individual looked quite reddish. We saw one more while spotlighting back to Puerto Piramides from Punta Cantor.
36	Large Hairy Armadillo	We saw one at the parking lot at Punta Norte at around 1pm. It was quite tame and ran around like a maniac while
	Chaetophractus villosus	searching and digging for food. I saw a second one from the car just upon driving into the dirt road to Puerto
		Madryn at around 2pm. We stopped and I got another very short view of the animal before it ran off and
		disappeared behind a hill top. It was so fast that Tim didn't manage to get a view.
37	Southern Elephant Seal	We saw a smaller group at Punta Norte and a larger group at Caleta Valdés. This last group could be approach
	Mirounga leonina	quite closely and there was a nice educative walk, in Spanish and in English. We saw some interaction between the
		seals and a storm petrel. We saw a last group at Punta Delgada.
38	Orca	We saw a group of 3, 2 adults and a juvenile, while driving from Punta Norte to Caleta Valdés, around 14km from
	Orcinus orca	Punta Norte at around 3pm. We could see them swimming quite close to the beach. They swam in our direction
		and we could see them surfacing regularly.
	European Hare	We saw tons of these. There first ones were seen during daylight while driving from Punta Norte to Caleta Valdés.
		We saw 15+ while spotlighting back to Puerto Piramides.
39	Patagonian Hare	We saw several families of 3, 23 and 2 individuals while driving to Punta Delgada. The largest family was seen just
	Dolichotis patagonum	past an estancia that didn't seem to have a name. It was just after a bend (and there are not so many on this road)
		on the right hand side. We saw two just before entering the cattle grill of estancia Corona.

Un	Unidentified mammals			
1	Bat sp.	We saw a second bat species in Esteros del Ibera on the same bridge as <i>Noctilio albiventris</i> . This species was larger and brown instead of white.		
2	Bat sp.	We saw some quite large bats flying while driving back from Parque national Los Cardones to El Carril.		
3	Bat sp.	In Parque Nacional El Rey we saw a reddish bat species while spotlighting on foot on the Chuña path.		
4	Bat sp.	In the fields facing our Estancia in Coronel Moldes, we saw a medium sized bat with a greyish colour.		
5	Mouse sp.	On Chiloé Island, while driving into the centre of Ancud coming from Penhuil, Tim saw a mouse sitting in the gutter,		
		on the side of the road.		
6	Rodent sp.	On Chiloé Island we saw two times a similar looking rodent crossing the road. Both animals were grey, about 10cm		
		large, had no eye-catching ears, an oval shape and a short tail (about 1-2cm).		
7	Pampas cat	While spotlighting in the Valle Encantada in Parque Nacional Los Cardones, we saw eye shine on a spot that is		
		known for pampas cat. The animal was walking on a grassy hill on our left side while driving into the valley, about		
		80-100m away. We could see the eye shine for a few seconds and with the binoculars we could see the shape of a		
		medium sized mammal with a long tail and darker upper parts. Unfortunately the animal was too far away for our		
		spotlight and it only stayed for a few seconds before trotting away quickly. In our experience, foxes tend to be more		
		curious and don't move away so quickly when using a spotlight. However, we cannot be sure about this sighting.		

Six-banded Armadillo Euphractus sexcinctus



Large Hairy Armadillo
Chaetophractus villosus



Brown Capuchin Cebus apella



Black Howler



Red Brocket Deer

Mazama americana



POSSIBLE Pygmy Brocket Deer *Mazama nana*



Grey Brocket Deer Marsh Deer Mazama gouazoubira Blastocerus dichotomus Pudu Wild Boar Pudu puda Sus scrofa Vicuña Guanaco Lama guanicoe Vicugna vicugna Southern Right Whale Orca Eubalaena australis Orcinus orca

Brazilian Tapir Tapirus terrestris Southern Elephant Seal South American Sea Lion Otaria flavescens Mirounga leonine Marine Otter Coati Lontra felina Nasua nasua Andean Red Fox Crab-eating Fox Cerdocyon thous Lycalopex culpaeus

