

# Paraguay Mammal- and Birdwatching Trip – October 2009

Report by Sjöf Öllers

## Introduction

After amazing encounters with the big cats in Asia and Africa, I was looking into destinations that would give me a chance of seeing puma or jaguar and preferably both. The Brazilian Pantanal is currently one of the best places to see jaguars, but puma sightings in the Pantanal seem to be rare. Some additional searching on the Internet finally led me to the website of Fauna Paraguay (<http://www.faunaparaguay.com>). On their website I found several trip reports that proved that jaguar and puma sightings during a single trip are not impossible, although seeing either one of them is by no means easy or guaranteed. However, with good chances of seeing several armadillo species, three peccary species including Chaco peccary, Chaco mara, plains viscacha and more cat species, my mind was soon made up. In addition to the spectacular mammal watching, birdwatching is excellent and varied too with over 700 species, of which a good lot are relatively easy to see.

## Practicalities

The major part of the trip was discussed and arranged with Paul Smith of Fauna Paraguay. Due to unforeseen job-related issues, my partner could not join me this time, so the trip was set up as a single-person private tour. My guide for the trip was Hugo del Cordero Castillo. He has been travelling in the Chaco and other remote parts of Paraguay for many years and knows the country very well. His knowledge of the country's mammals and birds (including calls) is excellent. He is enthusiastic and passionate about the wildlife as well as all-round good company. Trips into the remoter parts of the Chaco such as Defensores are mini-expeditions, for which Hugo had prepared everything very well: camping gear, food, drinks, spare/emergency equipment, etc. were all taken care of. I found Fauna Paraguay a very knowledgeable and professional tour operator and recommend them without hesitation. Fauna Paraguay's website contains a wealth of information on the country, and of course in particular on the natural world. The website also contains ideas for trips in Paraguay.

## Areas visited

### Central Chaco

This area includes a cluster of nature reserves (including a series of seasonal saline lagoons) around the Mennonite communities of Loma Plata and Filadelfia. Apart from two of the lagoons, we visited the Tunocojai reserve, which usually provides good mammal sightings, and Fortin Toledo, where there is a research project on the tagua, the Chacoan peccary. Driving distances are quite large, about 70–120 km between the various sites, but good birds and sometimes mammals are usually also seen en route. The central Chaco is mostly not pristine Chaco habitat, but the birdwatching is good and the mammalwatching can be good too, but you have to be lucky as mammal densities (especially of the more spectacular species) are significantly lower than in the more remote parts. Nevertheless, during our trip several birds and mammals were only seen in this area, so it is definitely worth staying here for a few days.

### Defensores del Chaco national park

This remote and large national park in the north(west) is a half to full-day drive (6-9 hours) away from Filadelfia depending on the road conditions. Along the park borders there are several ranger stations, some of which can accommodate visitors. We stayed at the ranger station in Madrejon in the south-east corner of the park, which has the best facilities to receive visitors. One of the houses at the ranger station has three to four sleeping quarters: each quarter has several beds and a private bathroom. The kitchen has running water, a few cupboards and a dining table. Electricity is available in the evening for a few hours (generator). There are a few short trails around the ranger station, which are excellent for birding and we had a few good mammal sightings when we were there (see daily accounts below). The water pond directly behind the ranger station also attracts birds and mammals. From the Madrejon base we explored the roads bordering the park and drove up the short track within the park to Cerro Leon.

### Teniente Agripino Enciso national park

This national park is located fairly close to the Bolivian border about 750 km northwest from Asuncion along the Trans-Chaco Highway. Just like Defensores, the park consists mainly of thorny forest, but it seemed a tad less dense than in Defensores. There are no roads in the park and we mainly explored the roads bordering the park, the road to Medanos national park and quiet public roads in the wider area. It is not as remote as Defensores, but definitely much wilder country than the central Chaco.

The accommodation setup is quite similar to Defensores, but the facilities are newer and there are hot showers, (usually) electricity all day, and a good kitchen with a large fridge. There is a very nice walking trail here as

well. Along the trail are a few small pools and one fairly large waterhole, which attract many mammals including puma and tapir if you are lucky.

### **Medanos del Chaco national park**

To reach this park requires an interesting 1.5-2 hour drive from the ranger station at Enciso towards the Bolivian border on increasingly sandy roads. Due to the sandy soil, the landscape is significantly different from Enciso being much more open and with different vegetation. Access is through the military base Fortin Nueva Asuncion, where you have to register.

### **Asuncion**

I stayed in hotel Quinta Ykua Sati (QYS) on October 12 and 22. It is in a pleasant residential area on the outskirts of Asuncion and about 20 min from the airport by taxi. The park-like garden of the hotel is excellent for birdwatching, but mostly common species will be seen. Still, I managed to see almost 30 species on my first afternoon there.

### **Campo Llano**

Campo Llano in southern Paraguay is an area of natural grasslands, and basically an extension of the Argentinian pampas. The Ruta 4 to Pilar passes through this area. Apart from the grasslands, there are small wetland areas. The area holds a good selection of grassland bird species including the spectacular strange-tailed tyrant. Armadillos, small rodent species, and some other mammals are almost certainly present, but we could visit this area in daytime only.



### **Ayolas/Yacyreta Island**

The area around Ayolas and Yacyreta island on the Parana river hold an attractive mixture of rainforest, grasslands, wetlands, and dwarf palm savanna. It is located in the extreme south of the country on the border with Argentina. We visited the grasslands and dwarf palm savanna on Yacyreta island, the road towards the Atinguy zoo, the Estero Ñeembucú along the main road and walked sendero Akuti Po'i on Yacyreta island. The park-like forest around the hotel in Ayolas has good birding as well. Many spectacular mammal species (including marsh deer, maned wolf, tapir, anteaters, and several cat species) live on the island, but they are difficult to see, partly as a result of the considerable hunting/poaching pressure, but also because the forest is rather dense.

### **Arrozal San Rafael**

This site is completely unrelated to the proposed San Rafael national park discussed below. It is a rice field water reservoir along the Ruta 1 near San Cosme. The reservoir usually turns up a few good species.

### **San Rafael/Procosara**

Initially, I wanted to visit the Mbaracayu Reserve to try for Atlantic forest species (and in particular bare-throated bellbird), but the reserve is now closed for tourists for an unknown period of time because all accommodation is taken up by researchers/students. Exit bellbird and back to the drawing board: as I had seen many cerrado specialties in Das Emas national park in Brazil, I decided that the proposed San Rafael national park would be a more interesting alternative than the cerrado of the Laguna Blanca area.

We stayed at Estancia Nueva Gambach, which also serves as the headquarters of the conservation agency Procosara. The estancia is run by Swiss-born Hans and Christina Hostettler. The rainforest that is owned and

managed by Procosara should in the future become part of the San Rafael national park. More information on Procosara and San Rafael in general can be found here <http://procosara.org/en> and on the Fauna Paraguay website. Ranger and tourist accommodation are also at Estancia Nueva Gambach. It is a lovely place on the edge of the rainforest. Nearby is a lake that almost always turns up something interesting. The facilities for tourists are simple, but very pleasant and clean. The showers have hot water and there is a well-equipped kitchen. We ate, however, with the Hostettler family who prepared excellent meals for us during our stay.

The mixture of grassland, rainforest, and agricultural fields that surround the estancia ensures you of bird activity throughout the day. Around the estancia, there are now four walking trails: sendero Surukuâ Saâ Ju (Trogon Trail) starts directly from the estancia's garden and passes through rainforest and ends on the access road. For sendero Urutaú you have to leave the estancia's garden and walk past the lake, where the trail starts at the far end of the lake. It more or less skirts around the lake and passes through old-growth and secondary rainforest, and fields and an exotic forest plantation. In the rainforest it follows a small stream for a few hundred meters. Two new trails are now open to visitors as well: sendero Chachî, which passes through good rainforest with a fairly high canopy, and sendero Tuka Pakoba, which circles a lake and mainly passes through swampy terrain with lower-canopy forest that is more open.

### **San Rafael/Kanguery**

The Kanguery area, which also lies within the proposed San Rafael national park borders, is a mosaic of natural grasslands and rainforest. The Paraguayan Birdlife partner Guyra owns part of the area and has set up a biological station, which contains a ranger post and simple, but nice visitor facilities for about max. 15-20 people, although you will have the place to yourself most of the time. The station is located on a hilltop with spectacular views over the grasslands and rainforest. When we visited, parts of the grasslands had been burned three weeks earlier, which may have negatively affected the presence of some bird and mammal species.



### **Hotel Tirol**

This hotel is a 20-25 min drive from Encarnacion along the Ruta 6. It is easy to reach by taxi and probably also by bus. Check out their website: <http://www.hoteltirol.com.py/>. Prices for the very nice rooms are affordable. It is a great place to stay for a few days. Only criticism would be the food, which is a bit plain and unexciting. Around the hotel is a series of short trails through the rainforest, which provide a nice introduction to Atlantic Rainforest birding. The best birding and most interesting forest parts are on the trails downhill in the valley that you overlook from the swimming pool areas. The paved trails behind the accommodation go through secondary forest and are typically less birdy, but here I did see eastern slaty thrush (not seen or heard in the older forest). The older forest can be entered at the far end of the lower swimming pool or via a track that starts behind the accommodations. Follow the track downhill and enter the forest through one of the trails that branch off on the left side of the track.

## Itinerary

- Oct. 11 Evening departure with TAM flight from Frankfurt to Sao Paolo
- Oct. 12 Morning flight Sao Paolo–Asuncion/afternoon hotel Quinta Ykua Sati
- Oct. 13 Asuncion – Trans-Chaco Highway – Loma Plata
- Oct. 14 Central Chaco
- Oct. 15 Transfer to Defensores del Chaco national park
- Oct. 16 Defensores del Chaco national park
- Oct. 17 Defensores del Chaco national park
- Oct. 18 Defensores del Chaco national park
- Oct. 19 Transfer Defensores to Tte. Enciso national park
- Oct. 20 Medanos del Chaco national park
- Oct. 21 Tte. Enciso national park and surroundings
- Oct. 22 Enciso – Trans-Chaco Highway – Asuncion
- Oct. 23 Asuncion – Campo Llano – Ayolas
- Oct. 24 Ayolas / Yacyreta Island
- Oct. 25 Morning Yacyreta Island – transfer to San Rafael
- Oct. 26 San Rafael–Procosara
- Oct. 27 San Rafael–Procosara
- Oct. 28 Morning Procosara/afternoon Kanguery grasslands
- Oct. 29 Morning Procosara/afternoon transfer to hotel Tirol
- Oct. 30 hotel Tirol
- Oct. 31 hotel Tirol
- Nov. 1 hotel Tirol
- Nov. 2 Back to Asuncion
- Nov. 3 Flight to Europe



## Day-to-day Account

### Oct. 12: Morning flight Sao Paolo – Asuncion/Quinta Ykua Sati

After two pleasantly uneventful flights I arrived in Asuncion mid-morning. I took a taxi to Quinta Ykua Sati (cheaper if you walk outside the terminal towards the main road and flag a taxi down there). At QYS I dropped my bags, took a shower and went birding in the gardens. There was still quite some activity around noon. Mostly very common birds (saffron finch, rufous hornero, sayaca tanager, red-crested cardinal, tropical kingbird, greater kiskadee, etc.) but best were good close-up views of bluewinged parrotlet. After a late lunch and a nap I birded the gardens again in the afternoon. In the late afternoon a beautiful male vermilion flycatcher was hawking for insects, but little else was seen.

### Oct. 13: Asuncion – Trans-Chaco Highway – Loma Plata

At 6 am my guide for the trip, Hugo, picked me up and we set off for the Chaco. After a short breakfast stop we crossed the Paraguay river and entered the Chaco. Quite quickly the urban areas disappeared and we were driving through the palmsavanna habitat of the humid Chaco. A good variety of herons and storks was seen at smaller and larger wetlands along the road. A small group of roseate spoonbills were the only ones seen during the trip. Migrating flocks of snail kite and plumbeous kite were seen and raptors such as American kestrel, roadside hawk, savanna hawk, southern crested caracara and three vulture species were seen regularly. Flocks of the pretty Nanday parakeets were often seen crossing the road. We stopped at a few places along the road, picking up our first woodpeckers (including white, golden barred, and cream-backed), flycatchers (southern scrub-flycatcher, small-billed elaenia, browncrested flycatcher, streaked flycatcher, pearly-vented tody-tyrant), and the pretty golden-winged cacique. A stop at a grassland area unfortunately produced no seedeaters. White monjitas were occasionally seen on fence posts. After a few hundred kilometers the landscape slowly transforms: the palm trees become less and less common and thorny woodland starts to take over. After some 5-6 hours driving we reached Loma Plata, checked in at the motel, had a nice lunch, and then held a siesta for a few hours.



Around 4-4.30 pm we started our afternoon drive towards the Tunocojai reserve. Our mammal watching started off nicely with a small group of lesser hairy armadillo. Initially, they kept inside the vegetation at the edge of the road but eventually several crossed the road and Hugo managed to catch one for closer inspection. It had a quite a few ticks and small wounds on its body.

