

Bird & Mammal Trip Report
Argentina – The Northeast (Feb-Mar 2022)



Rob Jansen
photography

Introduction

About us

We are two enthusiastic nature lovers who travel the world together to search for stunning birds, fascinating mammals and incredible nature. Our world travel started in October 2021 in Chile, where we bought a car to drive through South-America in search of birds and mammals for about 2 years.

Rob Jansen is biologist and wildlife photographer, and thus has a lot of knowledge about species and ecology. He is enthusiastic about all that's in nature, but mainly photographs birds and mammals.

Romy Jansen-Houtzager is a marketing professional. The marketing behind our social media accounts, the look and feel of this report and the website are her work. In the field, she is an excellent spotter and very patient (give me some of her patience ...and hurry!).



Rob photographing a **Yellow Cardinal**



Romy at RN Rincón de Santa María

Information and how to use this trip report

This trip report covers the northeast region of Argentina, from Buenos Aires towards the Iguazú Waterfalls. For all photos of our Argentina trip, comments, compliments, any specific questions, visit and/or contact us via our website.

 www.robjansenphotography.com/argentina

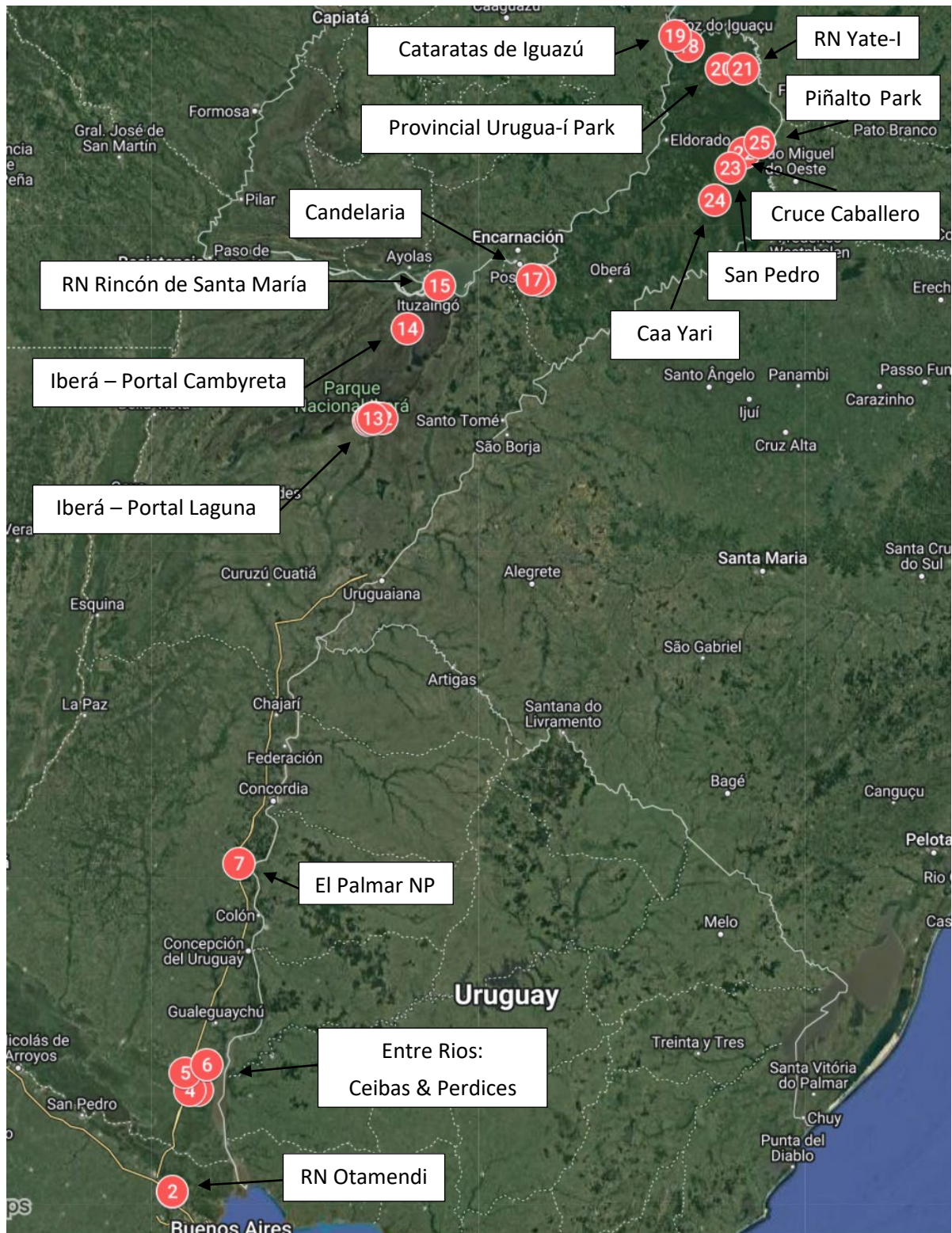
 www.instagram.com/robjansenphotography

Species are highlighted in this trip report: **blue for birds**, **red for mammals** and **green for herpetofauna**. Target species which we missed at a specific spot are written in *italic*. This gives you an idea which species to pay extra attention to. All observations made by us in this part of Argentina can be found on Observation.org. We observed a total of about 292 bird species and 19 mammal species in the northeast region of Argentina. Click here for the: [total bird list](#), [total mammal list](#) or [the total species list](#).