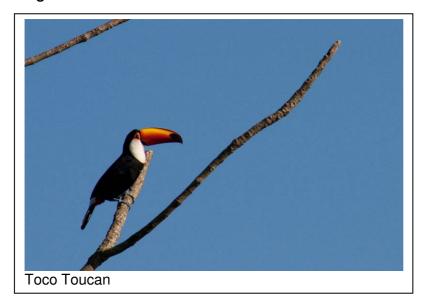
Argentinian Grey Fox Capibara Lycalopex griseus Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris Plain's Vizcacha Mountain Vizcacha Lagidium viscacia Lagostomus maximus Tawny Tuco-tuco Southern Montane Cavy Ctenomys fulvus Microcavia australis Patagonian Hare Azara's Agouti Dolichotis patagonum Dasyprocta azarae

Tapeti

Sylvilagus brasiliensis



Some extra info on the places we visited A Iguazu National Park



On the Brazilian side there is a short walkway (in concrete, infrastructure of high quality) with viewpoints. On a quiet day there are certainly some good opportunities for wildlife watching (mammals but also birds. reptiles and arthropods). On the Argentinean side there are more possibilities.

well equipped walkways for "waterfall – sightseeing" offer also opportunities to see among others mammals, birds, and turtles. Long distances can be avoided by taking the small train that is included in the price. There is a path of about 4km one way that leads into the jungle with more wildlife watching opportunities. The paths along the hotel and souvenir shops also provide chances to see some less shy animals. The park entrance costs about 20euro for the Brazilian and for the Argentinean side too. If you keep your ticket and get it stamped on the way out, you can get a reduction of 50% for the second day that you visit the Argentinean side of the park. Outside of the park there is a good road which can only be reached by a car. Road 101 leads through the jungle and actually crosses the park. I think it's the road to the Yacutinga jungle lodge. You can also spotlight along this road (it's a dirt road). There is a police station at the entrance of the road and they asked us what we were up to, but we were allowed to pass without any trouble.



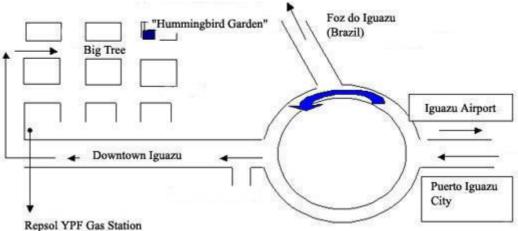




We stayed first in the centre of Puerto Iguazu (Stop Hostel) but we definitely preferred the Marco Polo Suites which was a lot better (nice breakfast, air-conditioning that worked, extremely nice staff and quite some luxury for almost the same price as the really slummy Stop hostel).

Don't forget to visit the hummingbird garden!! This place is amazing, even for real mammal watchers. The hummingbirds are flying just a few meters away from you and you can really see all the beautiful colours and hear their wings move as they are hovering. The garden is super close to the bus terminal. To find the garden: here's the map:





(map not drawn by me but by Sergio Corbet)



Gilded Hummingbird



Spider sp. (small with red carapax)

Brazilian squirrels are regularly seen, also by tourists who are not specifically searching for them. We didn't see any groups of Brazilian cavies around the restaurants or gift shops. Two English people told us they had seen two jaguars cross road 101 in plain daylight (around 5pm on a cloudy day – they were on foot) but we saw no jaguars. Many other jungle-typical animals are known to live in Iguazu but they are hard to find.

B Esteros del Ibera

You can walk along two short trails at the visitor centre which offer good wildlife watching opportunities. The road from Mercedes to the village is not too busy and also offers some nice opportunities. The laguna next to the village can be explored by taking boat trips (day and night) which are quite nice, especially for birds and caiman. During the day (11am-16pm) it is really hot and you're not so motivated to go hiking a lot. We didn't walk the road direction Posadas. Mind the caymans if you're hiking after sundown. We encountered them just in the middle of the street, which is quite scary if you want to pass them on foot (we didn't, we returned to our tent).





Toad sp. (*Bufo paracnemis*)

Red-crested Cardinal

We stayed at the camping site. This is a fantastic place and of course it is quite cheap compared to the hotels and other places to stay in the village (which didn't look as fancy as promised). We went to the village, not by the public bus, but by a private transfer in a pick up. Apparently the information on time schedule and fee of the public bus on the internet is not very up to date. We found that we could arrive in the village much earlier by public transfer for only a few euro more.



