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Tour Manager/Leader: Florencia Ocampo
Montevideo, Uruguay.

Colorful Birds 7-day Tour

Uruguay brings on several features that make birdwatching very enjoyable and productive. In short distances many different environments are involved, resulting in a great diversity of birds. On this tour you will visit Esteros de Farrapos (Farrapos Wetlands) National Park, located in the Department of Río Negro, in the west of the country. The area is along the shores of the Uruguay River and preserves wetlands, grasslands and native forests; specially one kind of forest called “blanqueales”, that is exclusive of this part of the country. After 6 days on tour you can see over **180 bird species** of the 455 that occur in Uruguay.

Day 1: You will be picked up and we will drive for four hours from Montevideo to the Department of Río Negro. On the way there are several birding spots where we will stop. We will have lunch in a restaurant located by the shores of the Río Negro (Black River). Afterwards, we will drive directly to the accommodation. This is an estancia located close to the Esteros de Farrapos National Park. We will stay here for two nights. The estancia is surrounded by woods where target birds are White-fronted Woodpecker, Brown Cacholote,



Chotoy Spinetail, Stripe-crowned Spinetail and Suiriri Flycatcher. After dinner we will go after the Barn Owl and Tropical Screech-Owl.

Day 2: After breakfast, we will drive for 20 minutes to Esteros de Farrapos National Park. We will walk through native and exotic woods. Target birds will be Lark-like Brushrunner, Plush-crested Jay, Hepatic Tanager, Blue-and-Yellow Tanager, Diademed Tanager, White-spotted Woodpecker, Campo Flicker, Green-barred Woodpecker, White-barred Piculet, Glittering-bellied

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Emerald, Gilded Hummingbird, White-throated Hummingbird, Masked Gnatcatcher, Spix's Spinetail and Sooty-fronted Spinetail. We will have lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we will look for Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, and Dark-throated Seedeater and Chestnut Seedeater in the grasslands close to the estancia.

Day 3: After breakfast we will drive for 3 and a half hours to Rincón de Franquía Protected Area. We will first arrive to the hotel and after having lunch we will go to the woods looking for the Cream-backed Woodpecker, a poorly known species that inhabits dry woodlands in the Chaco, but here it is possible to find it in savannas and exotic forests along the Uruguay River. Some other target birds are Large Elaenia, Red-rumped Cacique and Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant.



Day 4: Full day in Rincón de Franquía. Today we will spend the day birding in native and exotic woods, savannas and marshes. Some of the birds we will see are restricted to the Chaco region, like Yellow-billed Cardinal and Black-capped Warbling-Finch and others more widely distributed like Grayish Saltator, Greater Ani, Greater Thornbird, Anhinga, Short-crested Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Red-crested Finch and Rufous Casiornis.



Day 5: After breakfast, we will drive for 4 hours to the north ravines of Uruguay. We will arrive at the posada, located in an Important Bird Area. After having lunch our target birds will be Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Green-backed Becard, Greater Rhea, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, White-necked Thrush, Glaucous-blue Grosbeak, Ultramarine Grosbeak, Orange-breasted Thornbird.

Day 6: Full day in Laureles Ravines (IBA). We will look for Short-billed Canastero -a bird endemic to the Chaco and Espinal habitats-, Crested Black-Tyrant, Cliff Flycatcher, Red-legged Seriema, Buff-necked Ibis, Crane Hawk, Bicolored Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, Blue-tufted Starthroat, and Olivaceous Elaenia. After dinner we will look for Scissor-tailed Nightjar, Common Potoo and Tropical Screech-Owl.

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Day 7: Early in the morning we will bird for the last time in the Laureles Ravines, and after breakfast we will drive back to Montevideo (5 hours).