



THE ANDEAN BIRDS OF CENTRAL CHILE



PROGRAMMES
**BIRDING
CHILE**



ANDEAN
CONDOR



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We are Chileans;
we know about birds,
we know our country*

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The Andes Mountains are very young, as you can deduce from their steep slopes and sharp snow covered peaks. In Chile's central region the mountains are particularly craggy and the valleys are narrow and normally defined by narrow rivers. In winter, the Andes of central Chile are completely covered by snow and only a few species, like the Andean Condor and the Mountain Caracara, remain there. The majority of the birds migrate to the north. Some of them even reach the Peruvian Andes. Other species merely descend to a lower altitude so as to avoid the snow.



But in spring, life starts afresh and many birds return to take advantage of the various environments offered by the Andes. This is the best season to watch them from fields, ravines, fertile lowlands, lakes and grasslands, where recently returned species start their reproductive period and raise their young.



PROGRAM

DAY 1

FARELLONES: INTRODUCTION TO THE CENTRAL ANDES

On the first day, we will make a trip to the mountains that surround the city of Santiago. We will go to Farellones, a well-known ski resort located at an altitude of 2,500 m (8,200 ft) above sea level. Along the road, we will look out for birds common to the central valley and the Andean foothills, and we will later focus on mountain birds. We will try to spot birds like the endemic Chilean Tinamou, Dusky-tailed Canastero, Moustached Turca and Chilean Mockingbird, and also the Andean Condor, Mountain Caracara, White-sided Hillstar, Scale-throated Earthcreeper, Slender-billed Canastero and Cordilleran Canastero. Overnight stay in Santiago.

DAY 2

EL YESO RESERVOIR

Early in the morning we will leave for El Yeso, located deep in the Andes. Here we will visit diverse mountain environments such as fertile fields, lakes, rivers and high altitude grasslands. Each location will provide us with different species, namely the Crested Duck, Speckled Teal, Torrent Duck, Diademed Sandpiper-Plover,



GREATER YELLOW FINCH

South American Snipe, Gray-brested Seedsnipe, Crag Chilia (endemic), Greater Yellow-Finch and three species of Ground-Tyrants (White-browed, Black-fronted, Ochre-naped). Overnight stay in Santiago.



BLACK-WINGED GROUND DOVE

SUMMARY

Duration: 2 days / 2 nights

Start / End: Santiago / Santiago

Restrictions: Altitude little above 2,500m (8,200ft)

Climate: Mediterranean climate. In the Andes it may get cold, but not in reach extreme temperatures.

Dates: From September to March

Potential # of species: 103

OUTSTANDING:

1. Travel to the Andes of central Chile and its impressive landscape.
2. Possibility of seeing five endemic species: Chilean Tinamou, Moustached Turca, Crag Chilia, Dusky-tailed Canastero and Chilean Mockingbird.
3. The Andean Condor, soaring over the Andes.
4. The most beautiful bird in the Andes: the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover.
5. Three to six different Ground-Tyrants: White-browed, Black-fronted, Ochre-naped, Rufous-naped, Cinereous and Spot-billed.



DUSKY-TAILED CANASTERO