Rufous Hornero (National bird of Argentina)



Black Cayman

Pampas deer live more in the eastern part of the Esteros, which we didn't visit (as we didn't have a car for transportation). Neotropical river otters are regularly seen, most likely around the bridge into the village. Long-nosed armadillos have been reported. Other mammals include crab-eating raccoon and the rare maned wolf. Most villagers have seen maned wolf only once or twice. They apparently sometimes cross the road to Mercedes after darkness. They can be more easily seen in the eastern part of the Esteros we were told.

C Salta

The bus drive to Salta was horrible. In Salta we took a public bus (info at the hostel) to San Lorenzo, which would be a much nicer option to stay, especially if you have a car. Here we walked a bit along the roads of the village which fancy houses. To walk through the jungle you had to pay, but it all seemed a bit unofficial and I think the kids charging for this walk were rather trying to get some pocket money. We decided not to pay and we walked in the streets close to the forest instead. We saw a lot of nice birds including the famous cream-backed woodpecker, in the trees along the road. In Salta city we took the cable car up



the mountain and enjoyed the view. Salta is called "la Linde – the beautiful one" but we were rather disappointed. There were some nice buildings, a nice plaza, we always felt safe (also after dark) but it's definitely not a nice city as a whole.

Mammals we missed:

It's close to the city but apparently mammals such as margay, brown brocket and forest fox can be seen in San Lorenzo.

D Parque National El Rey



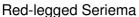
Landscape PN El Rey and typical vehicle track

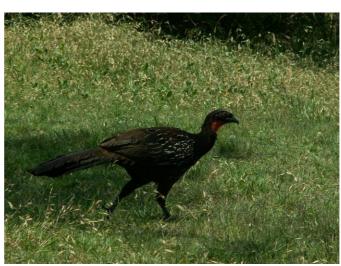
We rented a car (Rent a Car Noroeste – do NOT take this company, the car was ok but they charged extra money afterwards and I'm still trying to get it back through VISA). Getting to the park was not a problem as it hadn't rained in quite a while. We did cross a few small rivers, but this would have

been possible with any car with higher clearance. If it does rain, these rivers might get a bit tricky and the road might get extremely muddy and dangerous in the curves.

Do your shopping in Salta as there are NO other possibilities to shop on the road. In the park we stayed at the camp ground with drinkable water and primitive BBQ facilities. There are several paths you can walk and even a few roads you can drive. The rangers are very nice but we didn't get to see them very much. The park is amazing. There is quite some disturbance by cattle and horses but the wildlife was still more or less abundant. There was only one more couple on the camp ground and one day we saw two people passing by but they didn't stay. Be aware that there are a lot of ticks in the park (and I mean really A LOT – I "collected" 40 ticks during a single evening walk of 1 hour or so). Luckily they can easily be removed and they leave no discomfort afterwards.







Dusky-legged Guan

The rangers told us they regularly see Geoffrey's cat while they move around the park on their motor cycles. Pumas are known to live in the park and apparently they sometimes walk around on the camp site. Collared peccaries can be seen as well.

E Parque National Calilegua



We didn't like this park one bit. There are these tiny little flies that will bite you and leave very annoying itchy spots. They were a bit like midgies in Scotland and they were amazingly abundant. The camp site was not so nice and we were lucky that we arrived just after a noise

school class of 40 had left. There are several paths to walk which are rather nice but all quite steep and tiring. Spotlighting can be done on foot (but might be not allowed) and along the public road (not very busy) that runs through the park. Unfortunately this road is not very suitable for spotlighting as it runs along the hills. All in all we were very disappointed and we were extremely happy that we had decided to stay an extra day in El Rey instead of Calilegua. The only advantage is that it's easy to reach.

Mammals we missed:

We missed about all the mammals that live in this park. However, we didn't feel too bad as sightings of these mammals seem quite rare, even on mammal focussed trips.



Toad sp. (*Rhinella arenarum* ?)