For more trip reports see our website: www.robjansenphotography.com/trip-reports

Map and specific locations

After seeing the entire Atlantic Coast of Argentina up to Buenos Aires (see previous trip report) we spend some time in Buenos Aires for a Spanish Course. Afterwards we travelled the northeastern part of Argentina. This trip report describes the places from Buenos Aires north towards the famous waterfalls of Iguazú.



We made a [map in Google My Maps](#) with pointers of interesting trails and places and specific bird and mammal locations. You can view this map, download the points and add them to your own map (click on the three dots above the legend and download the KML file and drag this to your own map), or add them in the app 'Maps.me'. Maps.me has almost all walking trails on it and you can use it offline. Route navigation by car doesn't always work great though and it's better to use Google maps for that purpose.

Weather and timing

We visited the northeast region of Argentina as part of our world travel from the 20th of February till the 21st of March 2022. The weather was generally hot in the northeast. Temperatures were between 21-24 °C at night and 30-35 °C at daytime. We had days above 40 °C! It had been quite dry for about two years, and water levels were low. We did have quite some days with rain though. Spring would probably be a better time (end of October/beginning of November). Less surface water will have evaporated, temperatures will be the same and more birds will be in breeding plumage (for example the Strange-tailed Tyrant).

Transportation

Our transportation in this trip report was of course our Toyota 4Runner SR5 4.0 2010 (2x4) called 'Forrest'. We bought this car in Santiago and got it converted so that we could sleep in it as well. A car with high clearance isn't needed per se in the northeast region of Argentina, but we would recommend it. There are lots of gravel roads which we took with great ease. These are doable with a normal sedan, but require more care. Rain made lots of roads impassable though, as the ground turned into mud and a slippery clayish layer formed (the 101 near Iguazú for example). We had to wait out a 1-2 days to make sure the roads were driveable (to and from Iberá NP and at Caa Yari).



Our loyal friend Forrest at NP Iberá



Forrest on the road at Calendaría

Literature

- Birds of Argentina and the South-west Atlantic, Helm Field Guides, 1st edition, 2020, Mark Pearman & Juan I. Areta. *Drawings are ok, but for some species the details and proportions seem a bit off. But then, it's practically the only book for birders in Argentina. Searching up a bird (family) isn't made*

easy as the list in the beginning of the book is not alphabetically ordered. They do, however, pay extra attention to taxonomy and possible splits.

- Mammals of the Southern Cone, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, 2020, 1st edition, Lynx. *Happy that Lynx decided to make mammals guides. This book is small and easy to take along and has all the mammals in there! For naturalists who are interested in the bigger fauna (not being bats, mice etc) this guide should suffice.*

- Merlin app for the birds sound. *Just amazing that the app is free. We didn't miss any sounds.*

- BirdNet app for recording the bird sounds. If you don't know all the bird sounds, BirdNet can help you record the sound and give a possible ID. It helped us a few times when we were frustratingly searching for a bird we heard deep inside the shrubs and couldn't find. A sure ID of a more common bird from BirdNet saved us some time here and there ;)

- iOverlander app for camping places. This app gives nice information on where to camp or buy stuff.

Equipment

Photography: Sony A9 II + 200-600mm + 1.4x converter + Sony 24-105mm, GoPro Hero 9

Binoculars and telescope: Swarovski EL 8x32 WB, Eden 8x32 XP, Swarovski 65HD + 25-50mm

Heat scope/Thermal imager: Lahoux Spotter Elite 35V (lahouxbirding.com). A great heat scope from a company in The Netherlands. I owned other brands, but we are super happy with the sharpness, modes and light weight of this heat scope! More here: robjansenphotography.com/lahouxbirding

Spotlighting: Fenix HT18 Long Distance Flashlight (powerful, very focussed and my preferred choice for open areas), Fenix TK35 2018-edition (less powerful and focussed than the HT18, but still very strong and nice for spotlighting!), Fenix FD41 Focus Flashlight (comparable to the LedLenser), LedLenser P7R (can be focussed 😊)

Use of cell phones in Argentina

There are two bigger telecom providers in Argentina, Claro and Movistar. Both require foreigners to register their SIM-card online with their help via social media. We bought a Movistar chip at a kiosk. This couldn't be bought at Movistar stores surprisingly. Activating it was rather cumbersome. Information is all in Spanish when activating it on the phone, then they refer you to a number or Facebook. On FB they refer you again to WhatsApp. On WhatsApp we got only automatic messages from a bot. Only by putting comments on random posts on FB I got in contact and was able to register in the end (took me 2 weeks). Romy tried this but never got help, so she went to a store and they were able to help her there. So if you are going for Movistar: buy a chip at a kiosk and go to a Movistar store to get it activated. Cumsome, but it will be the quickest fix for short holidays.

