

BIRD TREKS

SOUTHERN ARGENTINA

The Pampas, Patagonia, & Tierra del Fuego

Dates Sunday, 2 December through Wednesday, 19 December 2012.
18 days and 17 nights, which includes overnight flights to and from Buenos Aires.

We'll visit Extraordinary **Tierra del Fuego** where we'll explore **Le Martial Glacier**, the **Beagle Channel**, and **Tierra del Fuego National Park** in the many hours of daylight at the *southern tip of the Americas*.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Los Glaciers National Park** near Calafate, home of the world famous **Moreno Glacier** and **Lago Argentino**.

Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the **Valdes Peninsula** and **Punto Tambo**, where more than *half a million Magellanic Penguins* breed, along with thousands of other seabirds.

The **Argentine Pampas**. These extensive grasslands are one of the Earth's great plains. We are likely to see more than 100 species of birds here each day.

Some of the species that we hope to see include . . .

Lesser Rhea	White-throated Caracara
Greater Rhea	Tawny-throated Dotterel
Spotted Nothura	Dolphin Gull
Gentoo Penguin	Monk Parakeet
Magellanic Penguin	Green-barred Woodpecker
King Cormorant	Checkered Woodpecker
Rock Shag	Patagonian Canastero
Imperial Shag	White-throated Treerunner
Chilean Flamingo	Rufous-capped Antshrike
Black-necked Swan	Spectacled Tyrant
Chubut Steamerduck	Rusty-backed Monjita
Kelp Goose	Masked Gnatcatcher
Upland Goose	Sayaca Tanager
Andean Condor	Ultramarine Grosbeak
Snail Kite	Black-&-rufous Warbling-Finch
Long-winged Harrier	Patagonian Yellow-Finch



Long-tailed Meadowlark
Luis Segura - - Birding Argentina

[More target species are on page 2]

Species that we'll make a special effort to see . . .

Black-browed Albatross	Curve-billed Reedhaunter
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	Straight-billed Reedhaunter
Hooded Grebe	Hudson's Canastero
Spectacled Duck	Band-tailed Earthcreeper
Austral Rail	Magellanic Tapaculo
White-bellied Seedsnipe	White-naped Xenopsaris
Magellanic Plover	Yellow-bridled Finch
Magellanic Woodpecker	



Other wildlife that we may encounter includes . . .

Orca	Guinea Pig
Dusky Dolphin	Mara
Southern Elephant Seal	Culpeo (Fuegian Fox)
Southern Sea Lion	Southern River Otter
Pampas Deer	Marine Otter
Guanaco	

Southern Sea Lions

Luis Segura - - Birding Argentina

SOUTHERN ARGENTINA

2-19 December 2012

- | <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Agenda</u> |
|------------|-------------|---|
| 1 | Dec 2 | Begin overnight flight from the US to Buenos Aires. |
| 2 | Dec 3 | After your arrival in Buenos Aires we'll tour Costanera Sur. This reserve, located within fifteen minutes of downtown Buenos Aires, is a great introduction to the wildlife of the Pampas. Typical birds include Coscoroba and Black-necked Swan , three species of coot , Yellow-billed Cardinal , and Great Pampa-Finch . We'll spend the night in Buenos Aires. |
| 3 | Dec 4 | After our morning flight to Ushuaia, we'll make our way to Le Martial Glacier. Here we'll take a chairlift ride above timberline to enjoy views of the glacier, surrounding mountains, and the Beagle Channel, as we search for specialties such as White-bellied Seedsnipe and the rare Yellow-bridled Finch . Three nights in Ushuaia. |
| 4 | Dec 5 | Today we'll board a catamaran for a boat tour of the Beagle Channel. We should find Gentoo and Magellanic Penguins , King Cormorant , and Snowy Sheathbill , with possibilities for several pelagic species including Black-browed Albatross , Southern Fulmar , and Magellanic Diving-Petrel , along with some marine mammals. Our second night in Ushuaia. |

[Day 5 begins on page 3]