Next we saw Azara's fox and a pair of red-legged seriemas. Close to the reserve we saw a giant wasp drag a freshly killed tarantula across the road. The light was fading quickly when we reached the reserve and we heard and saw our first little nightjars. Mammalwise the spotlighting drive turned up surprisingly little, an overall total of six Azara's foxes but nothing else. A large animal crashing loudly through the vegetation must have been a

tapir but we did not see it. We did, however, see a beautiful frog, which turned out to be the uncommon red-spotted burrowing-frog.

#### **Oct. 14: Central Chaco**

Yesterday on our way up to the central Chaco, we encountered Arne Lesterhuis, a Dutch naturalist living in Paraguay. He told us that most of the lakes in the central Chaco area were dry. So Hugo decided to visit two areas that still held water: Laguna Capitán and Laguna Bombacha. After breakfast we first headed for Laguna Capitan. Many-coloured Chaco-finches started to appear together with burrowing owls and spotted nothura (here probably of the Chacoensis variety). A good find was a pair of ultramarine grossbreaks. Other nice sightings were yellow-billed cardinal and spot-backed puffbird. Today it was sunny and it was already quite hot when we explored the area around Laguna Capitan between 8-9 am.

Laguna Capitan held few wader species (both yellowlegs and pectoral sandpiper), but it was great to see four of the elegant coscorobas. About 40 Chilean flamingos, some 100 Wilson's phalaropes and several tens of white-cheeked pintail were seen as well. An unusual sighting here was a ruddy ground-dove. Next, we drove to Laguna Bombacha also known as Laguna Capitan II. On route we passed a few ponds where we saw giant wood-rail.



At Laguna Bombacha there is permanent water, so bird and even mammal activity was not bad considering it was late morning and very hot when we arrived. We saw among others grayish saltator, southern screamer, rufescent tiger-heron, more giant wood-rails, black-crowned night heron and even a single jabiru. A single capybara quickly disappeared under the vegetation carpet in the water and in the drier areas a Chaco mara was seen. Around noon, the combination of heat and jetlag made me sleepy and it was good to re-energize on a sumptuous lunch at the restaurant next to the motel. After a welcome siesta, we went to Fortin Toledo, where there is a breeding project for the Chaco peccary, which you can see at close range in enclosures. The unpaved turn-off from the Trans-Chaco Highway to Fortin Toledo resulted in several excellent birds: quebrado-crested and brushland tinamou, a pair of black-legged seriemas, and lark-like brushrunner. In addition, good numbers (about 8) of Chaco mara were seen. The area must have had recent rain as there were several fairly large pools with caimans. Unfortunately, the mosquitos were out in great numbers too and ferocious!! At the breeding station we tried to tape in crested gallito, but the bird's unwillingness and the terror of the mosquitos made us decide to try elsewhere. In the same area our only zone-tailed hawk of the trip was seen.

The spotlighting drive back to Lomo Plata along the Trans-Chaco Highway produced an Azara's and crab-eating fox plus one each of the hairy armadillo species. Both crossed the road quickly so we were unable to get close up views. We also encountered a beautiful tropical rattlesnake.

### **Oct. 15: Transfer to Defensores del Chaco national park**

Today was the long transfer to Defensores national park. The wind and thus the weather had changed. It was cloudy and comparatively chilly. We took an early breakfast and after Hugo had checked and packed the car, we were on our way. We first made a short stop in Filadelfia to fill up on fuel and visit the Mennonite museum, which also has a small natural history section. Then it was straight north on an unpaved but surprisingly good road. Slowly the countryside got wilder and lonelier. Unfortunately and somewhat surprising to me, we saw no mammals at all on this stretch but birding was quite good although mostly common birds were seen such as vermilion flycatcher, red-crested finch, many-coloured Chaco-finch, southern crested caracara, turkey and black vulture, and various doves and pigeons.

In the early afternoon we arrived at Madrejon, which is basically nothing more than the ranger station plus a tiny Chaco-type store run by a young couple. We installed ourselves in the guest rooms and Hugo arranged our “bush kitchen”. The ranger station has running water and for a few hours in the evening, there is (usually) electricity. So I thought the place was actually quite OK considering the remoteness of the place. The guest rooms with 3-4 beds have flush toilets and a cold shower. I have seen cleaner bathroom facilities but nothing a cleaning session can solve. After a hefty Milanese steak and siesta, we set off for our first spotlighting drive. Chaco mara was surprisingly common this evening with up to 20 seen. A grey brocket deer was seen crossing the road quickly. Around sunset we reached the grim place where Hugo had found a dead male jaguar one month earlier. The carcass was still there, but it had decomposed considerably. To add to the horror, the animal was now found decapitated. The cause of death was unclear but a natural death seemed unlikely as the animal seemed in good condition when it was found a month earlier. Rather strangely, the vultures had not touched the carcass, so maybe it was poisoned. On a more positive note, we saw a huge great horned owl and heard dusky titi monkeys at the same place.



Initially the spotlighting was very slow with little more seen than nightjars, but suddenly we saw a crouching sand-colored ghost cross the road very quickly. This must have been a puma, but it all happened too quickly. A bit further on, we caught some very bright eyeshine on the road at quite a distance. We approached slowly and this time I could clearly see a puma through my bins. Unfortunately, the animal kept walking away from us, although sometimes stopping for a few seconds and looking backwards to us. The cat stayed just on the edge of the spotlights' reach. It walked along the road for a few hundred meters, but when we tried to close the gap a bit more, it disappeared in the thick vegetation. Not perfect, but a very encouraging start. Close to Madrejon, two crab-eating foxes were seen. Best bird sighting was an unconcerned tropical screech owl at a mere 3-4 m distance at eye level.

### **Oct. 16: Defensores del Chaco national park – Cerro Leon**

Our morning drive turned up another sad feline surprise. A carcass found on the side of the road proved to be an ocelot. Only bones and some skin were left. We were on our way to Cerro Leon. The morning was cloudy again but temperatures were very pleasant (mid 20s). Our first mammal was a grey brocket deer, but after an otherwise rather slow early morning, we suddenly saw a group of four Chaco peccaries by the side of the road around mid-

morning. We stopped the car several hundred meters away from the peccaries. The animals seemed unconcerned and were playing, racing after each other on the road. Better views were then had through the scope. Driving up to them for closer looks would almost certainly chase them away, so we decided to walk on foot along the edge of the road staying out of sight. We approached them to about 150-200m and then waited. This proved to be a good strategy. The wind direction was favorable and the animals came closer and closer. It was magic to see them feed and play completely unconcerned only a few tens of meters away. After spending quite some time with the peccaries we slowly retreated and walked back to the car. They probably never noticed that we were there.

Further up on the road we encountered a dispersed group of at least 10 collared peccaries, but most of them only stopped for several seconds on the road and then continued. Birding was quite good too, we did connect with barred and variable antshrike and a female stripe-backed antbird. The pretty rufous casiornis was seen for the first time. And finally, a group of purplish jays was seen, but the cloudy sky unfortunately made them look relatively dull.



Late mid-morning we arrived at Cerro Leon, where we flushed a great horned owl from its roosting tree. At the car park, Hugo heard a ferruginous pygmy-owl, which eventually gave good views. The cloud cover was slowly dissolving and temperatures were moving towards the high twenties. It is a fairly steep, but short climb to the top from the car park. Views are spectacular: pure wilderness all around as far as the eyes can see. Several cactus species and trees were starting to bloom adding some nice splashes of color. After descending Cerro Leon, we walked a short way along another trail, where Hugo located a male Bolivian Slaty-Antshrike. Giant antshrike was heard but not seen.

It had been a great morning and we slowly headed back to Madrejon. The sun had dissolved the clouds and the temperature was in the thirties again. No mammals apart from a few maras were seen on the way back. Around 2 pm when I was taking some pictures around the ranger station, two Chaco peccaries had just walked past the ranger station at the other end and I was pointed in their direction. I walked along the road for a few hundred meters and luckily I saw one of the peccaries cross the road. A single black-legged seriema was seen as well.

During the evening drive, grey brocket deer and Azara's and crab-eating foxes were seen. Best mammal sighting, however, was a shy group of three titi monkeys. While spotlighting we saw a fairly large sand-colored rodent species with a long bicolored hairy tail, but it crossed the road rather quickly. A spectacular sighting was a juvenile rainbow boa on the road at night. Today, a lot of fresh tracks were seen on the road including those of puma, jaguar, ocelot, giant anteater, tamandua, and tapir, so all the goodies were present but we "only" had to find them.

#### **Oct. 17: Defensores del Chaco national park**

Today it was hot and sunny all day. In the early morning we concentrated on birdwatching seeing orange-backed troupial, laughing falcon, white-barred piculet at very close range, a female golden-green woodpecker and the amazing pale-crested woodpecker. Chaco specialties such as scimitar-billed woodcreeper, cream-backed

woodpecker, brown cacholote, and black-capped warbling-finch were seen as well. Fruiting trees held turquois-fronted amazons, blue-crowned parakeets, monk parakeets and occasionally fly-over scaly headed parrots were seen. A distinct advantage of the Chaco for birdwatchers is the low canopy. Most trees will be 5-10 meters high and even the higher ones that occasionally stick out of the canopy are rarely higher than 20 meters. So usually excellent views can be had of birds (and monkeys!) feeding in the canopy.

Mammal watching on the other hand had been terribly slow this morning (possibly because it became hot quickly). Around 11 am we were about to turn back to Madrejon, when I suddenly saw some movement beside the road. In confusion and excitement I yelled something like “puma, jaguar, jaguar”, and a moment later we were looking at a jaguar a mere 6-7 meters away from us before the cat ambled off to an area with denser vegetation. I had grabbed my camera in the meantime and managed a few shots for documentation. It was amazing to see how the cat melted away in the background even at close range. Absolutely gobsmacked and elated we went back to Madrejon.

The evening drive proved to be productive as well. Around dusk we had a wonderful encounter with a group of Azara’s night monkeys feeding in a stand of seeding trees. The monkeys were alert but quite inquisitive unlike the shy titi monkeys, of which two groups were seen as well. We finally also managed to see twice a single three-banded armadillo. Hugo caught one of them for closer inspection. It was funny to hear him make a low grunt not unlike a dog that is about to snap. In addition, two tropical rattlesnakes were seen.



#### **Oct. 18: Defensores del Chaco national park**

This morning we explored the area around the dry Timani riverbed, but there were several pools that turned up some unexpected birds for this area (for me at least) such as anhinga, masked yellowthroat, gray-necked wood-rail, black-backed water-tyrant, black-collared hawk and several heron species. In this area we also saw fawn-breasted wren and unfortunately only the female white-tipped plantcutter. Another great horned owl was found roosting.

We continued our drive finding lots of goods birds, but mammal activity was poor (high temperatures again). We decided to drive to the spot where we had seen the jaguar yesterday for the odd chance it was still hanging around. We decided to explore the area on foot. We silently approached and checked out the area. As expected, nothing seemed to happen for a while, but unbelievably the jaguar suddenly popped up again and we were standing eye to eye once more with this magnificent beast. The jaguar was again less than 10 m away from us and gave us a blank stare seemingly slightly amazed too and somewhat inquisitive: this time we had our cameras

ready, so we were able to get reasonable footage. The cat didn't stay very long though and with a few big leaps it sped away and disappeared in the forest. Absolutely mindblowing.

In the afternoon we saw a beautiful male Black-backed grosbeak. Chaco mara did not seem to be pleased with the higher temperatures as we saw much lower numbers (about 4-5 throughout the day) than on the cooler days. Another group of dusky titi monkeys was seen around dusk. A band-winged nightjar was a good sighting. While spotlighting, we finally found a tapir feeding next to the road. I could clearly see the head and neck and its back, but the middle part was obscured by the vegetation. We tried to follow it, but unfortunately it moved deeper into dense forest. We also checked the area around the Timani riverbed at night and found a tropical screech-owl and Azara's fox.

### **Oct. 19: Transfer Defensores to Enciso**

While Hugo and one of the the park rangers packed and prepared the car for the long drive to Enciso, I made a walk on the trails behind the buildings. I almost instantly heard three three-banded armadillos rushing through the dry leaves on the ground. I sat down and waited for them to come in my direction. One walked just past me at no more than 50 cm away from me and the second walked right up to me stopping at about 1 m distance when it picked up my smell and raced back in the forest. Brilliant! Bird activity was good, but my quest to see great rufous woodcreeper was unsuccessful again: I only heard them deeper in the forest. I also found fresh tamandua tracks on one of the trails and another Chaco mara was seen.

We first drove towards the army outpost of 4 de Mayo. On our way to there we saw a black morph jaguarundi racing across the road, but surprisingly it jumped back on the road where it seemed to have seen something edible. Empty-handed it raced back into vegetation. As so often we could not retrace the animal when we drove up to the place where the cat had entered the forest. We registered at the army checkpoint and then continued to Tte. Picco. On this stretch of road, we saw the beautiful red tegu lizard twice and almost had a gray brocket deer on the grill. The animal froze completely when we approached and only darted away at the very last second. Unfortunately, more and more estancias seem to become established along this road. At Tte. Picco is another military checkpoint, where you have to register again. From there we took the shortcut directly to La Patria, avoiding the long detour via Mariscal Estigarribia. This road held even more estancias, but there still are good pockets of forest. On this road we found the remains of a Chaco peccary that had been shot that same morning. The intestines were spread out over the road with vultures feasting on it. Bullet shells were found nearby. A bit earlier on we had seen a single Chaco peccary alive on the road.

