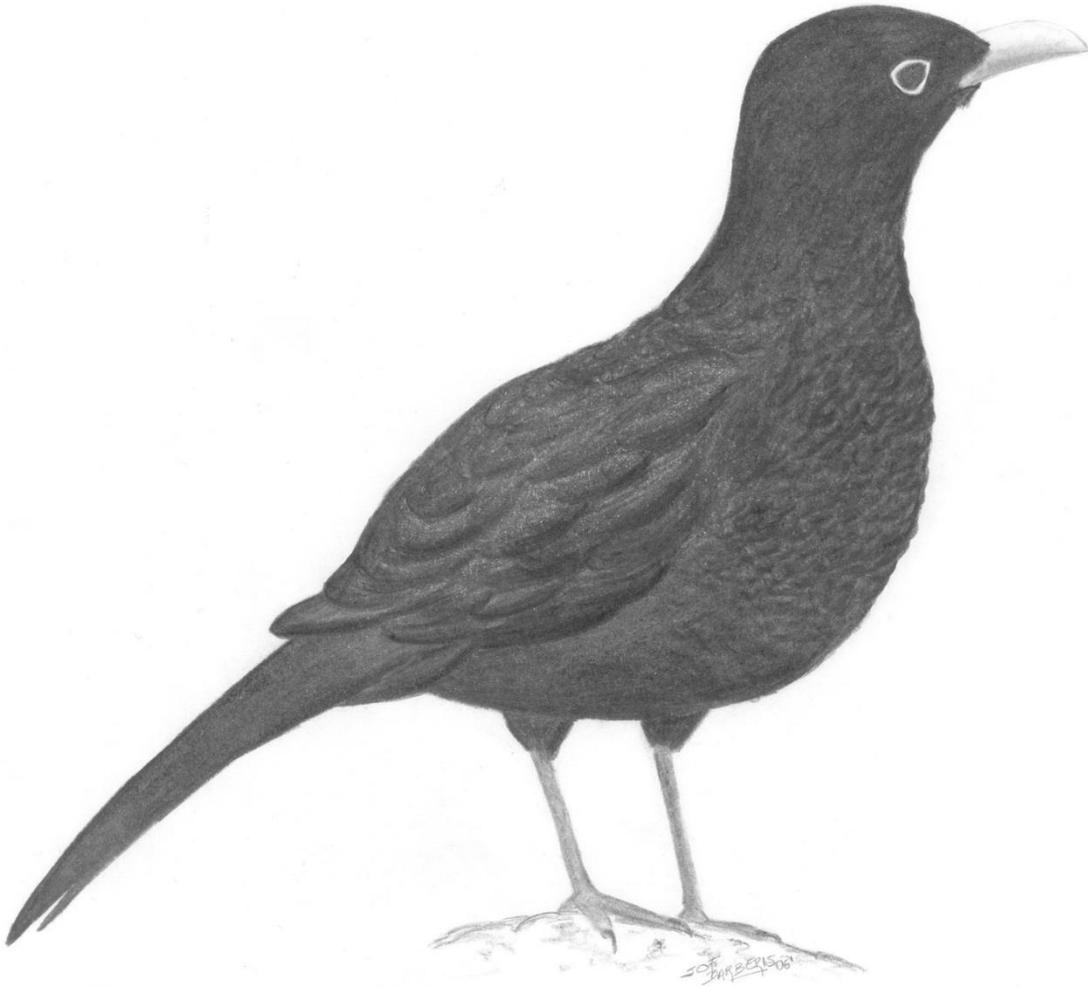


BIRDWATCHING IN ALPA CORRAL



*"...Cuando en la tarde el sol se aleja
las aves cantan al retornar
quisiera volver, ponerme a escuchar
conciertos de trinos que al cielo se van..."*
Zamba de Alpa Corral (Fragmento)

Zorzal chiguanco bird pet of Alpa Corral village

Alpa Corral is an excellent environment to appreciate the most varied songs and colors of the approximately 190 species of birds that frequent the landscape of this town. Its varied surroundings make Alpa Corral a good site for bird watching because in a small region can be seen from a typical postcard of plain, passing through a forest of Chaco up to end in a mountain grassland. This diversity of landscapes is reflected in their birds. From "Buff-necked Ibis" (*Theristicus caudatus*) and



"Burrowing Owl" (*Athene cunicularia*) in the plain, through "Black-bodied woodpecker" (*Dryocopus schulzi*) and "Andean Tinamou" (*Nothoprocta pentlandii*) in the forest and crowning the The grassland with "Black-chested or Buzzard Eagle" (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) and, just in case, a "Andean Condor" (*Vultur gryphus*), a bird of Andes range present in Cordoba mountains. In its water courses we can find the "Olrog's Cinclodes" (*Cinclodes olrogi*), an exclusive species from

the Cordoba mountains.