- 5 Dec 6 Our entire day will be spent birding Tierra del Fuego National Park. This will give us a chance to explore pristine *Nothofagus* (Southern Beech) forest typical of this far southern landscape. Special birds of this habitat include **White-throated Caracara**, **Austral Pygmy-Owl**, the striking **Magellanic Woodpecker**, and **Magellanic Tapaculo**. Final night in Ushuaia.
- 6 Dec 7 After our morning flight to Calafate, we'll spend the afternoon birding the outskirts of town. Our main target will be the **Magellanic Plover**, a unique shorebird in its own family. Our next three nights are in Calafate.
- 7-8 Dec 8-9 We will dedicate two full days to Los Glaciares National Park where **Andean Condor** is possible at any time. On one of these days we'll take a boat tour on Argentino Lake for views of Upsala, Onelli, and Spegazzini Glaciers, and a good chance for seeing the handsome **White-throated Treerunner**. Other birds that we are likely to see include **Black-necked Swan**, **Upland Goose**, and **Chilean Flamingo**, among many additional species. Both nights in Calafate.
- 9 Dec 10 We'll transfer by road to the beautiful Patagonian High Plateau to spend a night at a local estancia (ranch) near the nesting area of the **Hooded Grebe**. This rare bird was discovered in 1974 and this is THE best place to find it. Another incredibly rare bird that resides here is the **Austral Rail**; we found both of these prized species on recent tours.
- 10 Dec 11 After the drive back to Calafate we'll board our flights to Trelew. From here we'll make the short drive to Puerto Madryn, taking advantage of any birding opportunities along the way. Our first night in Puerto Madryn.
- 11 Dec 12 Today we'll visit the Valdes Peninsula where, among the throngs of nesting penguins, cormorants, gulls, and terns, we'll watch the colonies of **Southern Elephant Seals** and **Southern Sea Lions**, and hope for an appearance by the **Orcas** that hunt these waters. We'll also search the steppe for land birds including **Lesser Rhea**, **Tawny-throated Dotterel**, the near endemic **Band-tailed Earthcreeper**, **Patagonian Canastero**, the endemic **White-throated Cacholote**, **Rusty-backed Monjita**, and **Carbonated Sierra-Finch**. A second night in Puerto Madryn.



Punta Pardelas

Axel Bos - - Birding Argentina

12 Dec 13 Punta Tambois is the breeding ground for 700,000 Magellanic Penguins. Other birds that nest here include **Rock and Imperial Shags**, **Chubut (White-headed) Steamerduck**, **Kelp and Dolphin Gulls**, and **South American Tern**. We'll spend the day enjoying this spectacle before returning to Trelew for our evening flight to Buenos Aires, where we'll spend the night.

[Day 13 begins on page 4]

- 13 Dec 14 Today we'll head north from Buenos Aires for a day in the area known as Ceibas. This collection of grasslands and woodlands holds many special birds. Some of the more charismatic of these include **White-fronted** and **White Woodpeckers**, **Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper**, **Brown Cacholote**, and **Lark-like Bushrunner**. Second night in Buenos Aires.
- 14, 15, 16 We'll drive to San Clemente to spend three days birding the Pampas. En route
Dec 15-17 we may have the opportunity to see the incredibly rare **Pampas Deer**. While birding the areas of San Clemente and Punta Rasa, we'll hope to see grassland birds including **Greater Rhea**, **Spotted Nothura**, **Firewood-Gatherer**, **Hudson's Canastero**, and **Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail**. Many of our northern breeding shorebirds will be on their wintering grounds, including **White-rumped** and **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**, and **Hudsonian Godwit**. All three nights in San Clemente.
- 17 Dec 18 Return to Buenos Aires to begin your late night flights to the US and home. Overnight somewhere over the Amazon Basin.
- 18 Dec 19 Arrive home, savoring a wonderful experience in **Southern Argentina**.

A map of the tour route can be seen by clicking on this link:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117812928873209532533.000463389efeddba997b4&ll=-34.270836,-59.853516&spn=26.024027,57.128906&z=5>

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Magellanic Horned-Owl, what a beauty! - - *Luis Segura*

[Important details on page 5]

Leader Our birding tour to **Southern Argentina** will be led by **Luis Segura**, owner of Birding Argentina, with the expert assistance of additional English-speaking guides at each of our locations.

Price Approximately \$6495 per person based upon double occupancy, with a minimum of seven participants. The fee may be adjusted up or down depending upon the number of participants and the price of flights within Argentina. We will do our best to hold to the quoted tour fee. Single accommodations are available at an approximate extra charge of \$695.

Includes Expert guide service, lodging for 15 nights, plus two nights in the air flying to and from Buenos Aires, **ALL meals**, entrance fees, and all air, ground, and boat transportation within Argentina. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything you wish to give to your tour leader and local guides.



Leader Luis Segura

Does not include cost of airfare to and from Buenos Aires. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, help you obtain the best airfare. Also not included are your travel visa, any airport taxes, the cost of alcoholic beverages, and items of a personal nature.

Deposit A \$1500 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable on 2 September 2012. Please send your reservation soon to secure your spot on the tour and to obtain the best possible airfare.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her at Bailey Travel, **1-800-224-5399**, or e-mail Lori at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There may be a fee for these services.

Refund and Cancellation Policy With written notice more than 90 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$100 service fee. With 30-90 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.

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