Around lunchtime we arrived at the headquarters of the Enciso national park. There is a BBQ area with tables, which is great for having lunch/dinner. Birds and the odd mammal (typically maras and foxes) may pass while you are eating. Behind the ranger station there is a very nice trail and best of all a waterhole. It is best to check the waterhole several times a day as anything may turn up at any time of day. Chaco mara was seen almost every time, often even at midday.

Hugo had been talking to some staff of the Estancia La Dorado in the afternoon and they claimed to have regular puma sightings on their grounds. So this afternoon we first headed to this estancia. After asking for permission with the chief, one of the staff guided us around the estancia. Around dusk, Hugo and the estancia worker managed to catch a greater hairy armadillo. This was excellent, because so far I had only seen them racing across the road and then disappear for good. An odd sighting was an isolated couple of ringed teals in a small water tank (for cattle to drink). The spotlighting on the ranch was a bit slow: a few little nightjars, a barn owl, Azara's fox, and the skin of a juvenile puma that had been ripped to pieces by the (indeed fearsome) estancia dogs, but it was very kind of them to allow us to check their grounds. Back at Enciso ranger station we finally found a magnificent Chaco owl, one of the Chaco "big five" that had eluded us so far.

### **Oct. 20: Medanos del Chaco national park**

Today we went up to Medanos del Chaco national park. We left the ranger station at Enciso and headed northwest to the Bolivian border. The Enciso area had received quite some rain and many trees were already flowering. We made several birding stops and saw some real goodies such as crested gallito, orange-backed troupial, black-backed grosbeak, a pair of hepatic tanagers, ringed warbling-finch and black-crested finch. The road got sandier and sandier and with the change in soil the landscape became opener. The vegetation was still thorny, but less impenetrable than at Defensores or Enciso. Both mammals and birds are present in rather low densities in this area, but we added white-banded mockingbird and spot-backed puffbird was very common in this area. We checked all falcons in this area, but all proved to be American kestrel. We also kept an eye open for

the guanaco subspecies that occurs here, but unsurprisingly we ended up empty-handed. After exploring the park for a while, we headed back passing the military base at Fortín Nueva Asunción. A bit further on at the indian settlement Pykasu, we found another falcon and this time we had the right one: spot-winged falconet. Superb!

Back at Enciso I decided to walk up to the waterhole: I saw a large whitish bird trying to take off out of the largest trees and I expected to see a great egret or cocoi heron. When it finally came out in the open, it turned out to be a massive adult king vulture. Incredible! The bird swooped right over my head and landed on a dead tree some 100 m away. Excellent looks were had at one of the coolest vultures in the world.

This evening we decided to make spotlighting drive along the eastern border of the national park. Things started off in true Chaco fashion with a tapir head lying next to the road. Somebody was eating tapir this week. Unfortunately, we had a truck driving up behind us albeit it rather slowly. We had to keep ahead of the truck to make sure it would not overtake us and chase everything away. This made for a somewhat restless drive. Around dusk, we saw the first clear, bright green eyeshine, but very far away. Initially, we were convinced it was a cat. But the eyeshine did not move at all, whereas a nightjar more or less at the same place kept moving around. As we drove closer, nothing happened and I thought we were again mistaking eyeshine for a reflector on a bridge post along the road (as I did two days earlier). We decided to speed up a bit and when we were closing in, our “reflector” started move. Full hit on the breaks and we could just see that a puma disappeared in the very dense undergrowth. Darn! While we were still cursing the “reflector puma”, another bright eyeshine was seen on the road, but much lower to the ground. This time we decided straight away to eliminate the reflector option and approached slowly. It was another puma! It was lying stretched out on the middle of the road and stayed there as long as we kept the car at a respectable distance. We drove up to him little by little, but at some point its safety margins were obviously infringed and it stood up and walked slowly into the bushes. It wasn't quite dark yet, so excellent views were had through the binoculars with the aid of the car's spotlights. Unfortunately, soon after the truck behind us had caught up with us, so we had to let it pass.

We turned around and drove back, but neither one of the two pumas was seen again. Quite unbelievably, another car was on our tail on this normally quiet road and this car was driving fast. This forced us to do a high-speed spotlighting drive on which nothing was seen. Luckily the car turned off to the left towards La Patria at the main road and we carried on spotlighting along the main road in the other direction that leads to the Bolivian border. A single vizcacha was seen not far from the park headquarters, but we found a group of at least four at their regular place a bit further on. In addition, two Azara's foxes and a few Chaco maras were seen. Usually, Hugo would turn around at this spot, but as we had been forced to speed on the other road, we decided to carry on a bit. Suddenly, Hugo pointed to the left side of the road. Another cat was lying on the road. I could not believe my eyes when it turned to be yet another puma!! We were even more amazed that the animal did not run away when we approached it. We stopped at about 20 m distance and took some pictures. When we got even closer, it slowly got up and we walked a bit along the road edge and then crossed the road 3-4 meters in front of the car. The cat seemed in poor condition, it was very skinny. The puma had now switched over to my side and sat down completely unconcerned by our presence. I think we stayed at least 20 min with the cat (at least it seemed like forever). After this once-in-a-lifetime encounter we decided to call it a day. Next day Hugo heard from the park staff that later in the evening he had caught the police spotlighting/poaching on the same road where we had seen the tapir head.



### **Oct. 21: Enciso area**

Today was our last full day in the Chaco and we decided to check out a quiet, little used public road in the area. However, we first walked the trail at the ranger station. Things were quiet at the waterhole, but along the trail we found a sub-adult sandy-colored tapir. Birding was not bad, but nothing new was seen. Temperatures were very pleasant with a mix of light cloud and sunshine in the morning. Around mid-morning we stopped for a few productive birding sessions with sightings of several woodpeckers, black-backed grosbeak, tropical parula, Chotoy and pale-breasted spinetail, smooth-billed ani, greater thornbird and a male greenbacked becard. A bit further on a Geoffrey's cat crossed the road quite close in front of us, but unfortunately too short to take photos. We were now at four cat species seen alive!

Back at Enciso ranger station, I finally saw great rufous woodcreeper. One of the park rangers had prepared two giant pieces of beef on the BBQ. A tasty meal was had, then a quick check at the waterhole (nothing special was seen this time, but still two Chaco maras) and a welcome siesta. In the afternoon we decided to do some spotlighting along some of the same roads we visited this morning. Around dusk we found yet another puma on the road, we stopped at about 150 m and watched it through the binoculars and scope while it was lying on the road. However, it kept an eye on us and as soon as we started the car, the cat got up walked along the road for a short distance and then disappeared in the dense secondary undergrowth. The spotlighting brought a new mammal in the form of two single tapitis (Brazilian forest rabbit). In addition, Azara's foxes, pauraques, little nightjars, and a beautiful Chaco owl were seen. On our way back we also saw very bright and large green eye-shine, which must have been one of the big cats, but the animal disappeared immediately in the dense undergrowth when we were still far away. Back on the main road we hoped to get better pictures of the vizcachas, but the wind had changed resulting in colder and stormy conditions. No mammals or birds were seen on the main road and we drove straight back to the ranger station.

### **Oct. 22: Enciso – Trans-Chaco Highway – Asuncion**

In the morning I walked the trail at the ranger station: the tapir seen yesterday was still around. After the car was packed and refuelled, we started our long journey back to Asuncion. Mammals were mostly seen in the form of roadkills (sadly including a maned wolf, two tapirs, and Azara's fox). Near Mariscal Estigarribia two collared peccaries were seen crossing the road. Plenty of roadside birds were seen with raptors and wetland species being particularly prominent. We made good progress and stopped for lunch at the Pirahu restaurant. When we left the parking, the car turned out to have a flat tyre. It took more than an hour to fix the tyre, but there is quite good birding around the restaurant with good bird photography opportunities. I saw among others green-backed becard, grayish saltator, great rufous woodcreeper, fork-tailed flycatcher, limpkin, several thrushes, white-fronted woodpecker, chestnutcapped blackbird, and baywing. We arrived in Asuncion late afternoon. I checked the gardens of the hotel, but very few birds were active.

### **Oct. 23: Asuncion – Campo Llano – Ayolas**

Because the car needed a check up and new set of tyres, I spent a leisurely morning at the hotel. Despite the fact that many trees were either flowering or fruiting, there were a lot less species present than when I arrived two weeks ago. Around 9.30 am Hugo picked me up and we set off for southern Paraguay. En route we picked up a few spotted tinamous, hooded siskin, and Amazon kingfisher among others.

Our major target for today was the Campo Llano area, west of San Juan Bautista. From San Juan Bautista we followed a quiet dirt road, where our first stop was for a group of at least 200 crested caracara and small numbers of the other two caracara species, who were following a tractor ploughing a field. In a grassland next to the field we found two black-chested buzzard-eagles and several tens of crested carcaras feeding on what must have been a carcass, but the high grass prevented us from seeing what they were feeding on. About halfway it turned out that the only bridge had been dismantled and was now being repaired. That meant a lengthy 120 km detour in order to reach the best areas of Campo Llano. The route goes through several stretches of intact Pampas grasslands and the occasional wetland area. Roadside birding was quite good with a jabiru, dark-phase long-winged harrier, several herons, yellow-rumped marshbird, white monjita, campo flicker, etc.

Eventually, we reached the traditional haunt of the strange-tailed tyrant. The males were now at their very best in full breeding plumage showing off their bright red throats. We found a total of 7 roadside pairs on a stretch of about 7-8 km. Other goodies included gray monjita, great pampa-finch, tawny-bellied seedeater, greater thornbird, wedge-tailed grass-finch and longtailed reed-finch.

The detour had cost a lot of time, so we were a bit behind schedule to reach our night drive destination in time. We continued without stopping to Yacyreta Island nature reserve. After a quick hello at the ranger station, we arrived at the dwarf palm savanna that is favored by the main target bird here, the sickle-winged nightjar. We could see storms building up on the Argentinian side and the changing air pressure conditions made insects very active. The sky was filled with large beetles. We tried several areas and saw Azara's agouti and gray brocket deer, but no sign at all of the nightjar.



#### **Oct. 24: Ayolas/Yacyreta Island**

Next morning the bad weather had reached Ayolas and it was cold and rainy. We took an early breakfast but heavy rain forced us to wait. But after a while we decided to check out Estero Ñeembucú, a large wetland area more or less east/northeast of Ayolas. Despite the persistent rain, the wetland birds were out feeding. We added large-billed and yellow-billed tern to the list. I had probably been a bit underdressed on yesterday's spotlighting session, as I was having a cold this morning, which made me feel rather numb all morning. More annoyingly, my camera was feeling sick too: the autofocus had stopped working and this would remain so until the very last morning of the trip when I was preparing to fly back. The Chaco dust and/or the humidity at Ayolas had probably been too much for the camera's electronics.

After 9 am the rain started to become lighter and by 10 am it was dry, but still overcast. We headed down the dirt road to Refugio Faunístico Atinguy, a zoo within a small rainforest remnant. Along the road the birding was good with streamer-tailed tyrant, aplomado falcon, several seedeaters including a male dark-throated, and a variety of ibises, storks, herons, limpkin, etc. At the zoo we saw our only chestnut-vented conebill and hooded tanager of the trip. Around lunchtime I birded a bit around the lodge seeing the only blue dacnis of the trip, and orange-headed tanager, ringed kingfisher, plus a few tyrant flycatchers.

After a siesta, both the weather and my body were feeling sunny again and we headed back to Yacyreta island. First we explored some natural grasslands on foot for bearded tachuri and sharp-tailed grass-tyrant, but came up empty-handed. We did however see lesser grass-finch in this area. In the late afternoon, we drove up to the palm savanna (seeing two red-winged tinamou en route) and weather conditions were much better. When there still was some daylight we heard and saw our first sickle-winged nightjar. It was a male showing its spectacular wing shape. The nightjars were a lot more active this evening. We tried to locate the place where a bird landed and Hugo would guide me to the place with the spotlight. Typically they would sit either on one of the dwarf palms or on larger open sandy spots on the savanna. It was easy to find and approach them but awkward to hold the torch with one hand and take pictures with the other, but it was good fun racing across the savanna to follow them. In the end, we found a total of 6 birds (male and female). In addition, common potoo, pauraque, barn owl, common cavy and Azara's agouti were seen.

#### **Oct. 25: Morning Yacyreta Island – transfer to San Rafael**

We first checked the area around the hotel seeing a good selection of birds including striped cuckoo, Swainson's flycatcher, a few tanagers, and large and yellow-bellied elaenia. On Yacyreta island we explored the very nice sendero Akuti Po'i, although it was rather mosquito- and sandfly-ridden on our visit. Birding was good with dark-billed and squirrel cuckoo, red-billed scythebill, sooty-fronted spinetail, crimson-crested and little

woodpecker, a female variable antshrike, many flycatcher species and several tanagers. Cavies were incredibly common on this trail. Deer were heard several times and at one of the trails ends I flushed a small deer that may have been a red brocket deer. Towards the end of the trail we heard an odd sound that turned out to be a male howler monkey, but while looking for the howler, I found a common potoo doing its branch imitation at a height of only 4-5 meters allowing great viewing and photo opportunities. In that same area Hugo heard bare-faced curassows and a minute later later we got fleeting glimpses of them rushing through the treetops. Driving back to the ranger station we saw lots of open country birds and a juvenile capybara. Unfortunately, it was now time to leave the Ayolas area. We made a few birding stops on our way to San Rafael. Near Cnel. Bogado we saw a large congregation of bare-faced and white-faced ibises feeding on ploughed fields. A quick, rough count showed that there must have been at least 2000 birds!!