F Quebrada de Humahuaca







Road side view in Quebrada de Humahuaca

This area offers very nice views. We didn't see a lot of mammals here. Apparently some rodent species are easy in the archaeological site at Tilcara but we only saw a hare here (and nice birds, including giant humming bird). The road from Purmamarca into the altiplano offered views of Andean red fox and heaps of Vicuña. We stayed in a hotel just past the village of Purmamarca which was very nice and A LOT cheaper than the hotels only a few kilometres closer to the village.







Pucara at Tilcara

Mammals we missed:

Apparently mammals such as Andean deer, brush-tailed vizcacha rat, Molina's hog-nosed skunk and Argentinean gray fox can be seen around here.

G Parque National Los Cardones



This park was quite nice but a lot of driving had to be done. Valle Encantada didn't look very inviting to drive into (small and steep road) but it was a nice place. Unfortunately it was extremely windy.

We stayed in a place called Coronel Moldes in a nice farm (finca Santa Antia: http://www.santaanita.com.ar/).

If you plan to visit this park specifically, it would be more interesting to stay on the other side of the park (e.g. Cachi). It is closer to the park and the road is in better condition.







We also drove to Cafayate. There were stunning views and nice birds but no mammals.



Road side view to Cafayate

Tarantula sp.

We did some spotlighting along one of the few smaller roads we could find along road 68 (dirt road from Guachipas to Pampa Grande).

Mammals we missed:

The people at the finca told us they regularly see three-banded armadillo in the region along road 68. Apparently screaming armadillo and Andean dwarf cavy can be seen in Los Cardones. Previous reports also include molina's hog-nosed skunk, highland tuco-tuco, Argentinean gray fox and Andean red fox.

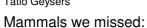
H San Pedro de Atacama

Here we took the tours that were offered by the agents as we didn't have a car. It also seemed that driving through the desert is not that easy, not only because of the sandy roads but also because of the lack of proper orientation possibilities. The tours are not focussed on animals at all but we did see some nice mammals and birds.



View at Salar de Tara







Vulcanos around SPdA

Chinchilla are very rare now and the general tourist agents definitely can't give you more information about them. Andean red fox is regularly seen.

I Chiloé





View on the river from the terrace at Chepu Adventures

This is an amazing place (especially after a few weeks in the dry landscapes of Northern Argentina and Chile). We were very lucky with the weather as it didn't rain. We rented a car with Europear in Puerto Montt and we left it in Puerto Varas. The ferry to Chiloé cost about 9000CLP for the car. We stayed near the Chepu section of Chiloé NP at Chepu Adventures (http://www.chepuadventures.com/). The owners speak perfect English. They offer kayak trips on the river in the "valley of dead trees" formed by the 1960 earthquake and tsunami.

We did a trip to see the southern river otters. We saw the otters and also some nice birds. We also took the boat trip crossing the river to walk a different part of the "sendero de Chile" in the Chepu section. This trip was really expensive (25000CLP) and it might be cheaper to arrange something with the local boatmen yourself. We did get to see a pudu on the beach, which made the whole thing really worthwhile. We also visited the Cucao section of the park, close to Castro. This is much better equipped with walk ways and a camp site but wildlife watching didn't seem so promising. The beautiful Tepuhueico lodge was a little but over our budget. We did try to get to the private nature reserve, hoping to see the Darwin fox.







Magellanic woodpecker

Slender-billed parrot

Flightless steamer duck

Unfortunately we didn't get so far because a small bridge over a river is closed to keep unwanted visitors out. We parked our car here and went for a little walk and we saw a male and female Magellanic woodpecker. So no Darwin fox but at least these amazing woodpeckers. We arrived in Ancud really late but we found a perfect place to stay: Hospedaje Las Lilas (http://www.Chiloe.cl/laslilas/). Such friendly people, not expensive at all and a breakfast with scrambled eggs! The owners know the marine biologists of the town and a few weeks before our visit they could take their guests to see the blue whales because of the info they got from these biologist (it's quite unusual that blue whales pass so close to the shore at that time of the year). At Punhuil we saw the marine otters. We had the tourist boat all to ourselves and the boatmen really tried their best to offer us some good views (they were very good at spotting them in the waves). We also saw some nice birds, including the flightless steamer ducks. Before going back to Puerto Montt by ferry, we visited the "Jardin Mythologico". If you have some spare time, it's really nice to go here. We didn't do any mammal watching around Puerto Varas as we had to hand in the car as soon as we got there.