Cash Argentina

Bring dollars/euros when visiting Argentina and be sure to look up the 'Blue Dollar' rates. As inflation is high in Argentina, currencies like dollars and euros are wanted to make sure savings don't go up in

smoke. However, it's hard for Argentines to get these currencies. The 'Blue Dollar' rates are way higher than the official exchange rates (double the amount as we write this). Western Union will give you the Blue Dollar rate when you transfer money to yourself and pick it up at the counter (we pay a €3,90 fee for this). Your money will bring you twice as far or you can spend twice as much (depending on your style). Check online if the 'Blue Dollar' still exists, as politics made it 'disappear' for a few years (it's back since 2019). Argentinean pesos are worth nothing if you want to change them back to your local currency (and not many places do this anyways) so be smart on how many Argentinean pesos you get and spend it all in Argentina ;).

Water-to-Go

To reduce plastic usage on our travels we bought Water-to-Go water bottles. Read about our experience with Water-to-Go on our website: www.robjansenphotography.com/water-to-go. The bottle and filters are not too expensive, and you will have your investment back within one holiday. If you order with the voucher **RJANSEN15** you will get **15% discount** as well! Check the website here: www.watertogousa.com (United States of America, Canada), www.watertogo.eu (United Kingdom) or www.watertogo.shop (most countries in the EU)

Visited sites

RN Otamendi

[-34.2254, -58.90013](#)

Visited dates: 20-21 February 2022

General information: The reserve is open from Wednesday till Sunday from 11.00 - 18.00, and closed on Monday and Tuesday. There are no hostels, only a camping. Nobody showed at the camping, so we slept in our car at the end of the road towards the golf course ([-34.23393, -58.89906](#)).

We arrived Sunday afternoon and walked the short trail behind the information centre. The trail only takes 1-2 hours and has a nice viewpoint over the marshes. We found it very quiet and only found **Grey-throated Warbling Finch** and **Green-winged Saltator** as new species.

Afterwards we birded the road on the other side of the railway. This is a public road, and also accessible outside of the reserve hours. The road was quite busy when we were there, lots of noisy cars passing and dust flying around because of that. The main targets here are **Straight-billed Reedhaunter** and **Curve-billed Reedhaunter**. The latter was found quite easily on the first 100m after the curve (from here: [-34.22087, -58.89574](#)). This part of the road has nice sedge and reed on both sides. Further north the road has trees and bushes on the east side of the road, but still good marshy habitat on the west side. We got warned by a man passing by that we might get robbed walking there with our camera and binos by the people living along the railway. This made the birding obviously less pleasant. We decided to drive, park, bird 50m towards the south and north, drive again 100m and repeat. We covered quite some distance and found **Sulphur-bearded Reedhaunter**, **Curve-billed Reedhaunter**, **Spix's Spinetail** and some more common bird species. **Brazilian Guinea Pig** crossed the road several times, especially late afternoon and early morning. It was when we were about to give up and walked back to our car that we suddenly got 2 **Straight-billed Reedhaunters** right next to our car (where we tried earlier that morning and the day before!). Not the most exciting place to bird, but some good species. **Ash-throated Cuckoo** is found here as well by others.



Gray-throated Warbling Finch

Straight-billed Reedhaunter

Entre Rios

[-33.49868, -58.74754](#)

Visited dates: 21-23 February 2022

Ceibas – Reserva Natural Ceibas

[-33.49109, -58.67994](#)

This nature reserve is open all the time and doesn't have a gate or anything. Although it's a reserve, lots of people live along the road and farm cattle. Especially the first part of the road leading south has some nice marshy wetlands along the east side of the road. We observed 3 **Scarlet-headed Blackbirds**, a **Rusty-collared Seedeater** and many **Chestnut-capped Blackbirds**. We failed to find **Saffron-cowled Blackbird**. We saw **Six-banded Armadillo** early morning on this part too. We were too tired for spotlighting, and traffic was (against expectations) quite busy, but **Geoffroy's Cat** and **Pampas Cat** have been found along this road. **Brazilian Guinea Pigs** were quite common late afternoon and early morning and **Coypus** were seen here and there in the marsh. The spot where we slept in our rooftop tent was full of beautiful butterflies like Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*), Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanilla*) and the beautiful Mangrove Buckeye (*Junonia Genoveva*).