The last part of the drive to the proposed San Rafael national park is quite depressing. Large parts of the Caazapa and Itapua provinces show environmental destruction at it very best. The goal to eradicate every single native tree to make place for endless fields of monocultures has been 100% successful in some areas. Arriving at Procosara's home base Estancia Nueva Gambach was a relief. I had barely left the car when I heard my first surucua trogon calling. One pair was found to live around the living quarters of the farm. We decided to take it easy, do some birding around the farm and skip the night drive this evening.



#### **Oct. 26: San Rafael – Procosara**

During the night I could not sleep, felt nauseous and cold sweat was running down my spine all night. I stayed in bed until mid-morning when I went with Hugo for a bit of birding on the Trogon trail. Birding was not bad: we saw eared pygmy-tyrant, ochre-faced tody-flycatcher, ochre-breasted foliage-gleaner among others, but about halfway my stomach started protesting heavily again. After the walk I was totally exhausted and dehydrated, so I decided to call it a day. Very annoying because the weather was lovely. In the afternoon, Hugo and I went through a set of camera-trap photos made on the Procosara grounds over the last few months with many interesting records including several daytime pictures of oncilla.

#### **Oct. 27: San Rafael – Procosara**

After a good night's sleep I was feeling much better and we spent the whole morning on the Urutau trail. On our way up to the trailhead we first stopped at the lake seeing scaly-headed parrot, dark-billed cuckoo, both tityras and purple-throated euphonia. A loud metallic sound at the start of the Urutau trail proved to be an uncommon eastern slaty thrush. After this good start, we picked up many birds, including good views of planalto woodcreeper, tufted antshrike, rufous-winged antwren, dusky-tailed antbird, magpie tanager, green-winged saltator, ultramarine grossbeak and chestnut-headed tanager.

Around lunchtime we heard a harsh, raucous sound in the grounds of the estancia. When we had located the bird, it turned out to be a saffron toucanet, but unfortunately it did not hang around very long. Because of the lost day yesterday I spent as much time outside as possible. Of course, the birding slowed down during the hottest part of the day, but several birds including both trogon species were still active.

In the afternoon we went to a new trail that circumnavigates a small swamp with about 1-2 ha of open water. The vegetation here was quite different from the other trails, lower canopy, many tangles and fairly good visibility in the forest. Some of the birds seen here were greenish shiffornis, rusty-margined guan, and best of all several blue manakins. Crab-eating raccoon footprints were seen, but otherwise no action on the mammal front. The spotlighting session produced short-tailed nighthawk, pauraque, barn owl, and best of all a rusty-barred owl at close range.

#### **Oct. 28: Morning Procosara / afternoon Kanguery grasslands**

This morning we decided to try another new trail. Temperatures were already quite high in the morning and especially during the first hour of the walk activity was very slow, best bird seen being a female plovercrest. But after a while, the activity picked up a bit and we saw yellow tyrannulet, grey-bellied spinetail, rufous-capped motmot, black-throated trogon, white-eyed foliage-gleaner, southern antpipit, blue-naped chlorophonia, chestnut-eared aracari, and blond-crested woodpecker, among others. On the way out, we found a small group of capuchin monkeys and white-shouldered fire-eye. During the hottest part of the day I checked out the forest around the lodge and the lake. Activity wasn't bad with black-throated trogon, gray-fronted dove, social flycatcher, female tufted antshrike, and several woodpeckers.

In the afternoon we made the 1.5 hour transfer to the Kanguery grasslands. The transfer is as exciting as it is depressing. The rough track passes through wonderful forest, but the ongoing encroachment and destruction of the forest is evident. On our way to Kanguery we saw a single, always elegant swallow-tailed kite and two plumbeous kites spiral up on the thermals, and a medium-sized unidentified raptor along the forest edge.

At the Kanguery grasslands grass wren was quickly found. Capped seedeater was quite common, but apart from a few double-collared seedeaters no other seedeaters were found. The grasslands require more work as densities are quite low, but in such spectacular surroundings it is a privilege. We did find a sharp-tailed tyrant, but cock-tailed tyrant and beard tachuri remained unseen again. Yellow-rumped marshbirds were all checked, but none of them proved to be saffron-cowled blackbirds. Excellent sightings were cinerous and long-winged harrier, a distant toco toucan, and at least ten streamer-tailed tyrants.

Around dusk we started the drive back to Procosara. On the grasslands we saw a Nacunda nighthawk. Spotlighting in the dense foliage was rather difficult, but we still found little nightjar, pauraque, one ocellated poorwill and amazingly three common potoos: we flushed one that almost got pasted on the windscreen and two together at the forest edge. Best sighting was a crab-eating raccoon that was feeding on the road. Back at the estancia I walked part of the Trogon trail to check for armadillos and owls, but nothing at all was seen.

#### **Oct. 29: Morning Procosara / afternoon transfer to hotel Tirol**

In the morning I wanted to try the swamp trail again to make some photos of blue manakins. The birds weren't as cooperative as the first time, but a few OK-ish shots could be made. It was already hot by 8 am and activity was very poor. An attempt to lure rufous-sided crakes into view failed, although they did respond to the tape. Hugo suggested a change of strategy and we drove down to the lake and played the sounds of some difficult to find species. This resulted in two robust woodpeckers popping up out of nowhere. Brilliant.

After the lunchbreak I decided to do one more walk in the forest and again it was worthwhile despite temperatures soaring at 35-36°C; best was a couple of chestnut-bellied euphonias building a nest. Both trogons, rusty-margined guan, spotted tinamou and two agoutis (more heard than seen though) were spotted as well.

Mid-afternoon we left Procosara for hotel Tirol. A red-winged tinamou was flushed from a dry roadside ditch when we left Procosara. Otherwise it was an uneventful drive. At hotel Tirol, it was unfortunately time to say goodbye to Hugo, who would drive back to Asuncion that evening. After a shower I explored the track closest to my room, but I saw few birds.

#### **Oct. 30-Nov.1: hotel Tirol**

At hotel Tirol I wanted to do some relaxed rainforest birding. Unfortunately, there was a bit of a heat wave during my stay. Temperatures averaged between 35-40°C and this seemed to affect bird activity. Still, activity was usually quite good from 7-9am. One day it was both hot and windy making bird activity extremely slow, even in the morning. There were no bird flocks. Most birds were seen alone or in pairs, and breeding activity was evident. On the plus side, activity seemed to go on throughout the day as birds kept carrying nesting material or were seen feeding even during the hottest part of the day.

On the paved path directly behind the lodge, the secondary forest held several eastern slaty thrushes. However, apart from other thrushes and several common species, little birds were seen in this area. One morning I found a dead opossum on this trail. Much more interesting is the older forest downhill from the hotel. Several trails run through the forest and at the heart of the trail system there is a stream. Good sightings were ruddy quail-dove, both trogons, rufous-capped motmot, blue manakin, lineated woodpecker, slaty-breasted wood-rail, chestnut-eared aracari, among others. The small warblers provided little surprises, but rufous-crowned greenlet was a nice trip list addition. Tanagers and euphonias were thinner on the ground than I expected, but I did see guira, black-goggled, chestnut-headed and fawn-breasted tanager, and purple-throated euphonia.

Two evenings I made a night walk in the forest, but only came up with a few unidentified bats, a crab-eating fox, and a few short-tailed nighthawks. Common potoo was heard every night, but it was too far away to go for a closer inspection.



### **Nov. 2-3: Back to Asuncion/Flight to Europe**

I took a taxi back to Encarnacion, where I only had to wait 30 min. for a bus to Asuncion. The bus ride was uneventful. I checked in at my hotel in the late afternoon. Next morning I decided to skip a visit to the botanical gardens. Temperatures were already soaring around 8.30 am, so I opted for a relaxed morning and photographed some common birds in the garden. In the afternoon I took a taxi to the airport. The flight to Sao Paulo was uneventful, but the Sao Paulo flight started off with some excitement when the ground generator connected to the plane proved to be non-functioning. As a result the airconditioning and entertainment system were not working, so some people were getting restless and nervous. Several German travellers became rather paranoid and hysterical demanding that we would be transferred to a new aircraft. At one point, the pack leader of the distressed passengers came shouting down the pathway with his arms up in the air: “people, what do we want to do, to fly or not to fly? It is up to us.” While the rest of the passengers looked amused at this spectacle, the TAM staff handled the situation well and after an hour of delay we were on our way back.

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## Mammal List

[Long-furred Woolly Mouse Opossum *Micoureus paraguayanus*: a dead animal was found on the morning of Oct. 30 on the trails at hotel Tirol]

[Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*: not seen, very fresh tracks were seen on Oct. 16]

[Southern Tamandua *Tamandua tetradactyla*: not seen, fresh tracks were seen on Oct. 16 and 19]

Lesser Hairy Armadillo *Chaetophractus vellerosus*: a small group (3-4) was seen at dusk on our first afternoon drive on Oct. 13. A single one was seen at night on Oct. 14.

Greater Hairy Armadillo *Chaetophractus villosus*: A single animal crossed the Trans-Chaco Highway at night on Oct. 14. On our way from Defensores to Enciso we saw several armadillos cross the road, of which one was definitely this species and the others probably too. A total of 3 was seen on the night drive at Estancia Dorado on Oct. 19.

Southern Three-banded Armadillo *Tolypeutes matacus*: two were seen on the night drive of Oct. 17, three were seen in the morning of Oct. 19 on the walking trails at Madrejon.



Black Howler Monkey *Alouatta caraya*: a male was seen calling right above our heads on sendero Akuti Po'i. Also heard on Oct. 24 and 25.

Azara's Night Monkey *Aotus azarae*: two different groups of 4 and 3 animals were seen on Oct. 17. More inquisitive than the Titi monkeys, but still cautious.

Dusky Titi Monkey *Callicebus pallescens*: shy, would usually flee immediately when approached. Only seen in Defensores. A group of three was seen on Oct. 16. Two groups were seen on Oct. 17 and one group of 4 animals was seen on Oct. 19.

Brown Capuchin Monkey *Cebus apella*: heard on Oct. 27, three and two animals were seen on the trails at Procosara on Oct. 27 and 28, respectively. A total of seven was seen in the morning of Oct. 31 at Tirol.

[Maned Wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus* : a roadkill on Oct. 22 along the TransChaco Hhighway]

Azara's Fox *Lycalopex gymnocercus*: seen every day in the Chaco (except Oct. 15) with numbers varying from 1 to 6.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon Thous*: singles on Oct. 14, 16, and 17. Two were seen on Oct. 15. One was only seen by Hugo on the morning of Oct. 27 by the lake at Procosara. One was seen in the older forest at Tirol on a spotlighting walk after dark.

Crab-eating Raccoon *Procyon cancrivorus*: One was seen feeding on its hindlegs at night on the way back from Kanguery to Procosara, but quickly ran away. We could follow it on the road by car a short while but eventually jumped into the forest. The ring tail and black face mask were well seen. A dead one was seen on the way to San Rafael on Oct. 25.

Geoffroy's Cat *Oncifelis geoffroyi*: one was seen crossing the road late morning in the Enciso area (Oct. 21). This animal was relatively dark.

[Ocelot *Leopardus pardalis*: a dead animal was found on the road between Madrejon and 4 de Mayo. Possibly shot.]

Jaguarundi *Herpailurus yaguarondi*: one black-morph animal was seen darting back and forth across the road for a short time on the road south of Defensores.

Jaguar *Panthera onca*: incredible close-range encounters with one in Defensores. Unfortunately, a decapitated carcass of a male was found in the same area.

Puma *Puma concolor*: One definitely and one very probably were seen on Oct. 15 in Defensores. On a night drive at Estancia Dorado (Oct. 19) we only saw the remains of a dead juvenile that had been killed by a pack of estancia dogs (the dogs were big!). On Oct. 20 we saw three pumas on a single night drive, one was seen at less than 10 m. On Oct. 21 a single animal was seen in the Enciso area around dusk.



Lowland Tapir *Tapirus terrestris*: One was seen at close range on Oct. 17 , but I could only see the head, neck and its back. On Oct. 18 one was seen standing on the road very far away, and it disappeared before we could get closer. A subadult? medium-sized animal with a rather pale sandy color was seen quite well on the trail at Enciso HQ. The same animal was seen again on Oct. 22, but immediately ran away when it caught my smell. Several dead animals were seen as well, roadkills and poaching victims.

Chaco Peccary *Catagonus wagneri*: a group of 4 animals was seen in the morning on Oct. 17. Two animals passed on the same day through the park office buildings in Madrejon around 2pm: I saw only one of them. On Oct. 19 one was seen on the road between Tte. Picco and La Patria. A short distance further we saw the remains of a fresh Chaco peccary kill, which had been shot by locals/hunters.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*: a group of at least 10 animals was crossing the road relatively close to Cerro Leon. Two were seen crossing the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 22.