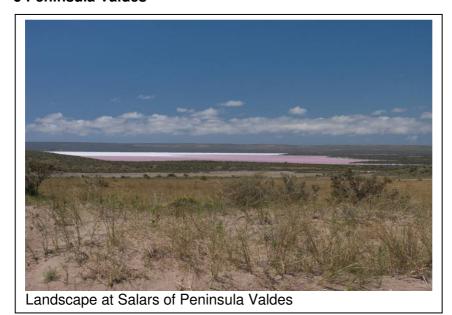


Vulcano Osorno at Puerto Montt

Early morning view on the Chepu River

It's a pity we didn't see the endemic and rare Darwin Fox. Apparently a semi tame individual lives near the "sendero the Chilli" in the Chepu section of the park, but we didn't see it. They are known to live in the grounds of the Tepuhueico lodge. We didn't see coypu and the people at Chepu Adventures told us that they were quite rare nowadays. We didn't see the blue whales as we were too early (the whales arrive in January). Peale's dolphin and Chilean dolphin can also be seen on various locations, including the ferry from Puerto Montt to Chiloé.

J Peninsula Valdes



We rented a crappy car with a local company. We were lucky to get one as it was on a Sunday and we had not reservation. We first visited Punta Tombo. We could have spent more time here than the 2-3hours we had! Entering the Peninsula Valdes is possible 24/7, but you

always have to pay. The ranger station / visitor centre closes at around 9pm, depending on the time of the year. We drove to Punta Norte and to Punta Delgada. The roads are ok if you drive slowly. There is quite some wildlife and we were extremely happy with our luck at spotting mammals (and birds). The landscape can get a bit boring and the distances are not to be underestimated.





Magelhanic Penguins at Punta Tombo

It's a bit annoying that you have to drive all the way back to the village for the night as there are not many other places to stay (only quite expensive estancias). The camp grounds in the village really suck. The first morning we left early enough so we didn't have to pay (as the owner was probably still asleep). The second morning he did see us and charged for his horrible camping (showers are not even included in the price!!!). The boat trips to see the

whales are quite expensive, about 40euro pp but they are so amazing! Make sure to go on a quiet day as the whales are more difficult to see if it's windy and there are a lot of waves.

Don't forget to drive back along the dirt road when going back to Puerto Madryn. Along the many view points you can get amazing views of the whales, especially if the sea is calm. From the pier in the town itself, you can also see the whales swimming in the harbour!







Matuasto (Phymaturus palluma)

Mammals we missed:

We missed humboldt's hog-nosed skunk and Patagonian weasel as well as the dolphin species. To see commerson's dolphin you can go to Punta Rasa and take a boat trip. As the trip to see the whales was already quite expensive, we decided to skip the dolphin trip. More information on marine mammals is available for example on this website:

http://www.sconewhales.co.uk/index.html.