Scarlet-headed Blackbird

Six-banded Armadillo

Ceibas – Camino Cuatro Hermanas

[-33.37036, -58.78464](#)

This road is birded regularly by locals according to eBird, but we found it to be disappointing. On good days it could give a nice variety of marsh, grass and shrub birds. On one spot we did see 1000s of **Southern Screamers**, which was quite a sight. In the field were quite some waders, but because of the distance and heat haze it was impossible to ID them, although one seemed an **Upland Sandpiper**. This was however the only place we observed **Yellowish Pipit**.

Perdices

[-33.31531, -58.60068](#)

To give the rarer seedeaters an extra try we went to another birding spot we found through eBird, near Perdices. The birding involves some marshland and shrubs along a small part of road leading towards an estancia. They just broadened the road, so all the good vegetation for seedeaters on the

side of the road was gone. We did find **Tawny-bellied Seedeater** and **Rufous-rumped Seedeater** just before the gate of the estancia, and (too) shortly something that looked like a **Bearded Tachuri** from a distance. We only observed more common species like **Rufous-capped Antshrike** and the super tiny **White-barred Piculet**. Not worth the detour in our opinion on a (short) holiday.

**Brazilian Guinea Pig****White-barred Piculet**

El Palmar NP

[-31.85371, -58.3219](#)

Visited dates: 23-27 February 2022

General information: The park is open all days from 07.00 – 20.00 (high season)/07.00-19.00 (low season). Entrance was 1820 ARS p.p. (±17 USD). You are supposed to be able to leave the park and come back on the same ticket. Camping was 900 ARS p.p.p.n. (±8,5 USD)

El Palmar NP is a well-known mammal watching place. Coming from Ruta 14 in the west you have to drive the main road towards the camping, along the Río Uruguay. Along the main road are side roads, which can be driven as long as there are no wooden barriers at the entrance. The first night the barriers were put up between 18.30-19.00 because they were hunting introduced mammals that night. It was scorching hot, and we didn't find anything the first night till 19.00, except for the overly common **Capibara**. At the campground there are many **Plains Viscachas** right after dark. We went driving the next day at 05.15 and drove around the wooden barriers. We focussed on the first road before the campground: Arroyo los Loros, which seems to be the best road for mammal watching according to all who paved the way for us. We saw a **Crab-eating Fox** when driving in at 05.30 and another at 06.30 while posting for a while. A ranger that cleared the barriers passed us on this road at 06.30 and (thankfully) just waved to us. Here we also saw the snake **Crossed Pit Viper** (*Bothrops alternatus*) crossing the road. We saw a **Pampas Fox** along the main road and another along the Arroyo Palmar road. That trail also yielded beautiful male **Scissor-tailed Nightjars** flying with their long tails. The road and trails along La Glorieta yielded nothing for us between 07.00-08.00. The Sendero La Selva (entrance of this trail is near Ruinas Históricas) only yielded a young **Crab-eating**

Fox and nice butterflies like Red Postman (*Heliconius erato*), Zea (*Adelpha Zea*), Argentine Flag Butterfly (*Morpho epistrophus argentinus*) and Ivory (*Eunica eburnean*).



Crab-eating Fox

Pampas Fox

Most of the second day rain came pouring down. At 17.00 it cleared up a bit and we staked out till 20.00 on the bridge at Arroyo los Loros (which was officially already closed off because of the rain). I saw a **Lesser Grison** crossing the road after the bridge for a split second, Romy missed it. Further up the hill an **Armadillo spec.** quickly crossed the road. No cats. We spotlighted the main road from 20.00-22.30, being careful for oncoming cars as spotlighting is forbidden. We also went into the Arroyo los Loros and the Ruinas Históricas once. We saw 3 **Nine-banded Armadillos**, 13 **Crab-eating Foxes** and 1 introduced **European Hare**. Back at the campgrounds 2 **Great Horned Owls** were calling from a tree in front of the restaurant and two **Tropical Screech Owls** at the back of the camping.



Arroyo los Loros (if you look very closely, you can't see the Geoffroy's Cat either)

The second morning we were on the road again at 05.15 and drove the same roads as the night before. We also tried searching with the Lahoux Spotting scope, but only detected 3 (more) foxes in between the bushes. In total we had 12 **Crab-eating Foxes** and 5 **Pampas Foxes**. Walking the Arroyo los Loros road from 07.00 – 09.30 delivered only 6 (introduced) **Wild Boar**. Walking back from the mirador towards the car no less than 5 **Lesser Grisons** crossed the road! A good ending of the morning, but still no cat.

The third evening we repeated the strategy from the night before. Result: 1 **Lesser Grison** and 1 **Crab-eating Fox** quickly crossing the road before 20.00. Spotlighting and the use of the Lahoux Spotter till 23.00 produced 2 **Nine-banded Armadillos**, 19 **Crab-eating Foxes**, 3 **Pampas Foxes** and 1 introduced **European Hare**. Almost back at the camping we finally found a cat, but it was a domestic one unfortunately. The 3rd morning it rained torrentially (luckily; we badly needed a long night sleep).