[Red Brouket-Deer *Mazama americana*: I flushed a small reddish deer on Oct. 25 at the trail end of sendero Akuti Po'i, which might have been this species, but it was too little to go on to be sure]

Gray Brouket-Deer *Mazama gouazoubira*: 1-2 daily seen in Defensores and Enciso. Two were seen on the night drive on Oct. 23.

[Unidentified Rodent: the animal was seen while spotlighting on the road between Madrejon and Cerro Leon. The animal seemed medium-sized (more elongated than really large though) to me (I guesstimated a body length of about 18-20 cm). The fur was uniformly sandy-colored on the body. Most distinctive was the thin hairy tail: the tail was much longer than the body length (135-150%) and the tail end widened to a dark/black-colored brush. Rest of the hairy tail was sandy-colored. The animal had dark eyes and smallish rounded ears that were clearly visible though. As there aren't really many rodents that match all these features, especially the size, it is not unlikely that I misjudged the size. Any input is welcome].

Common Cavy *Cavia aperea*: one seen by Hugo only on Oct. 13, many (about 10) were seen on the way to sendero Akuti Po'i and at the trail itself. Also two on Oct. 24. A single one was seen crossing the road and unfortunately possibly killed at Kanguery.

Chaco Mara *Dolichotis salinicola*: a single animal was seen at Laguna Bombacha on Oct. 14. In Defensores, daily sightings varying from 4-20 animals. Enciso: daily small numbers.

Yellow-toothed Cavy *Galea musteloides*: just a glimpse of one on Oct. 21.

Capybara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*: glimpses of one that disappeared in the water at Laguna Bombacha, a juvenile was seen racing back into forest at the ranger station on Yacyreta island (Oct. 25).

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae*: singles were seen on the night drives on Oct. 23 and 24. Two were heard but barely seen on the sendero Surukuã Saã Ju, Procosara, on Oct. 29.

Plains Vizcacha *Lagostomus maximus*: a single big animal was seen very close to the Enciso ranger station, a bit further north a group of at least 4 animals was seen outside their burrows on Oct. 21.

Brazilian Cottontail (Tapiti) *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*: two single animals were seen on a quiet public road in the Enciso area on Oct. 21.



## Bird list

Greater Rhea - *Rhea americana* : only seen in the Central Chaco, a few groups daily from 13-15 October.

[Undulated Tinamou - *Crypturellus undulatus*: heard only on Oct 15-18]

Tataupa Tinamou - *Crypturellus tataupa*: heard only in the Central Chaco and Defensores, two seen on a quiet public road in the Enciso area, one seen at close range in San Rafael, and one seen at close range at hotel Tirol.

Red-winged Tinamou - *Rhynchotus rufescens* : heard only in the Central Chaco, heard and two seen in dwarf palm savanna of Yacyreta Island Nature Reserve and one seen hiding in a roadside ditch while leaving Procosara heading for hotel Tirol.

Brushland Tinamou - *Nothoprocta cinerascens*: several seen in the Central Chaco on Oct 14-15. Also two single birds seen in the Enciso area.

Spotted/Chaco Nothura - *Nothura maculosa/chacoensis*: Two together seen on Oct 14 on the way to Laguna Capitan, which may have been of the chacoensis subspecies. On Oct. 23 two single birds were seen en route to Ayolas. Two singles were seen in the Ayolas area on Oct 24.

Quebracho Crested-tinamou - *Eudromia formosa*: one seen at Fortin Toledo in the Central Chaco and three times a single bird on the main road at Enciso.

Pied-billed Grebe - *Podilymbus podiceps*: One at the lake in San Rafael on Oct. 29, one on a pool between Procosara and hotel Tirol.

Neotropic Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* : several en route on the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct 13 and 22. Several were always present on the lake at Procosara.

Anhinga - *Anhinga anhinga*: odd sight to see a single bird flying above a few remaining water pools in Defensores, another one seen along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 22 and one seen at a rice paddie en route to San Rafael on Oct. 25.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron - *Tigrisoma lineatum*: three were seen at Laguna Bombacha on Oct. 14 and one at wet pools near the Timani riverbed in Defensores.

Whistling Heron - *Syrigma sibilatrix*: a few seen daily on Oct. 13-15 and a few daily in the Enciso area, none in Defensores. Usually 1-3 daily in the Ayolas/Yacyreta and San Rafael areas.

Cocoi Heron - *Ardea cocoi*: several on Oct. 13-14, 1 in the Timani area in Defensores on Oct. 18, seemed (fairly) common in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area.

Great Egret - *Ardea alba*: common in the low Chaco, a few in the central Chaco, 1 near Madrejon, common around Ayolas and Yacyreta Island.

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula*: common in the low Chaco, a few in the central Chaco, 2 near Madrejon, common around Ayolas and Yacyreta Island.

Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis*: small groups in the central Chaco on Oct. 14, one near Madrejon, fairly common in Eastern Paraguay.

Striated Heron - *Butorides striata*: one along the Trans-Chaco Highway, 1-2 daily in Ayolas/Yacyreta Island area. One near the Lake at Procosara.

Black-crowned Night-heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax* : a juvenile at Lag. Bombacha and 2 adult birds on the second night drive on Yacyreta Island.

Bare-faced Ibis - *Phimosus infuscatus*: seen daily in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area. A mixed group of Bare-faced and White-faced Ibis of at least 2000! birds was seen feeding in a field en route to San Rafael. Both species were also seen flying to their roosts in large formations of several tens or hundreds of birds in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area. A group of about 45 birds flew over Estancia Nueva Gambach on Oct. 29.

White-faced Ibis - *Plegadis chihi*: seen daily in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area, see also comments for Bare-faced Ibis. About 20 seen on Oct. 28.

Plumbeous Ibis - *Theristicus caerulescens*: a few seen in the lower and central Chaco on Oct. 13,14, heard on Oct. 19.

Buff-necked Ibis - *Theristicus caudatus*: small numbers (3-8) seen in the lower and central Chaco on Oct. 13 and 14, and on the return to Asuncion on Oct. 22.

Roseate Spoonbill - *Platalea ajaja*: a few seen along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 13.

American Wood Stork - *Mycteria americana*: a few seen in the lower and central Chaco on Oct. 13 and 22 and 3 seen in Estero Ñeembucú on Oct. 24.

Maguari Stork - *Ciconia maguari*: a few seen in the lower and central Chaco on Oct. 13 and 22. Also small numbers on Oct 23 and 24 in the Ayolas area. On Oct 25 we saw about 50 in Estero Ñeembucú between Ayolas and Santiago.

Jabiru - *Jabiru mycteria*: a few along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 13 and 22. One at Laguna Bombacha, one near Campo Llano on the Ruta 4 about 25-30 km west of San Ignacio , and 5 in the Estero Ñeembucús along the road (just called Desvio Ayolas) between Ayolas and the Ruta 1.

Chilean Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus*: only seen on Oct 14 at Laguna Capitan, about 40 birds.

Southern Screamer - *Chauna torquata*: at least 1, but probably 2 pairs at Laguna Bombacha on Oct. 14.

White-faced Whistling-Duck - *Dendrocygna viduata*: a single bird on a rice paddie en route to San Rafael on Oct. 25 and one at San Rafael at the lake area.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - *Dendrocygna autumnalis* : a few seen in the Estero Ñeembucú on Oct. 24.

Coscoroba - *Coscoroba coscoroba*: 4 of these elegant birds at Lag. Capitan on Oct. 14.

Ringed Teal - *Callonetta leucophrys* : a couple present two days (Oct. 20 and 22) at the waterhole in Enciso and a couple at Estancia Dorado near Enciso (Oct. 19).

Brazilian Duck - *Amazonetta brasiliensis*: the most common duck during the trip, seen throughout the country except in the driest parts of the Chaco.

White-cheeked Pintail - *Anas bahamensis*: several tens at Lag. Capitan on Oct. 14.

[Silver Teal - *Anas versicolor* : a single bird in flight was only seen by Hugo at a rice paddie en route to San Rafael on Oct. 25].

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*: seen daily in the Chaco, sometimes in large numbers, common in Eastern Paraguay but in much lower numbers.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: seen almost daily in Chaco, a few daily in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*: seen daily in the Central Chaco and the Enciso/Medanos area, but seemingly less regular (or undernoticed) in Defensores.

King Vulture - *Sarcoramphus papa*: killer views of an adult bird that came flapping out of one of the trees at the waterhole in Enciso. It flew right over my head and then landed on a dead tree about 100 m away from the waterhole allowing great views.

Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus*: a single bird hunting over the Parana river near Ayolas.

American Swallow-tailed Kite - *Elanoides forficatus*: a single bird seen en route between Procosara and Kanguery in San Rafael.

White-tailed Kite - *Elanus leucurus*: a single bird was seen on the way to San Rafael on Oct. 25.

Snail Kite - *Rostrhamus sociabilis*: common in the low Chaco (including a few migrating flocks), also good numbers in the central Chaco, not seen in the high Chaco, common in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area. Fairly regular roadside bird along the Ruta 1 between Encarnacion and Asuncion.

Plumbeous Kite - *Ictinia plumbea*: Migrating flocks were seen in the Central Chaco on Oct. 13. Two were seen en route between Procosara and Kanguery in San Rafael.

Cinereous Harrier - *Circus cinereus*: one bird above the Kanguery grasslands on Oct. 28.

Long-winged Harrier - *Circus buffoni*: one bird along the Ruta 4 west of San Ignacio and two hunting over the Kanguery grasslands

Crane Hawk - *Geranospiza caerulescens*: 1-3 seen daily from Oct 13-19, not seen in the Enciso/Medanos area, one seen on Oct. 28 in the Kanguery area.

Great Black Hawk - *Buteogallus urubitinga*: low numbers (<5) seen daily from Oct. 15-19. A few, mostly in the high Chaco, were seen on the way back to Asuncion on Oct. 22.

Savanna Hawk - *Heterospizias meridionalis*: daily low to medium numbers in the Chaco and Yacyreta/Ayolas area, one in the Kanguery area on Oct. 28

Harris's Hawk - *Parabuteo unicinctus*: one possible on Oct. 14, two singles resting on electricity posts along the Trans-Chaco Highway between La Patria and Mariscal Estigarribia (Oct. 22)

Black-collared Hawk - *Busarellus nigricollis*: low numbers seen on Oct. 13, 14, and 22 in the central and low Chaco. A single bird was seen near Timani bridge north of Madrejon on Oct. 18.

Roadside Hawk - *Rupornis magnirostris*: seen almost daily in the low, central and high Chaco, Ayolas/Yacyreta, San Rafael, and hotel Tirol.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle - *Buteo melanoleucus*: two seen in the Campo Llano area west of San Juan Bautista.

White-tailed Hawk - *Buteo albicaudatus*: seen daily in the central Chaco and Enciso/Medanos, but not in Defensores. A couple was seen on Yacyreta island.

Zone-tailed Hawk - *Buteo albonotatus*: one at Fortin Toledo on Oct. 14

Southern Crested-Caracara - *Caracara plancus*: common throughout the Chaco, a gathering of at least 150 (together Chimango Caracara) in a ploughed field in the Campo Llano was an impressive sight

Yellow-headed Caracara - *Milvago chimachima*: seen along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct 13 and 22. Also seen in the Campo Llano area, Ayolas/Yacyreta area and Kanguery grasslands.

Chimango Caracara - *Milvago chimango*: seen along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct 13 and 22. Also seen in the Campo Llano area, Ayolas/Yacyreta island and Kanguery grasslands.

Laughing Falcon - *Herpetotheres cachinnans*: one in Defensores on Oct. 17 and one along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 22.

[Barred Forest-Falcon - *Micrastur ruficollis*: heard only on Oct. 15 and 18]

[Collared Forest-Falcon - *Micrastur semitorquatus*: heard only on Oct. 16 and 17]

Spot-winged Falconet - *Spizapteryx circumcincta*: one seen perched nearby the indian village Pykasu, relatively close Fortin Nueva Asunción while returning from Medanos.

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*: seen on all days in the Chaco, except Oct 16-17. Very common along the Trans-Chaco Highway between La Patria and Mariscal Estigarribia. Also seen in the Campo Llano area, Ayolas/Yacyreta island and between Kanguery and Procosara.

Aplomado Falcon - *Falco femoralis*: two seen on a short birding stop along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 13, one on the road to Atinguy zoo on Oct. 24.

Chaco Chachalaca - *Ortalis canicollis*: quite common and seen daily in the Chaco.

Rusty-margined Guan - *Penelope superciliaris*: rather poor to mediocre views of birds alone or in small groups on Oct. 26-28.

Bare-faced Curassow - *Crax fasciolata*: just fleeting glimpses of several birds flying through the canopy on the Sendero Aguti on Yacyreta island on Oct 25. Hugo had heard them close by, but they flew off before we could get close enough for good views.

[Spot-winged Wood-Quail - *Odontophorus capueira*: heard only on Oct. 27]

[Rufous-sided Crane - *Laterallus melanophaius*: heard only on Oct. 25 (sendero Aguti) and 29 (swamp trail at Procosara)]

Grey-necked Wood-Rail - *Aramides cajanea*: two were seen on Oct 18, they were also heard on Oct. 24 and 25.