An extra note on transportation

We used the long distance bus services to get from one place to another. These bus services are very convenient as they are run during the night which makes that you arrive on your next location without loosing time. A plane would still be a much more comfortable way to travel, but in Argentina you're only allowed to take 15kg on domestic flights. Furthermore we didn't book any transport in advance because we wanted to be able to travel flexible and then buses are a good option. We found that the high standard bus companies were usually already booked out, even if we tried to book them just after arriving at a location, several days before the departure (e.g. in Argentina: Andesmar, Via Bariloche, in Chile: Pullman, Turbus). We hadn't thought about this as our travelling period was described as "not so busy" on several websites. We had to take bus companies that seemed to use older buses that were no longer used by the first class companies. Tickets were however not really cheaper. An older bus makes more noise and is a bit dirty. As long as you have a "cama" service, you can put your seat in an almost horizontal position, which allows you to catch some sleep. Be sure to always bring enough water as it sometimes gets really really hot in the bus and they don't offer much drinks. On some buses you get free meals that are similar to those you get on an airplane. The trip to Puerto Iguazu (bus company was El Tigre Iguazu, but it was a Via Bariloche bus) was very much ok and we would take this bus anytime. The trip to Corrientes was in a older and dirtier bus (Rio Uruguay). The connection to Mercedes (to visit Esteros del Ibera) was during daytime so we took a semi-cama (Nuevo expresso). The bus was a bit smelly but ok. The bus from Corrientes to Salta was horrible (El Norte bis). They didn't turn off the light, there were stops all the time and it was freezing cold in the bus. The trip from Salta to San Pedro the Atacama during the daytime was really nice with great views and the bus was modern with air-conditioning (Gemini). We took a plane (Skyair) from Calama to Santiago which was a great option as it saved us a lot of time and we were allowed to take 20kg on the plane. We even got a free meal, which is of course no longer an offer on European low budget flights. There is a good shuttle service from Santiago airport to the bus terminal which takes about 1 hour. The bus terminal is crazy busy and we had great difficulties finding a spot on a bus as everything was sold out. Eventually we met a strange guy who picked up people that were still looking for a ticket and we bought a ticket on the bus (Pullman) itself after he brought us there. It was probably more expensive than it should have been, but still cheaper than Turbus, plus we won a day and we didn't have to look for a place to stay which was definitely not cheaper than the extra we had to pay. We went from Puerto Varas to Bariloche (Cruz del Sur) and on this bus, during a stop in Osorno, a backpack was stolen from people who sat behind us. It was suddenly bus on the bus with people going in and out (something that had never happened before but seemed normal). They had put the backpack in the overhead space and it was gone – with the passports. This was our only negative experience during the travel. The people had to get out as this bus crossed the border, which you can't do without your passport of course. In Bariloche we immediately took the bus to Puerto Madryn (Don Otto I think). You buy two tickets, but you can stay on the same bus. From Puerto Madryn we took the bus back to Buenos Aires (Il Pinguino). This last bus drive was extremely long (almost 22 hours). After arriving in Buenos Aires we had a couple of hours to visit the city and after than we had to travel for almost a day to get home. Hence we travelled for almost two days non stop and this was really too much. Flying from Trelew back to Buenos Aires may have been more convenient.

We rented a car in Puerto Iguazu (1day), Salta (8 days), Puerto Montt (4 days) and Puerto Madryn (3days). Only for the car in Salta we made a reservation in advance. Car rental was more expensive in Puerto Madryn. It might be better to make a reservation in advance for there, to get the best price. In Salta a reservation would not have been absolutely necessary. If you arrive by airplane in these locations, it might be easier to find a car as many companies are located at the airport. During the true tourist season, it might be more difficult to get a car without a reservation.

Most roads were really in good condition and tarred. Sometimes there's a hole in the road, which you can anticipate upon by the brake-tracks on the ground. We avoided driving into cities. We only drove through Salta which was quite an adventure as it is difficult to navigate your way through the city and traffic is kind of busy. If you are used to busy traffic in and around medium-sized European cities you'll be fine, especially with a good co-pilot.

Other animals

Complete bird list of our trip:

Common name	latin name
Greater Rhea	Rhea americana
Lesser Rhea	Rhea pennata Nothura maculosa
Spotted Nothura Elegant Crested-Tinamou	Eudromia elegans
Southern Screamer	Chauna torquata
White-faced Whistling-Duck Black-necked Swan	Dendrocygna viduata
	Cygnus melancoryphus
Coscoroba Swan	Chloophaga malanantara
Andean Goose	Chloophaga melanoptera
Kelp Goose	Chloephaga hybrida
Flightless Steamer-Duck	Tachyeres pteneres
Crested Duck	Lophonetta specularioides
Muscovy Duck	Cairina moschata
Chiloe Wigeon	Anas sibilatrix
Cinnamon Teal	Anas cyanoptera
Red Shoveler	Anas platalea
Yellow-billed Pintail	Anas georgica
Puna Teal	Anas puna
Dusky-legged Guan	Penelope obscura
California Quail	Callipepla californica
Great Grebe	Podiceps major
Chilean Flamingo	Phoenicopterus chilensis
Andean Flamingo	Phoenicoparrus andinus
James's Flamingo	Phoenicoparrus jamesi
Humboldt Penguin	Spheniscus humboldti
Magellanic Penguin	Spheniscus magellanicus
Southern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes giganteus
Southern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialoides
White-chinned Petrel	Procellaria aequinoctialis
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Oceanites oceanicus
Peruvian Pelican	Pelecanus thagus
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus
Red-legged Cormorant	Phalacrocorax gaimardi
Magellan Cormorant	Phalacrocorax magellanicus
Imperial Cormorant	Phalacrocorax atriceps
Anhinga	Anhinga anhinga
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	Tigrisoma lineatum
Cocoi Heron	Ardea cocoi
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
Whistling Heron	Syrigma sibilatrix
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
White-faced Ibis	Plegadis chihi
Bare-faced Ibis	Phimosus infuscatus
Roseate Spoonbill	Platalea ajaja
Maguari Stork	Ciconia maguari