At the marsh on the El Palmar road we found a pair of **Glaucous-blue Grosbeaks** on our afternoon drive. That (fourth) night we tried the Glorieta road; driving two rounds till 19.30, walking from the parking to the mirador and back till 20.30 and driving two more rounds till 21.00. We only saw 2 **Crab-eating Foxes**. We drove the main road, the El Palmar road, the Arroyo los Loros road and right when we wanted to drive out we got caught by a ranger (it was weekend and there were more people driving the side trails, so they might have been on alert). We drove towards the camping, still spotlighting, but found nothing. It felt like we were the first mammal watchers to spend more than 3 nights spotlighting here without finding a **Geoffroy's Cat**.



Plains Viscacha



Lesser Grison

Iberá – Portal Laguna

[-28.54623, -57.19592](#)

Visited dates: 27 February – 3 March 2022

General information: Most people visit Portal Laguna, and come via Mercedes in the south. The road is fine with a normal sedan when it's dry, but should **not** be driven even with a 4x4 when it rains or just has rained a lot (there is even a sign that this is forbidden). Make sure you check the weather forecast or look on the website before you go: <https://parqueibera.gob.ar/>

The Iberá wetlands are the size of Switzerland and are the second largest of its kind in the world (after the famous Pantanal). It hosts a good selection of rare bird and mammal species, which makes it a great location to include in the schedule. When we arrived there had been many fires the weeks before, and still some were going on. The drought that was going on for two years already was clearly visible, as lots of land was visible beyond 50m off the road, which would otherwise all be covered with water. Because of the fires the National Park itself was closed off, and we couldn't walk the trails over there ([-28.55692, -57.20836](#)).

Ruta 40

[-28.55692, -57.20836](#)

The best part to bird is the part just south of the bridge between the Provincial Park Iberá ([-28.54623, -57.19592](#)) and 20-25km further south along Ruta 40. Seedeaters can be spotted in the grasses and shrubs along the road by driving slowly. Frustratingly most of them are females, but lots of times there will be one male between them. This way we found **Marsh Seedeater**, **Chestnut Seedeater**, **Dark-throated Seedeater**, **Rufous-rumped Seedeater**, **Tawny-bellied Seedeater** and with the help of a guide we heard the yet to be described '**Iberá Seedeater**'. As it turned out one of the record shots of a Seedeater was of this species as well. We had most Seedeaters near the entrance of the National Park ([-28.55692, -57.20836](#)). We found multiple **Strange-tailed Tyrants** in the pastureland behind the fences, the best place again along the entrance road of the National Park. Another good species were at least 3, possibly 5, different individuals of the **Bearded Tachuri**. They are normally quite rare, and the amounts might be due to the fires pushing them out of the park. **Sharp-tailed Tyrant** is rare here, but possible. **Capybaras** are super common along this part of Ruta 40, as are **Brown Brocket Deer**. **Marsh Deer** is not uncommon either, and was seen several times. We tried spotlighting this road, but there was still quite some traffic at night and because we had the windows open our car was quickly filled with 100s of insects which swarmed in huge numbers above the roads. A park ranger told us that **Maned Wolf** was not uncommon at night and early morning, while **Giant Anteater** was quite rare. We also saw a roadkill of a **Crab-eating Raccoon**, but no living ones.



Strange-tailed Tyrant



Marsh Deer

Provincial Park Iberá

[-28.54623, -57.19592](#)

Provincial Park Iberá is located just south of the bridge. The entrance fee is a one-time 2500 ARS p.p. (24USD). Quite steep for the amount of trails you can walk, especially because the National Park a bit further south is free. However, you also need to pay this entrance fee if you are to do a boat tour on the lake, so better walk the trails as well then. Bring a scope for the trails north of the road (Sendero de los Montes) if the water levels are low, because most water birds were quite far away. We did have a great male **Marsh Deer** and multiple **Brown Brocket Deer** (including a pair with a spotted young). **Crested Doradito** should be possible on the boardwalk when the water is higher (beginning of the northern trails). On the south side of the road is another short trail (Sendero Caraya). Here you can find **Paraguayan Howlers**. We encountered a group of 1 male and 3 females and also heard them from Ruta 40 early morning. It should be possible to find them in the National Park as well.



Brown Brocket Deer



Paraguayan Howler male

East of Colonia Carlos Pellegrini

[-28.54738, -57.15897](#)

There are a few places of interest east of the town Colonia Carlos Pellegrini. A short road towards the north leads towards an observation tower ([-28.52919, -57.1576](#)), from which **Streamer-tailed Tyrant** should be reliably seen normally. Due to the fires the habitat was destroyed and we didn't see it. Another road leads towards the south ([-28.54738, -57.15897](#)). Only drive this when it's dry. Here we found a pair of **Black-and-white Monjita**. Seedeaters are seen here as well, but we didn't find any. We did see **Brazilian Guinea Pig** here.