In addition the interior of the village gives us the possibility to observe species such as "Rufous Hornero" (*Furnarius rufus*), Argentine national bird, "Great Kiskadee"



(*Pitangus sulphuratus*), "Rufous bellied Thrush" (*Turdus rufiventris*), "Brown-capped Redstart" (*Myioborus bruniceps*) and at night the soft song of the "Tropical screech-Owl" (*Otus choliba*). "Burrowing parrot" (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*) usually make fleeting visits but no less unnoticed due to their characteristic singing and their habit of forming flocks. In winter we visit from height the "Chiguanco Thrush" (*Turdus chiguanco*) and the "Red tailed Comet" (*Sappho sparganura*). Birds that probably surprise us with their presence are the "Red legged Seriema" (*Cariama cristata*), exclusive of South America and "Crowned Eagle" (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*), an endangered species whose presence in Alpa Corral has a relative frequency.

We invite you to discover this excellent environment to appreciate the most varied songs and colors. Welcome to a new Mountain Adventure ...

ITINERARY



The mountain village of Alpa Corral is located to the south west of the province of Córdoba, at the foot of the mountain ranges of Comechingones, pertaining to the formation of the central serranías of Argentina. Its height above the level of the sea is of approximately 800 m. This village is a unique place to observe birds because in its surroundings three important Ecoregions of Argentina converge: El Bosque Chaqueño, with its mountain variant, the Espinal and the Pampean Prairie. In addition Alpa Corral receives birds that can be found in other Ecoregiones such as El Monte (Chiguanco Thrush), the Cloud Forest (Black backed grosbeak) and the Andean Region (Andean Condor). In this tour

we will try to cover sites that represent the best possible landscapes of these ecoregions to have a greater probability of observation.

Day 1 Reception (morning reserved for transfer and check in)

Reception, presentation of the guide and specialists, technical talk and brief introduction about the environments to visit. Observation of birds by the mountain village and coasts of the river. Twilight bird watching. Possible birds to observe are: "Chiguanco Thrush" (*Turdus chiguanco*), "Rufous Hornero" (*Furnarius rufus*), "Great Kiskadee" (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), Hummingbird (*Trochilidae*), "Blue and yellow tanager" (*Thraupis bonariensis*), "Scimitar billed woodcreeper" (*Drymornis bridgesii*),



"Brown cacholote" (*Pseudoseisura lophotes*), "Tropical screech-Owl" (*Otus choliba*) and the challenge of finding "House sparrow" (*Passer domesticus*), a bird very common in the Argentinean towns, but very rare in Alpa Corral.



Day 2 "Pastureland pampeana and Espinal" and "Forest chaqueño Serrano"

Visit to the environment of transition between plain and mountains. Vegetation of Pampa and Spinal Meadow. Possible birds to observe: "Red legged Seriema" (*Cariama cristata*), "Black faced ibis" (*Theristicus melanopis*), "Burrowing owl" (*Athene culicularia*), "Spotted nothura" (*Nothura maculosa*), "Burrowing parrot" (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*), "American Kestrel" (*Falco sparverius*), among others.

Visit to the forest of Chaco. Possible birds to observe: "Black bodied woodpecker" (*Dryocopus schulzi*), "Cream backed woodpecker", "Andean tinamou" (*Nothoprocta pentlandii*) and variety of species of the families Furnaridae and Tyrannidae. Less commonly, "Ultramarine grosbeak" (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*), "Black backed grosbeak" (*Pheucticus aureoventris*) and on the banks of the river the "Orlog's cinclodes" (*Cinclodes olrogi*) can be observed.



Day 3 "Environmental levels of the Comechingones mountains"



Visit to the different altitudinal levels of the mountains. Possible birds to observe: "Black chested buzzard eagle" (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*), "Long tailed Meadowlark" (*Sturnella loyca*), "Andean Condor" (*Vultur griphus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), variety of species of the family Furnaridae and Tyrannidae. Less often you can see the imposing "Crowned Eagle" (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*).

Day 4 Completion of the itinerary (afternoon reserved for Check out and transfer)

Half day free (accompanied by the guide) of observation to the places already visited, farewell meeting, sharing of the species observed during the itinerary.

Tours Leaders

Lucas Paton: Engineer Agronomist, entered the world of birds since young motivated by the curiosity of his group of friends, including Santiago, performing innumerable field trips observing birds. His final graduation work was developed in the mountain village of Alpa Corral promoting Ecotourism and Environmental observation.

Santiago Giayetto: Lic. In Biology his curiosity for birds has led him to make countless trips and field trips through Argentina and the highlands of Cordoba, especially by Alpa Corral. This curiosity made his final work in the field of ornithology, becoming a referent of theme for Córdoba south mountain.