Jabiru	Jabiru mycteria
Wood Stork	Mycteria americana
Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura
Andean Condor	Vultur gryphus
King Vulture	Sarcoramphus papa
Swallow-tailed Kite	Elanoides forficatus
Snail Kite	Rostrhamus sociabilis
Plumbeous Kite	Ictinia plumbea
Black-collared Hawk	'
Cinereous Harrier	Busarellus nigricollis Circus cinereus
Great Black-Hawk	
	Buteogallus urubitinga
Variable Hawk	Buteo polyosoma
Mountain Caracara	Phalcoboenus megalopterus
Southern Caracara	Caracara plancus
Chimango Caracara	Milvago chimango
Giant Wood-Rail	Aramides ypecaha
Plumbeous Rail	Pardirallus sanguinolentus
Giant Coot	Fulica gigantea
Horned Coot	Fulica cornuta
White-winged Coot	Fulica leucoptera
Red-legged Seriema	Cariama cristata
Snowy Sheathbill	Chionis albus
Southern Lapwing	Vanellus chilensis
Puna Plover	Charadrius alticola
American Oystercatcher	Haematopus palliatus
Blackish Oystercatcher	Haematopus ater
Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus
Andean Avocet	Recurvirostra andina
Wattled Jacana	Jacana jacana
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
Baird's Sandpiper	Calidris bairdii
Andean Gull	Chroicocephalus serranus
Brown-hooded Gull	Chroicocephalus maculipennis
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus
South American Tern	Sterna hirundinacea
Black Skimmer	Rynchops niger
Scaled Pigeon	Patagioenas speciosa
Spot-winged Pigeon	Patagioenas maculosa
Eared Dove	Zenaida auriculata
Ruddy Ground-Dove	Columbina talpacoti
Gray-fronted Dove	Leptotila rufaxilla
Burrowing Parakeet	Cyanoliseus patagonus
Slender-billed Parakeet	Enicognathus leptorhynchus
Monk Parakeet	Myiopsitta monachus
Gray-hooded Parakeet	Psilopsiagon aymara
White-eyed Parakeet	Aratinga leucophthalma
Squirrel Cuckoo	Piaya cayana
Guira Cuckoo	Guira guira
Smooth-billed Ani	Crotophaga ani
Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia

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Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus
Common Pauraque	Nyctidromus albicollis
Scissor-tailed Nightjar	Hydropsalis torquata
Common Potoo	Nyctibius griseus
Great Dusky Swift	Cypseloides senex
Andean Swift	Aeronautes andecolus
Planalto Hermit	Phaethornis pretrei
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	Eupetomena macroura
Black Jacobin	Florisuga fusca
Black-throated Mango	Anthracothorax nigricollis
Glittering-bellied Emerald	Chlorostilbon aureoventris
Violet-capped Woodnymph	Thalurania glaucopis
Gilded Hummingbird	Hylocharis chrysura
White-tailed Goldenthroat	Polytmus guainumbi
Versicolored Emerald	Amazilia versicolor
Giant Hummingbird	Patagona gigas
Green-backed Firecrown	Sephanoides sephaniodes
Surucua Trogon	Trogon surrucura
Ringed Kingfisher	Megaceryle torquata
Toco Toucan	Ramphastos toco
Red-breasted Toucan	Ramphastos dicolorus
White Woodpecker	Melanerpes candidus
Green-barred Woodpecker	Colaptes melanochloros
Andean Flicker	Colaptes rupicola
Campo Flicker	Colaptes campestris
Robust Woodpecker	Campephilus robustus
Cream-backed Woodpecker	Campephilus leucopogon
Magellanic Woodpecker	Campephilus magellanicus
Common Miner	Geositta cunicularia
Straight-billed Earthcreeper	Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus
Dark-bellied Cinclodes	Cinclodes patagonicus
Rufous Hornero	Furnarius rufus
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes angustirostris
	' '
Chucao Tapaculo	Scelorchilus rubecula
Magellanic Tapaculo	Scytalopus magellanicus
Vermilion Flycatcher	Pyrocephalus rubinus
Austral Negrito	Lessonia rufa
Fire-eyed Diucon	Xolmis pyrope
White Monjita	Xolmis irupero
Long-tailed Tyrant	Colonia colonus
Cattle Tyrant	Machetornis rixosa
Great Kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Tyrannus savana
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter	Phytotoma rara