Rufous Horneros building their famous nest



Black-and-white Monjita

About 5km further there is a turn-off to the right towards the southeast. About 2km in you will find a small school on your right hand, which is a good place to park ([-28.53726, -57.09836](#)). The next 1km you will find a small depression which holds water and lots of reeds. This is a good place for Seedeaters. We also saw **White-headed Marsh Tyrant**, **Scarlet-headed Blackbird** and **Gray Monjita**. **Saffron-cowled Blackbird** should be possible here as well.

There are a few spots east of town that are good for **Yellow Cardinal**. As this location is on private land you will need to ask permission before entering, although it might be possible to spot the target from the road. As we got this location from a guide and this bird species is endangered because of trade, we won't reveal the location here. Feel free to contact me. You can also hire Roque Hernán Bocalandro as a guide. He speaks just a little English, but he is enthusiastic and knows his birds. His numbers for WhatsApp is +54 9 3773 62-8797, or you can find him at his place ([-28.53613, -57.17336](#)).



Yellow Cardinal female



Yellow Cardinal male

Iberá – Portal Cambyreta

[-27.8615, -56.87465](#)

We really wanted to go to this northern portal of Iberá, because it's a great place for most of the rarer Seedeaters and for **Crested Doradito**. Unfortunately it was closed due to the fires. Be sure to check the info on these kinds of closures before driving all the way up there. The state of the road is even worse after rain than the Ruta 40, so check the weather forecast as well.

RN Rincón de Santa María

[-27.53008, -56.60018](#)

Visited dates: 3-4 March 2022

This little visited reserve is home to a very good population of Sickle-winged Nightjars. The reserve is open daily between 07.00 – 19.00, but it only involves one short boardwalk and an observation tower. Nestor and his wife are studying the bird already for 10 years and are very open to

enthusiastic birdwatchers. They can be contacted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RNRSM), or via WhatsApp (+54 9 379 473 9679). They only speak Spanish, and even the English name of the Nightjar is unknown to them. We were allowed to walk the main road of the reserve, which is normally off limits. We observed two **Scissor-tailed Nightjars** and one female Sickle-winged Nightjar, but no males. Then after two hours Nestor and his wife drove up to us and told us to jump in. Together we spotlighted for an hour and saw 2 males **Sickle-winged Nightjars** and a couple of females! If possible, plan to be here around full moon when the males have multiple leks on the road (yes, this nightjar species leks!). No mammals during spotlighting, although **Maned Wolf** is seen here sometimes. At daytime we found a female **Marsh Deer** though.

The next morning we walked the main road again for a couple of 100 meters for our second target here: **Sharp-tailed Tyrant**. Very soon we had 5 individuals in the high grass. An amazing species!



Sickle-winged Nightjar male



Sharp-tailed Grass Tyrant

Candelaria

[-27.47804, -55.79918](#)

Visited dates: 4-5 March 2022

Ruta 204

[-27.49181, -55.73894](#)

This place is not the most beautiful of birding places. You have to park on the side of Ruta 204 and that gives a nice view over some small pools, shrubs and grassland. Here we found 2 amazing **Streamer-tailed Tyrants**! And right when we watched them in a dead tree, a male **Pearly-bellied Seedeater** hopped into the same tree. I wish birdwatching was always as easy as this!

Reserva Urutaú

[-27.47804, -55.79918](#)

This is a reserve south of Ruta 12. A dirt road hugs along a waterbody with lots of floating and standing water vegetation. As we birded this in the very hot afternoon, we didn't observe many birds. There were 1000s of dragonflies to admire. **Masked Ducks** are seen here regularly, but are hard to find during the day when this small duck is sleeping between the vegetation. As the condition

of the road towards Candelaria was in a very bad state we didn't bother to come back the next morning.



Streamer-tailed Tyrant



Streamer-tailed Tyrants

Cataratas de Iguazu

[-25.68334, -54.45464](#)

Visited dates: 7 March 2022

The famous waterfalls. Not much to add here, besides that it is a beautiful place! We observed 1 **South American Coati** in a tree and one near the entrance on the ground. We also encountered a group of about 15 **Black Capuchins/Black-horned Capuchins** on the trails. Back at our hostel in Puerto Iguazu we had a **Brazilian White-eared Opossum** crossing the yard. Lots of beautiful butterflies were observed as well, like the Ruddy Daggerwing (*Marpesia petreus petreus*), Many-banded Daggerwing (*Marpesia chiron*) and Pygas Eighty-eight (*Callicore pygas thamyras*). The lizard species **Western Collared Spiny Lizard** (*Tropidurus catalanensis*) was observed on the trails as well multiple times.