Giant Wood-Rail - *Aramides ypecaha*: a total of 4 was seen on Oct 14, two individuals near Laguna Capitan and two individuals at Laguna Bombacha.

Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail - *Aramides saracura*: 4 sightings of probably two different birds at hotel Tirol.

Blackish Rail - *Pardirallus nigricans*: one flushed and flying over the reeds for a few seconds at Estero Ñeembucú on Oct. 24.

Common Moorhen - *Gallinula chloropus*: seen on most days at San Rafael at the lake

Limpkin - *Aramus guarauna*: seen on Oct. 13, 14 and 22 in the Chaco. Daily in the Ayolas area, especially at Estero Ñeembucú. Also seen on the bus from Encarnacion to Asuncion.

Red-legged Seriema - *Cariama cristata*: a pair seen on the afternoon drive to the Tunocojai reserve

Black-legged Seriema - *Chunga burmeisteri*: two seen near Fortin Toledo on Oct. 14. 1-3 daily in Defensores, surprisingly no seen at Enciso.

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*: seen daily in the low/central Chaco and Eastern Paraguay, in the high Chaco only seen on Oct. 19 and 21 in Enciso including an adult bird with chicks.

Black-necked Stilt - *Himantopus mexicanus*: only seen in the lower Chaco at Laguna Capitan on Oct. 14

Wattled Jacana - *Jacana jacana*: daily in the Ayolas area and common roadside bird in Eastern Paraguay, also in wetter areas and small pools in the central and high Chaco.

Greater Yellowlegs - *Tringa melanoleuca*: two at Laguna Capitan on Oct. 14.

Lesser Yellowlegs - *Tringa flavipes*: four at Laguna Capitan on Oct. 14, one at the waterhole in Enciso on Oct. 19.

Solitary Sandpiper - *Tringa solitaria*: seen on Oct. 13 and Oct. 15 en route.

Pectoral Sandpiper - *Calidris melanotos*: about 4 in Laguna Capitan area on Oct. 14.

Yellow-billed Tern - *Sternula superciliaris*: two in Estero Ñeembucú on Oct 24, one on Oct 25.

Large-billed Tern - *Phaetusa simplex*: a few on the Rio Tebicuary on Oct. 23, 3 in Estero Ñeembucú on Oct 24.

Feral Pigeon - *Columba livia*: common in Asuncion and Eastern Paraguay.

Picazuro Pigeon - *Patagioenas picazuro*: common to abundant in the Chaco, occasionally seen in Eastern Paraguay (on Oct. 24, 27, 28).

Pale-vented Pigeon - *Patagioenas cayennensis*: several daily in the Ayolas area. Also seen and heard in San Rafael on Oct. 25-27.

Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata*: common in the Chaco, also seen on most days in Ayolas/Yacyreta, San Rafael, and Tirol.

Ruddy Ground-Dove - *Columbina talpacoti*: one near Laguna Capitan on Oct. 14, common in Eastern Paraguay.

Picui Ground-Dove - *Columbina picui*: common to abundant in the Chaco.

[Blue Ground-Dove - *Claravis pretiosa*: only seen by Hugo at Kanguery].

White-tipped Dove - *Leptotila verreauxi*: common to abundant in the Chaco.

Grey-fronted Dove - *Leptotila rufaxilla*: one heard on Oct. 25, one seen well at close range on Oct. 28.

Ruddy Quail-Dove - *Geotrygon montana*: a dead male (window crash victim) was seen at Tirol. Another male was seen well in the forest, a possible female (with the male) seemed to be present as well.

Blue-crowned Parakeet - *Aratinga acuticaudata*: seen on all days in the Chaco.

White-eyed Parakeet - *Aratinga leucophthalma*: heard daily in San Rafael and two well seen on Oct. 27.

Nanday Parakeet - *Nandayus nenday*: seen only along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct 13.

Reddish-bellied Parakeet - *Pyrrhura frontalis*: seen only in the Procosara area on Oct. 27 and 29, heard on Oct. 28.

Monk Parakeet - *Myiopsitta monachus*: common, seen on all days in the Chaco. Also in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area, San Rafael and along Ruta 1.

Blue-winged Parrotlet - *Forpus xanthopterygius*: seen only on Oct 12 at QYS in Asuncion (perched and feeding in trees) and Oct. 25 on Sendero Aguti (in flight only).

Scaly-headed Parrot - *Pionus maximiliani*: poor flights views in the Chaco on Oct. 13,18. Several times perched birds at San Rafael, where heard daily.

Turquoise-fronted Amazon - *Amazona aestiva*: seen on all days in the Chaco.

Dark-billed Cuckoo - *Coccyzus melacoryphus*: two on Sendero Aguti on Oct. 25, and 1-2 daily on Oct 27-29 in San Rafael. Also one seen twice on the trails of hotel Tirol.

Squirrel Cuckoo - *Piaya cayana*: two on Sendero Aguti on Oct. 25, and two on Oct 28 in San Rafael. Also 1-2 daily on the trails of hotel Tirol.

Striped Cuckoo - *Tapera naevia*: one near the hotel grounds at Ayolas on Oct. 25

Greater Ani - *Crotophaga major*: three (probably migrating) at Madrejon on Oct. 18, a small group on Sendero Agouti on Oct. 25. Also heard at San Rafael.

Smooth-billed Ani - *Crotophaga ani*: A group of 5 on Oct. 20, and two on Oct. 21. Also on Sendero Agouti on Oct. 25 and San Rafael on 28-29 Oct.

Guira Cuckoo - *Guira guira*: seen on most days throughout the trip.

Barn Owl - *Tyto alba*: one medium-sized very pale looking owl was almost certainly this species on a night drive at Est. Dorado on Oct. 19, one seen at Yacyreta island on the night drive of Oct. 24, seen on Oct. 27 and 28 in the Procosara area. Also nests/roosts around Estancia Nueva Gambach.

Tropical Screech-Owl - *Megascops choliba*: one at 3 m on the night drive of Oct. 15 and another at Timani bridge north of Madrejon on Oct. 18

Great Horned-Owl - *Bubo virginianus*: one around dusk on Oct. 15, another one near the Cerro Leon campsite on Oct. 16, two on Oct. 18 near Timani bridge.

Rusty-barred Owl - *Strix hylophila*: one responded to tape playback in San Rafael on Oct. 27 in a plantation of exotic trees. Luckily Hugo managed to find it in the dense foliage, which allowed us to take some pictures.



Chaco Owl - *Strix chacoensis*: one at the Enciso ranger station grounds on Oct. 19 and two on Oct. 21, of which one was again the same bird at Enciso ranger station.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl - *Glaucidium brasilianum*: one was seen at close range at the parking lot of Cerro Leon

Burrowing Owl - *Athene cunicularia*: about a handful seen on Oct. 14, two seen on Oct. 19 en route to Enciso, also in Ayolas on Oct. 23, 24, and one en route between Kanguery and Procosara.

Short-tailed Nighthawk - *Lurocalis semitorquatus nattereri*: one seen flying at dusk at Procosara on Oct. 27 and one seen at dusk at Tirol on Oct. 31. Heard almost daily at Procosara and Tirol.

Nacunda Nighthawk - *Podager nacunda*: One on Oct. 28 at Kanguery, heard on Oct. 23.

Pauraque - *Nyctidromus albicollis*: One on Oct. 19, one on the night drive through the dwarf palm savanna on Oct. 24, at least 5 on Oct. 28, while driving back from Kanguery to Procosara, heard on Oct. 25 and 26, and two near the Procosara accommodation on Oct. 27.

Ocellated Poorwill - *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*: one seen and photographed on the road between Kanguery and Procosara on Oct. 28.

Rufous Nightjar - *Caprimulgus rufus*: seen Oct. 16 and 21, heard Oct. 17 and 20.

Band-winged Nightjar - *Caprimulgus longirostris*: one seen in Defensores on Oct. 18.

Little Nightjar - *Caprimulgus parvulus*: the most common nightjar in the Chaco, seen on all days except Oct. 15 and 17.

Scissor-tailed Nightjar - *Hydropsalis torquata*: single birds seen in flight on Oct. 15 and 16.

Sickle-winged Nightjar - *Eleothreptus anomalus*: on the first night drive on Yacyreta island, we came back emptyhanded, but a storm was on its way, which may have influenced the birds' activity. On the second night, things went right from the start and we saw 6 birds, including several spectacular males.

Common Potoo - *Nyctibius griseus*: single bird at the palm savanna-forest edge on Oct. 24 and a roosting bird on Sendero Aguti Po'i on Oct. 25, an amazing 3 birds on Oct. 28 driving back from Kanguery to Procosara. Also heard on Oct. 16 and daily at dusk in Tirol.

Sick's Swift - *Chaetura meridionalis*: seen daily in the Chaco, also seen in San Rafael (Oct. 27, 28) and Tirol (Oct. 31)

Scale-throated Hermit - *Phaethornis eurynome*: a single bird seen at Procosara on Oct. 27 and 28.

Plovercrest - *Stephanoxis lalandi*: a female on one of trails at Procosara on Oct. 28, another female at Tirol on Nov. 1.

Glittering-bellied Emerald - *Chlorostilbon lucidus* – quite often recorded in the Chaco (on Oct. 15, 17-20), two on Oct. 24

Gilded Sapphire - *Hylocharis chrysura* : one on Oct 14 and one on Oct. 24

White-tailed Goldenthrroat - *Polytmus guainumbi*: one on Oct. 24

Blue-tufted Starthroat - *Heliomaster furcifer* : heard Oct. 15, seen on Oct, 16, 17 and Oct. 22, also on Oct. 24

Black-throated Trogon - *Trogon rufus*: A male was seen on Oct. 27 and 28 on the Sendero Surukua Saa Ju (Trogon Trail) and another one was seen on sendero Chachî on Oct. 28. Seen twice (both times a male) at hotel Tirol.

Surucua Trogon - *Trogon surrucura*: one pair lives in the garden around the Procosara buildings, but also seen around the lake and commonly heard in the forest, A pair was seen daily in the same spot at hotel Tirol. Commonly heard at Tirol.

Rufous-capped Motmot - *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*: one seen on Oct. 28 (sendero Chachî, Procosara), the same bird was seen every day at hotel Tirol.

Ringed Kingfisher - *Megaceryle torquata*: seen Oct. 13, 22-25, 27 and 29.

Amazon Kingfisher - *Chloroceryle amazona*: seen on Oct. 13 in the low Chaco and one en route between Asuncion and Campo Llano on Oct. 23. Hugo also recorded singles at San Rafael and Kanguery.

[White-eared Puffbird - *Nystalus chacuru*: only fleeting views of one flushed bird were had by Hugo at Procosara, we tried to relocate the bird, but could not find it].

Spot-backed Puffbird - *Nystalus maculatus*: quite common throughout the Chaco, a few seen on most days, seemed especially common en route from Enciso to Medanos.

Chestnut-eared Aracari - *Pteroglossus castanotis*: two at San Rafael on Oct. 28 and one in hotel Tirol on

Saffron Toucanet - *Pteroglossus bailloni*: one seen in the garden at Procosara on Oct. 27. Unfortunately, the bird did not stay very long.

Toco Toucan - *Ramphastos toco*: one seen flying in the low Chaco on Oct 22, one heard at Refugio Atinguy on Oct. 24 , one seen flying at a large distance at Kanguery on Oct. 28.

White-barred Piculet - *Picumnus cirratus*: a pair was seen on Oct. 17, also heard on Oct. 18, 20, 22. Also two males on the Sendero Aguti trail on Oct. 25.

White Woodpecker - *Melanerpes candidus*: seen along the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 13 and 22, also seen on Oct. 24, 25 and heard on Oct. 29.

White-fronted Woodpecker - *Melanerpes cactorum*: one en route to Defensores on Oct. 15, a pair at the Pirahu restaurant and a single male on Oct 22.

Checkered Woodpecker - *Veniliornis mixtus*: singles (male and female) seen on Oct. 16, 20, 21. Heard Oct. 17.

Little Woodpecker - *Veniliornis passerinus* : one male on Sendero Aguti on Oct. 25.

White-spotted Woodpecker - *Veniliornis spilogaster*: poor views of a female on Oct. 26, and good views of a female on Oct. 28.

Golden-green Woodpecker - *Piculus chrysochloros*: a female seen on Oct. 17, single male birds on Oct. 18, 19.

Green-barred Woodpecker - *Colaptes melanochloros*: recorded every day during our stay in Defensores and Enciso/Medanos (mostly males), also at Procosara on Oct 25, 29. and one seen in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area on Oct. 24.

Campo Flicker - *Colaptes campestris*: seen on the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 13, common in Campo Llano, Ayolas area, Kanguery grasslands and the non-forest areas around San Rafael and Tirol. Common roadside bird in Eastern Paraguay.

Pale-crested Woodpecker - *Ceelus lugubris*: heard on Oct. 16 and seen well on Oct. 17

Blond-crested Woodpecker - *Ceelus flavescens*: single birds seen well on Oct. 27 and 28, heard Oct. 29.

Lineated Woodpecker - *Dryocopus lineatus*: twice a male (Oct.30, 31) and once a female (Oct. 30) in the older forest areas of hotel Tirol

Crimson-crested Woodpecker – *Campephilus melanoleucos*: a male on Oct. 25 on sendero Akuti Po'i.