White-bearded Manakin	Manacus manacus
Plush-crested Jay	Cyanocorax chrysops
Blue-and-white Swallow	Pygochelidon cyanoleuca
Andean Swallow	Orochelidon andecola
Brown-chested Martin	Progne tapera
White-winged Swallow	Tachycineta albiventer
Chilean Swallow	Tachycineta meyeni
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon
Masked Gnatcatcher	Polioptila dumicola
Austral Thrush	Turdus falcklandii
Chiguanco Thrush	Turdus chiquanco
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	Mimus saturninus
Golden-crowned Warbler	Basileuterus culicivorus
Bananaquit	Coereba flaveola
Magpie Tanager	Cissopis leverianus
Sayaca Tanager	Thraupis sayaca
Blue-and-yellow Tanager	Thraupis bonariensis
Blue Dacnis	Dacnis cayana
Swallow Tanager	Tersina viridis
Golden-billed Saltator	Saltator aurantiirostris
Black-hooded Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus atriceps
Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus gayi
Mourning Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus fruticeti
Plumbeous Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus unicolor
Red-backed Sierra-Finch	Phrygilus dorsalis
Plain-colored Seedeater	Catamenia inornata
Saffron Finch	Sicalis flaveola
Red-crested Cardinal	Paroaria coronata
Yellow-billed Cardinal	Paroaria capitata
Fulvous-headed Brush- Finch	Atlapetes fulviceps
Red-crested Finch	Coryphospingus cucullatus
Saffron-billed Sparrow	Arremon flavirostris
Rufous-collared Sparrow	Zonotrichia capensis
Long-tailed Meadowlark	Sturnella loyca
Austral Blackbird	Curaeus curaeus
Scarlet-headed Blackbird	Amblyramphus holosericeus
Yellow-rumped Marshbird	Pseudoleistes guirahuro
Screaming Cowbird	Molothrus rufoaxillaris
Shiny Cowbird	Molothrus bonariensis
Red-rumped Cacique	Cacicus haemorrhous
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia	Euphonia pectoralis
Black-chinned Siskin	Spinus barbatus
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus

Reptiles and amphibians:

Common name	Latin name	Location
Williams' side-necked turtle	Phrynops williamsi	Iguazu
Lava lizard	Tropidurus torquatus	lguazu
Black Tegu	Tupinambis merianae	lguazu + Ibera
Sand Snake	Thamnodynastes hypoconia	Ibera
Black Cayman	Melanosuchus niger	Ibera
Chei's white-lipped frog	Leptodactylus chaquensis	Ibera
Rococo toad	Bufo paracnemis	Ibera
Chaco treefrog	Hyla raniceps	Ibera + El Rey + finca Santa Anita
Toad sp.		El Rey
Frog sp.		El Rey
Common toad	Rhinella arenarum	Calilegua
Painted Tree Lizard	Liolaemus pictus	Chiloé
Lizard sp.		Chiloé

(!!!!) Remark: We determined these from photographs and we are not always 100% sure. If you wish more information, contact us for pictures.



If you are planning a trip yourself and you have any more concrete questions, don't hesitate to contact us! tim.lieben@gmail.com

call_of_the_wild_5@hotmail.com