Plush-crested Jay



Black Capuchin / Black-horned Capuchin

Jardín de los Picaflores

[-25.60032, -54.56859](#)

Visited dates: 5 March 2022

General information: This time of the year the garden is only open between 15.00 – 19.00, because bird activity is low in the morning. You have to clap before the entrance to let the owner know you are there, and he will come to open the gate. Entrance is 500 pesos (4 USD) p.p. for foreigners.

This small garden is a nice place to add some hummingbird species while in town for the main attraction. We had 8 species of hummingbird during our visit in the afternoon: **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Violet-capped Woodnymph, Black Jacobin, Black-throated Mango, Planalto Hermit, Versicoloured Emerald, Gilded Hummingbird** and **Glittering-bellied Hummingbird**. Winters are better for seeing tanagers. This time of the year there is enough food in the rainforest for them. To manage expectations for photographers: the garden is not really set up for photography. There are too many branches, non-natural backgrounds etc. to get that nice soft background. Still worthwhile to visit and just watch these lovely birds.



Versicolor Emerald

Violet-capped Woodnymph

Provincial Urugua-í Park

[-25.85782, -54.16918](#)

Visited dates: 10-13 March 2022

General information: This park is free to enter, and even to camp. There are basic facilities and even electricity if you ask for it. It is best reached on the paved road from the southwest through the town of Wanda. You can drive the 101 as well, but that road gets horribly bad when it rained. Even with a 4x4 you don't get any grip on this road and the car keeps slipping to the sides.

The park has two trails, one from the camping area and one on the other side of the road. Both of them go through forest with quite some bamboo, good for many nice species like **Pavonine Cuckoo, Bertoni's Antbird, Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant** and multiple species of Antshrike, amongst which

Tufted Antshrike. We only heard **White-bearded Antshrike** and **Planalto Tapaculo**, both on the other side of the river on the trail near the camping.

The campgrounds are a good place for watching birds as well. We had multiple flocks passing through, one with **Chestnut-headed Tanager**. Two out of three afternoons there were **Spot-winged Wood-quails** foraging on the camping area. While eating our dinner early suddenly an **Ornate Hawk-eagle** flew down and caught one. This eagle appeared on all three days, early in the morning as well as in the evening. The last day we didn't see any Wood-quails anymore, and according to the guide the groups were big a week before. Near the river, at the bridge, we observed **Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper**. **Azara's Agouti** was observed daily at the campground. The big price of this park is the **Black-fronted Piping-guan**, but we couldn't find one during our three days here.



Spot-winged Wood-quail



Ornate Hawk-eagle

The trail on the northern side has a small observation tower near a muddy 'clay lick'. **Brazilian Tapir** is said to be there regularly, almost daily according to the ranger. We waited an hour on both nights, but it was terribly boring; waiting in the dark, listening for movement. The Tapir apparently even walks through the camp in broad daylight sometimes. We did hear a **Tawny-browed Owl** on two nights and saw an **American Barn Owl** flying away (it lives in one of the buildings). Romy picked something up with the Lahoux Spotter at the campground at night, which turned out to be a **Southern Black-eared Opossum**.



Azara's Agouti



Rufous Gnateater

Reserva Natural Yate-I

[-25.8592, -53.98232](#)

Visited dates: 13-14 March 2022

General information: This small reserve is located right north of the (paved) 101. Entrance is free, camping as well. There is even Wi-Fi.

There are two trails. We found bird activity in general a bit slow. We did find some nice species in mixed flocks, like the **Southern Bristle-tyrant**, **Chestnut-headed Tanager** and a **Wing-barred Piprites**. But not much new after Urugua-í. We also came across a **Rusty-margined Guan**. At night a **Southern Black-eared Opossum** climbed in the palms right next to our tent and started eating the palm fruits.

Provincial Piñalto Park

[-26.42789, -53.84373](#)

Visited dates: 14-15 March 2022

General information: This small reserve is located south of the Ruta 14. Entrance is free, camping as well (basic facilities, but with electricity).

There are two trails here, but we got hopelessly lost already on the first afternoon as the signage is not good (read: as good as absent). The trail south of the camping area goes through some open pine forest and later shrubs and bamboo. **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker** was quite common on the trails, as was **Surucua Trogon**. A nice addition to the more common species in the flocks so far was a **Blackish-blue Seedeater** with its very broad beak. The best bird was a very obliging **Swallow-tailed Manakin**.



Southern Black-eared Opossum



Swallow-tailed Manakin

Cruce Caballero

[-26.51289, -53.97515](#)

Visited dates: 15-17 March 2022

General information: Entrance is free, camping as well (basic facilities, but with electricity). A small contribution of 200 pesos is advised and the ranger will ask for it (with an official ticket.. seems legit).