Robust Woodpecker - *Campephilus robustus*: spectacular close views of one that landed on a bare tree after hearing tape playback. A second bird showed up a few minutes later, but gave less impressive views (Oct. 29).

Cream-backed Woodpecker - *Campephilus leucopogon*: recorded surprisingly often in the Chaco, seen on all days except Oct. 15 and 20, a maximum of 3 was seen on Oct. 19.

[Spot-backed Antshrike - *Hypodaleus guttatus*: heard only on Oct 27,28]

[Giant Antshrike - *Batara cinerea*: heard only at Cerro Leon on Oct. 16]

Tufted Antshrike - *Mackenziaena severa*: a male was seen on Oct 27, a female was seen on Oct. 28 both on the trail behind the lake at Prosara. Heard at Procosara on Oct. 29.

Great Antshrike - *Taraba major*: heard regularly in the Chaco, seen on Oct. 13 and 20, also heard on Oct. 24

Barred Antshrike - *Thamnophilus doliatus*: pairs were seen on Oct. 16 and 18, a female on Oct. 17.

Bolivian Slaty-antshrike - *Thamnophilus sticturus*: good views of a male bird at Cerro Leon on Oct. 16

Variable Antshrike - *Thamnophilus caeruleus*: a female was seen Oct. 25, a male was seen at Procosara on Oct. 27.

Plain Antvireo - *Dysithamnus mentalis*: often heard, two seen on Oct 28 at Procosara, also seen twice on the trails at Tirol

Stripe-backed Antbird - *Myrmorchilus strigilatus*: a female gave quite good views on Oct. 16, heard daily in Defensores and Enciso

Rufous-winged Antwren - *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*: heard often at Procosara, but a pair seen midstorey on Oct. 27.

Dusky-tailed Antbird - *Drymophila malura*: heard regularly at Procosara, two males seen at Procosara on Oct. 27, heard regularly.

White-shouldered Fire-eye - *Pyriglena leucoptera*: at Procosara I got fairly good views on Oct. 28, 29, but I could not see the red eye. Only the very last morning at hotel Tirol, I finally saw two birds including the red eye that responded to tape playback very well.

Short-tailed Antthrush - *Chamaeza campanisona*: I scared one away from the Urutau trail at Procosara, but got good views of 3 different birds at hotel Tirol.

Crested Gallito - *Rhinocrypta lanceolata*: heard on Oct. 14, heard quite often in the Enciso area. Two were finally seen on Oct 21 en route to Medanos.

Rufous Hornero - *Furnarius rufus*: abundant almost everywhere.

Crested Hornero - *Furnarius cristatus*: quite common in the central Chaco and in the Enciso area (daily sightings), but strangely not seen/noticed in Defensores.

Chotoy Spinetail - *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*: two were seen on Oct. 21 in the Enciso area, also seen at Isla Yacyreta on Oct. 24.

Rufous-capped Spinetail - *Synallaxis ruficapilla*: single birds on Oct. 26 and 27 in San Rafael

Sooty-fronted Spinetail - *Synallaxis frontalis*: regularly heard in the Chaco and seen Oct. 13, 16 and 18. Also in San Rafael on Oct. 26.

Pale-breasted Spinetail - *Synallaxis albescens*: two in Timani bridge area on Oct. 18, also singles Oct. 21 and 22. in Enciso. Heard on Oct. 24.

Grey-bellied Spinetail - *Synallaxis cinerascens*: two singles seen on Oct. 28 and 29 in San Rafael.

[Olive Spinetail - *Cranioleuca obsoleta*: heard only on Oct. 25 on sendero Akuti Po'i on Yacyreta island]

Yellow-chinned Spinetail - *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*: heard on Oct. 14 and 24, one seen Oct 18.

Little Thornbird - *Phacellodomus sibilatrix*: one finally seen well when leaving Enciso in the morning of Oct. 22, heard quite regularly in the Enciso area.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird - *Phacellodomus rufifrons*: only seen on Oct. 13.

Greater Thornbird - *Phacellodomus ruber*: one seen on Oct. 23 at Camp Llano.

Lark-like Brushrunner - *Coryphistera alaudina*: seen in the central Chaco (Fortin Toledo) on Oct. 14, and twice at the ranger station in Enciso, also heard in Defensores on Oct. 16.

Brown Cacholote - *Pseudoseisura lophotes*: 1-4 seen daily in the central and high Chaco.

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner - *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*: two were seen on Oct. 25 and one on Oct. 27 at Procosara. One each seen on Oct. 30 and Nov. 1 at hotel Tirol.

Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner - *Philydor lichtensteini*: one was seen on Oct. 26 in San Rafael. Daily seen at Tirol.

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner - *Automolus leucophthalmus*: one very nervous bird was seen on Oct. 28 in San Rafael, two agitated but more approachable ones were seen well at Tirol (Oct. 31).

Olivaceous Woodcreeper - *Sittasomus griseicapillus*: one seen on Oct. 17 in Defensores. Single birds were seen on Oct. 26-28 in San Rafael. Heard only at Yacyreta island.

Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper - *Drymornis bridgesii*: fairly common in the Chaco, seen on Oct. 14, 17, 19-22.

Great Rufous Woodcreeper - *Xiphocolaptes major*: this one was heard regularly throughout the Chaco, but my first sighting was on the last full day (Oct. 21) in Enciso, where it was seen in the grounds of the ranger station. Possible the same bird was seen the next morning in the same area. Another one was seen at Pirahu restaurant while returning to Asuncion on Oct. 22.

Planalto Woodcreeper - *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*: one at Procosara on Oct. 27

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper - *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*: the most common woodcreeper in Paraguay, seen almost daily in the Chaco, also at Yacyreta island and hotel Tirol

[Lesser Woodcreeper - *Xiphorhynchus fuscus* : a possible one at hotel Tirol, but not sure, partly obscured view]

Red-billed Scythebill - *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*: quite common in the Chaco, seen on Oct.14-17 and 21, one seen on Oct. 25 on Sendero Aguti.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet - *Camptostoma obsoletum*: seen on Oct. 17 and heard on Oct. 18.

Yellow Tyrannulet - *Capsiempis flaveola*: seen at sendero Akuti Po'i and almost daily a few at Procosara

Suiriri Flycatcher - *Suiriri suiriri*: seen during a birding stop on the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 13, heard daily in the Enciso area where two single birds seen.

Greenish Elaenia - *Myiopagis viridicata*: two seen on Oct. 25 (one Yacyreta and one Procosara) and heard Oct. 27-29.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia - *Elaenia flavogaster*: seen on Yacyreta island (Oct 24) and at Procosara (Oct. 25). Also heard at Procosara on Oct. 27 and 29.

Large Elaenia - *Elaenia spectabilis*: heard and seen at the hotel in Ayolas, also two seen on Oct. 24.

White-crested Elaenia - *Elaenia albiceps*: one seen well on Oct. 25 (sendero Akuti Po'i).

Small-billed Elaenia - *Elaenia parvirostris*: seen in the central Chaco on Oct. 13 and 14.

White-bellied Tyrannulet - *Serpophaga munda*: one on Oct. 18.

Grey-crowned Tyrannulet - *Serpophaga griseiceps*: one on Oct. 18.

Plain Tyrannulet - *Inezia inornata*: seen On Oct. 17, 18 and on the trail at Enciso on Oct. 22.

Greater Wagtail-Tyrant - *Stigmatura budytoides*: seen on Oct. 16, and easily seen on the trail to the waterhole at Enciso.

Sharp-tailed Grass-Tyrant - *Culicivora caudacuta*: one seen at Kanguery on Oct. 28.

[Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant - *Euscarthmus meloryphus*: heard only on Oct. 21].

Sepia-capped Flycatcher - *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*: seen well on Oct. 25 (sendero Akuti Po'i) and one on Oct. 27 at Procosara.

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet - *Phylloscartes ventralis*: one seen on Oct. 27 at Procosara.

Southern Antpiper - *Corythopis delalandi*: one seen at close range on Oct. 28, two together feeding on the forest floor on Nov. 2 (Tirol).

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant - *Myiornis auricularis*: one seen well on Oct. 26 and heard on Oct. 28.

[Drab-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant - *Hemitriccus diops*: heard only on Oct 26 and 28]

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant - *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*: seen well several times in the Chaco. Heard almost daily throughout the Chaco. Heard at sendero Akuti Po'i (Oct. 25).

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher - *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps*: one seen very well on Oct. 26 and heard on Oct. 28

Yellow-olive Flycatcher - *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*: one seen on sendero Akuti Po'i

Bran-coloured Flycatcher - *Myiophobus fasciatus*: one seen well on Oct. 25 (sendero Akuti Po'i), heard Oct. 26, 28.

Euler's Flycatcher - *Lathrotriccus eulerei*: one seen well on Oct. 25 (sendero Akuti Po'i), heard Oct. 27.

Fuscous Flycatcher - *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*: seen in Defensores on Oct. 16, 18, 19, one at sendero Akuti Po'i (Oct. 25), one on Oct. 28.

Vermilion Flycatcher - *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: abundant in the Chaco, especially in the Defensores area. One male hawking for insects at QYS in Asuncion.

Grey Monjita - *Xolmis cinereus*: only seen at Campo Llano.

White Monjita - *Xolmis irupero*: several (5-10) seen in the lower and central Chaco on Oct. 13-15 and 22. Also at Campo Llano and Atinguy zoo on Oct. 24.

Cinereous Tyrant - *Knipolegus striaticeps*: single females seen on Oct. 14 and 20, single males were seen on Oct. 17, 19, 21.

Spectacled Tyrant - *Hymenops perspicillatus*: unfortunately only a female was seen on Oct. 25 on sendero Akuti Po'i.

Black-backed Water-Tyrant - *Fluvicola albiventer*: seen in the central Chaco on Oct. 14-15, and one at the water reservoir at Madrejon and one at Timani bridge on Oct. 18.

Long-tailed Tyrant - *Colonia colonus*: distant views of one perched near the lake at Procosara on Oct. 29

Strange-tailed Tyrant - *Alectrurus risora*: about 6-7 pairs seen at Campo Llano on Oct 23.

Streamer-tailed Tyrant - *Gubernetes yetapa*: at least 3 along the road to Atinguy zoo on Oct. 24, at least 10 at Kanguery.

Cattle Tyrant - *Machetornis rixosa*: common in Eastern Paraguay, relatively low numbers in the Chaco but seen Oct. 15,17, 20-22.

Rufous Casiornis - *Casiornis rufus*: seen in Defensores on Oct. 17, 18 and Enciso on Oct. 21, 22.

Eastern Sirystes - *Sirystes sibilator*: one male seen well on Oct. 28, heard on Oct. 26,29.

Swainson's Myiarchus - *Myiarchus swainsoni*: Seen at the hotel in Ayolas and Yacyreta island (Oct. 24-25) and San Rafael (Oct.26).

Brown-crested Myiarchus - *Myiarchus tyrannulus*: seen on most days in both the low and high Chaco.

Great Kiskadee - *Pitangus sulphuratus*: common throught the country, scarce in the high Chaco.

Boat-billed Flycatcher - *Megarynchus pitangua*: several seen daily at Procosara and in the Ayolas area.

Social Flycatcher - *Myiozetetes similis*: one at the lake at Procosara on Oct. 28.

Streaked Flycatcher - *Myiodynastes maculatus*: seen Oct. 13, 20-22, fairly common at Yacyreta Island and San Rafael.

Variegated Flycatcher - *Empidonomus varius*: on Oct. 17 (Defensores) we saw a bird whose behaviour and plumage closest matched a juvenile bird of this species. Fairly common at Yacyreta Island, San Rafael, and Tirol.

Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher - *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*: common to abundant throughout the Chaco.

Tropical Kingbird - *Tyrannus melancholicus*: common to abundant throughout the country.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher - *Tyrannus savana* : common throughout Paraguay in open country, relatively scarce in parts of the high Chaco.

Black-tailed Tityra - *Tityra cayana*: 1-4 pairs seen on most days in San Rafael.

Black-crowned Tityra - *Tityra inquisitor*: 1-2 pairs seen on most days in San Rafael, heard only at Tirol.

Greenish Schiffornis - *Schiffornis virescens*: one responded to playback and was seen racing over our heads on Oct. 29, but never seen perched. Heard on Oct. 27,28.

Green-backed Becard - *Pachyramphus viridis*: a single male was seen on Oct. 21, two female-type birds and a male were seen on Oct. 22 at Pirahu.

White-winged Becard - *Pachyramphus polychopterus*: seen at Atinguy zoo on Oct. 24, a pair on Oct. 27, and daily 1-4 at Tirol.

Crested Becard - *Pachyramphus validus*: only seen on Oct. 24.

Swallow-tailed/Blue Manakin - *Chiroxiphia caudata*: on the Tuka Pakoba trail in San Rafael 2 adult males and 2 sub-adult males on Oct. 27 and 2 adult males and one sub-ad male on Oct. 29. 1-2 males at hotel Tirol seen daily.

White-tipped Plantcutter - *Phytotoma rutila*: a female was in the Timani bridge area on Oct. 18

Purplish Jay - *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*: a group (>5) was seen on Oct. 16 and a single bird crossing the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 22.