How to get there: It takes high clearance (or a normal sedan and some guts) to drive here. With rain we wouldn't even advice to drive there with a 4x4 as parts of the road get really slippery. The turnoff from the Ruta 14 is well signposted, after that you need Maps.me or Google Maps.

There are two trails in this reserve, which actually form one loop trail. One is a broad trail (Carayá Pytá), with good views of the bamboo and some open patches with high trees. The other (Cury-i) is through a thick Tree Fern forest. We walked the loop two times, but didn't observe much on the Cury-i trail. Partly due to the fact that it is really hard to see the canopy from in between the Tree Ferns. We would advise to focus on the first trail (Carayá Pytá).

This park has some really good species, and we managed to observe quite a few of them. Mornings were great for toucans, and we observed **Green-billed/Red-breasted Toucan** many times, but also observed **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, a group of 3 **Saffron Toucanets** and best of all a male **Spot-billed Toucanet**! On top of that we heard **Speckle-breasted Antpitta**, **Canebrake Groundcreeper**, **Spotted Bamboowren** and at the intersection of both trails we saw a **Helmeted Woodpecker**. It was this place where Rob got his 2000th bird species: the **Purple-crowned Plovercrest**! An **Azara's Agouti** showed at the camping area.



Purple-crowned Plovercrest

Spot-billed Toucanet

At night we went spotlighting. The night started off with a **Short-tailed Nighthawk** at dusk flying over the camping area. We walked about 2km towards the main road. We hoped for **Long-trained Nightjar**, which we couldn't find. Further towards the road we did find 2 **Common Potoos**, multiple **Pauraques** and two pairs of **Rusty-barred Owl**. We also had 3 **Common Tapetis** on the road.

The next evening we went spotlighting along the 2km long broad trail. We observed **Common Tapetis** again, but only at the last kilometre we heard 3-4 **Silky-tailed Nightjars**. At one point we

finally saw a nightjar sitting on a horizontal bamboo stem, which turned out to be an **Ocellated Poorwill!**



Common Tapeti



Tiny Hawk

San Pedro

[-26.63047, -54.10028](#)

Visited dates: 17-18 March 2022

The small Parque Provincial de la Araucaria in San Pedro has many Araucaria trees in its forest and offers nice potential for species associated with that type of forest like **Robust Woodpecker**, **Azure Jay**, **Araucaria Tit-spinetail** and **Helmeted Woodpecker**. Entrance is between 08.00 and 17.30. We visited in the afternoon and in the morning already from 07.00 and the ranger seemed fine with it. Only birds of note we found were 2 **Red-ruffed Fruitcrows** and a **Canebrake Groundcreeper**.

A **Stygian Owl** is sometimes heard and seen at the Camping Der Wald ([-26.61009, -54.09942](#)). Unfortunately we didn't hear or see any owls there. We did see a **Brazilian White-eared Opossum**.



Brazilian White-eared Opossum



Grey-hooded Flycatcher

Caá Yari

[-26.87147, -54.22642](#)

Visited dates: 18-20 March 2022

General information: The road to Caa Yari is not too good, but fine as long as it's not raining and can then be driven with a normal sedan.

After a tip from some British birders we added another location to our Argentina trip: Provincial Caá Yari Park. Due to heavy rains we couldn't go spotlighting until 05.00 in the morning. Thanks to their recent sightings and coordinates we were able to find **Long-tufted Screech Owl** at the bridge with the entrance sign of the reserve ([-26.85831, -54.21969](#)). About halfway between the ranger station and the bridge we observed **Black-capped Screech Owl**, but unfortunately no **Long-trained Nightjar** like the British did. We decided to stay another night for the nightjar and the **Stygian Owl** (which they observed at the ranger station). We didn't have any luck though, but we did encounter a **Rusty-barred Owl**. A **Crab-eating Raccoon** showed nicely; coming from underneath the ranger's house to grab some of the fallen avocados.



Rusty-barred Owl



Crab-eating Raccoon

You made it! Thank you for reading 😊

For all photos of our Argentina trip, comments, compliments, any specific questions, visit and/or contact us via our website:

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All observations made by us in Argentina can be found on Observation.org. We observed a total of about 292 bird species and 19 mammal species in the northeast region of Argentina. Click here for the: [total bird list](#), [total mammal list](#) or [the total species list](#).

Our Top 5	Birds	Mammals
1	Purple-crowned Plovercrest	Marsh Deer
2	Saffron Toucanet	Lesser Grison
3	Yellow Cardinal	Nine-banded Armadillo
4	Spot-billed Toucanet	Brazilian White-eared Opossum
5	Helmeted Woodpecker	Paraguayan Howler

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Ocelated Poorwill

Tawny-browed Owl



Many-banded Daggerwing



Ruddy Daggerwing



Iguazu Waterfalls



Pygas Eighty-eight



Brown Tinamou



Long-tufted Screech Owl