Plush-crested Jay - *Cyanocorax chrysops*: quite common throughout the Chaco, recorded all days, recorded most days at Tirol and in San Rafael often in plantations, forest edge or agricultural areas.

White-rumped Swallow - *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*: seen in Ayolas area on Oct. 23-24 and 1 on Oct. 28.

Brown-chested Martin - *Progne tapera*: small numbers on Oct. 13 and 22 along the Trans-Chaco Highway

Grey-breasted Martin - *Progne chalybea*: small numbers on Oct. 13 and 22 along the Trans-Chaco Highway, also at Procosara on Oct. 27-29.

Tawny-headed Swallow - *Alopocheidon fucata*: about 15 seen in savanna on Yacyreta island on Oct.24.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow - *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: only at Campo Llano and Kanguery

Sedge Wren - *Cistothorus platensis*: two seen at Kanguery

Fawn-breasted Wren - *Thryothorus guarayanus*: one on Oct. 18

House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*: easy to see at QYS in Asuncion (Oct. 12 and 22), heard on Oct. 17, two at Pirahu on Oct. 22, also at Ayolas/Yacyreta, San Rafael and Tirol.

Masked Gnatcatcher - *Polioptila dumicola*: seen on Oct. 13-15, 17, 19-20 in the Chaco, also QYS in Asuncion, Ayolas hotel grounds and Yacyreta island.

Eastern Slaty-thrush - *Turdus subalaris*: mediocre views of one at San Rafael on Oct. 27, at least 3 different ones were heard singing at Tirol, of which two were seen.

Rufous-bellied Thrush - *Turdus rufiventris*: common in Eastern Paraguay. Also seen at Pirahu in the lower Chaco.

Pale-breasted Thrush - *Turdus leucomelas*: seen every day in Eastern Paraguay and at QYS in Asuncion.

Creamy-bellied Thrush - *Turdus amaurochalinus*: seen most days in the Chaco, also at QYS.

White-necked Thrush - *Turdus albicollis*: one seen on Oct. 24 in the Ayolas area and one at Tirol on Oct. 30.

Chalk-browed Mockingbird - *Mimus saturninus*: only seen in the low and central Chaco, also seen on Oct. 23 en route and in Campo Llano, in the Ayolas area on Oct. 24 and at Estancia Nueva Gambach on Oct. 27.

White-banded Mockingbird - *Mimus triurus*: a few birds seen en route to Medanos and a few seen within Medanos national park on Oct. 20 and two seen on Oct. 21.

Short-billed Pipit - *Anthus furcatus* : only recorded at Campo Llano

Yellowish Pipit - *Anthus lutescens* : heard on Oct. 24 and a few seen on Oct. 28 at Kanguery  
[Ochre-breasted Pipit - *Anthus nattereri*: heard daily in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area]

Red-eyed Vireo - *Vireo olivaceus*: seen in the central Chaco on Oct. 13, 14, also one seen on Oct. 18, heard only at San Rafael and Yacyreta island.

Rufous-crowned Greenlet - *Hylophilus poicilotis*: only one seen on Nov. 2 at hotel Tirol

Rufous-browed Peppershrike - *Cyclarhis gujanensis*: commonly to abundantly heard in the high Chaco, seen on Oct. 16-18, and Oct. 22. Also heard in the central Chaco, Yacyreta and San Rafael.

Tropical Parula - *Parula pitiayumi*: heard regularly , but only seen in the Enciso area on Oct. 21

Masked Yellowthroat - *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*: one in the Timani bridge area on Oct. 18, also recorded at Sandero Akuti Po'i, the lake area at Procosara and Kanguery.

Golden-crowned Warbler - *Basileuterus culicivorus*: probably the most common warbler/bird in San Rafael and Tirol.

White-browed Warbler - *Basileuterus leucoblepharus*: 1-5 seen daily at San Rafael and Tirol.

Bananaquit - *Coereba flaveola*: one near a cleared area in hotel Tirol.

Chestnut-vented Conebill - *Conirostrum speciosum*: poor views of one at Atinguy zoo.

Fawn-breasted Tanager - *Pipraeidea melanonota*: only one seen at hotel Tirol.

Blue Dacnis - *Dacnis cayana*: only 1 male seen in the hotel gardens at Ayolas.

Sayaca Tanager - *Thraupis sayaca*: common in Eastern Paraguay, Asuncion, low Chaco and occasional sightings in the high Chaco.

Ruby-crowned Tanager - *Tachyphonus coronatus*: common at San Rafael and Tirol.

Black-goggled Tanager - *Trichothraupis melanops*: fairly regular sightings at San Rafael and Tirol

Chestnut-headed Tanager - *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps*: singles or pairs daily at San Rafael, seen twice at Tirol

Hooded Tanager - *Nemosia pileata*: only one male seen at Atinguy zoo on Oct.24.

Guira Tanager - *Hemithraupis guira*: a pair on sendero Akuti Po'i. In San Rafael a female on Oct. 26, 2 pairs on Oct. 27 and one pair on Oct. 28. A pair was seen at hotel Tirol on Nov. 1 and 2.

Orange-headed Tanager - *Thlypopsis sordida*: only seen on sendero Akuti Po'i on Oct. 25 and one in the hotel gardens at Ayolas (Oct. 23).

Magpie Tanager - *Cissopis leverianus*: three were seen on sendero Urutau and two in the garden of Estancia Nueva Gambach on Oct. 27.

Lowland Hepatic-Tanager - *Piranga flava*: females on Oct. 17 and 18, a pair on Oct. 21

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager - *Habia rubica*: one seen at San Rafael, and common at hotel Tirol

Greyish Saltator - *Saltator coerulescens*: seen Oct. 14, 18-20, at Pirahu on Oct. 22, and at QYS in Asuncion.

Green-winged Saltator - *Saltator similis*: three seen on Oct. 27, heard on Oct. 25 and 29.

Golden-billed Saltator - *Saltator aurantirostris*: seen on Oct. 15-17, also heard on Oct. 14, 19, and 22.

Black-backed Grosbeak - *Pheucticus aureoventris*: shy and sometimes difficult to see well, but one seen on Oct. 18 and 19, three on Oct. 20 and a total of 8 (including a female) on Oct. 21.

Ultramarine Grosbeak - *Cyanocompsa brissonii*: a pair seen on Oct. 14 en route to Laguna Capitan, also seen on Oct. 15 and a male seen on Oct. 27 in San Rafael

Red-crested Cardinal - *Paroaria coronata*: common to abundant throughout the Chaco, occasionally seen in Eastern Paraguay.

Yellow-billed Cardinal - *Paroaria capitata*: only seen in the central Chaco on Oct. 13-14.

Red-Pileated/Red-Crested Finch - *Coryphospingus cucullatus*: common to abundant throughout the Chaco,

Many-coloured Chaco-finch - *Saltatricula multicolor*: common to abundant throughout the Chaco

Saffron-billed Sparrow - *Arremon flavirostris*: very poor views of one in dark undergrowth at sendero Akuti Po'i, on Oct. 25, heard at San Rafael.

Double-collared Seedeater - *Sporophila caerulescens*: seen on Oct 24 in grassy areas/natural grasslands on Yacyreta island and near Refugio Atinguy. Also seen at Kanguery.

White-bellied Seedeater - *Sporophila leucoptera*: seen on Oct 24-25 in grassy areas or grasslands on Yacyreta island. Also seen at Kanguery on Oct. 28.

Capped Seedeater - *Sporophila bouvreuil*: the most common seedeater during our visit, seen on Oct 23 at Campo Llano, and Oct 24-25 in grassy areas or grasslands on Yacyreta island. Also seen at Kanguery on Oct. 28.

Tawny-bellied Seedeater - *Sporophila hypoxantha*: seen on Oct. 23 at Campo Llano and grassland near Atinguy zoo on Oct. 24.

Dark-throated Seedeater - *Sporophila ruficollis*: one male seen on the road to Atinguy zoo on Oct. 24.

Blue-black Grassquit - *Volatinia jacarina*: 1 male on Oct. 25 and 3 seen on Oct. 28

Great Pampa-Finch - *Embernagra platensis*: seen at Campo Llano on Oct. 23, and Oct 24-25 in grassy areas or grasslands on Yacyreta island. Also at Kanguery on Oct. 28.

Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch - *Emberizoides herbicola*: seen at Campo Llano on Oct. 23 and Kanguery on Oct. 28.

Lesser Grass-Finch - *Emberizoides ypiranganus*: seen on Oct 24 in natural grasslands on Yacyreta island. Head at Campo Llano on Oct.23.

Saffron Finch - *Sicalis flaveola*: common to abundant, seen almost daily throughout the Chaco. Also regularly seen in Eastern Paraguay.

Chaco Warbling-finch - *Poospiza pectoralis*: common to abundant in the central and high Chaco.

Black-capped Warbling-Finch - *Poospiza melanoleuca*: common to abundant in the central and high Chaco, where recorded every day.

Ringed Warbling-Finch - *Poospiza torquata*: one female en route to Medanos from Enciso

Long-tailed Reed-Finch - *Donacospiza albifrons*: one seen at Campo Llano and one at Kanguery.

Black-crested Finch - *Lophospingus pusillus*: 2 males seen well en route to Medanos

Grassland Sparrow - *Ammodramus humeralis*: commonly seen at Campo Llano, Yacyreta island/Ayolas and Kanguery.

Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis*: seen in the central Chaco on Oct. 14, one at Enciso on Oct. 20 and several on Oct. 22, easy to see at QYS in Asuncion, quite common at Ayolas/Yacyreta and non-forest areas around San Rafael.

Shiny Cowbird - *Molothrus bonariensis*: common throughout Paraguay, seen daily.

Red-rumped Cacique - *Cacicus haemorrhous*: abundant at hotel Tirol, small numbers daily at San Rafael.

Golden-winged Cacique - *Archiplanus chrysopterus*: one seen during a short birding stop along the TransChaco on Oct. 13, also seen in the Ayolas/Yacyreta area on Oct. 24, 25.

Solitary Cacique - *Procacicus solitarius*: fairly common in the Chaco, where seen on Oct. 14, 16-19, and 21. Also seen on sendero Akuti Po'i on Oct. 25.

Chopi Blackbird - *Gnorimopsar chopi*: common in Eastern Paraguay. In the Chaco only seen in the lower Chaco.

Unicolored Blackbird - *Agelasticus cyanopus*: only seen on Oct. 13

Chestnut-capped Blackbird - *Chrysomus ruficapillus*: seen at Pirahu on Oct. 22 and at Kanguery on Oct. 28

Epaulet Oriole - *Icterus cayanensis*: seen several times in the Chaco, on Oct. 13, 16, 17, 19 and 22. Also seen on Yacyreta island (Oct. 24) and at San Rafael (Oct. 26).

Orange-backed Troupial - *Icterus croconotus*: a total of four was seen in Defensores on Oct. 17, two and one bird were seen on Oct. 19 and 20, respectively.

Scarlet-headed Blackbird - *Amblyramphus holosericeus*: one was seen in the low Chaco on Oct. 13 and at least 3 birds were seen on the road to Atinguy zoo.

Yellow-rumped Marshbird - *Pseudoleistes guirahuro*: quite common in marshy areas around Ayolas, Yacyreta island, Campo Llano, and Kanguery.

White-browed Blackbird - *Sturnella superciliaris*: seen in open/cattle ranch areas in the Chaco on Oct. 13, 14 and a single female was seen in a grassy area of a deserted mining camp on Oct. 21. Also seen in open areas/ranches in the Ayolas area and San Rafael.

Blue-naped Chlorophonia - *Chlorophonia cyanea*: three were seen on sendero Chachi, Procosara, on Oct. 28. Couples were seen on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at Tirol.

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia - *Euphonia pectoralis*: a pair was seen feeding and carrying nest material on Oct. 29.

Hooded Siskin - *Carduelis magellanica*: a female on Oct. 23 at the lunchstop in Va. Florida, single males on Oct 24, 25, and 1 pair on Oct. 26.

House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*: common in urban and cultivated areas.



## Identified Reptiles and Amphibians

Argentine Tortoise *Chelonoidis petersi*: one in Defensores on Oct. 17.

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman yacare*: a few in pools at Fortin Toledo on Oct. 14.

Point-Nosed False Chameleon *Polychrus acutirostris*: a few seen at Enciso.

Patagonian Racer *Philodryas patagoniensis*: a dying snake (hit by a motor) was seen on Oct. 23.

Tropical Rattlesnake *Crotalus durissus*: one on the Trans-Chaco Highway on Oct. 14, two were seen on the nightdrive on Oct. 17.

Rainbow Boa *Epicrates cenchria*: a juvenile at Defensores on Oct. 16.

Red-spotted Burrow-Frog *Heptadactylus laticeps*: a single seen at Tunocojai on Oct. 13.

Four-toed Whiptail Lizard *Teius teyou*: one of the more common lizards in the Chaco, easy to see on the trail at Enciso HQ.

Black Tegu *Tupinambis meriana*: very common around hotel Tirol and often seen at San Rafael.

Red Tegu *Tupinambis rufescens*: two seen en route from Defensores to Enciso between 4 de Mayo and Tte. Picco.

