



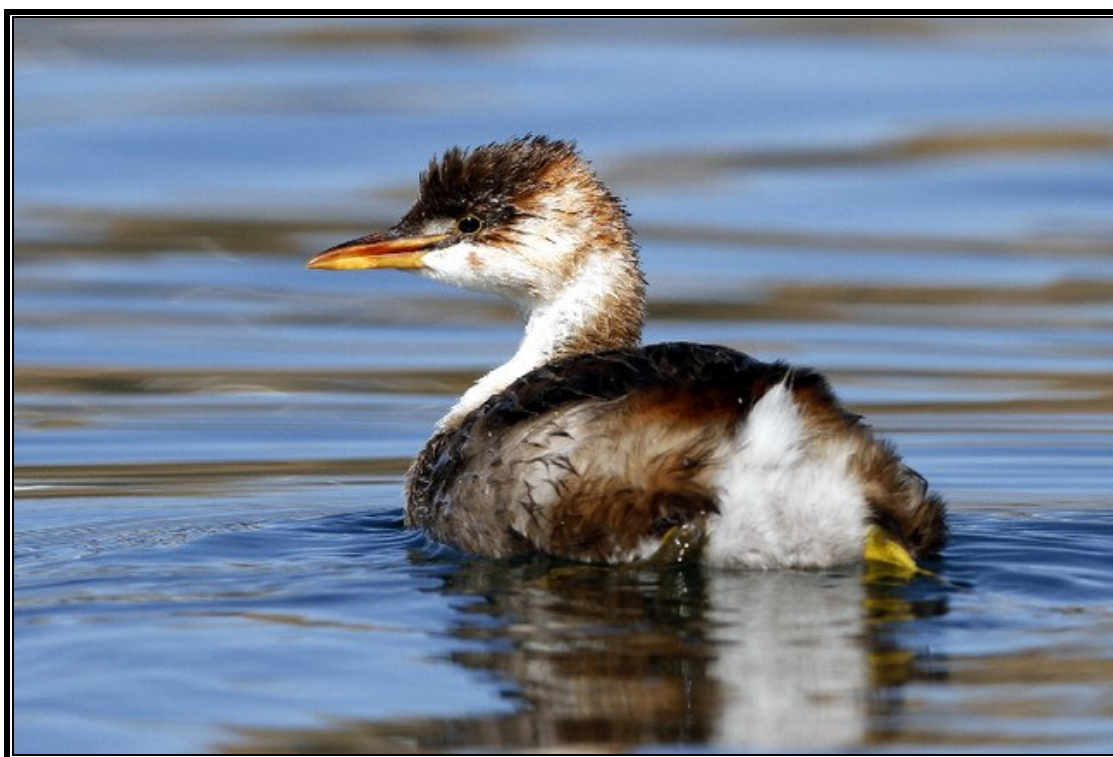
ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Bolivia

Birding the Amazon to Lake Titicaca

6th to 30th September 2012 (15 days)



Titicaca Grebe by Jonathan Rossouw

Bolivia is a biological treasure nestled between Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Chile and Paraguay. Our tour starts in the tropical lowlands at Santa Cruz, and slowly takes us day by day up to the high Andes, finally reaching an altitude of around 4,720 meters! We will explore a wide range of habitats and some of the most spectacular scenery on Earth on this tour. With its diversity of biomes, this small landlocked country hosts over 1,300 species of birds: a full 40 percent of the species in South America. The tropical Amazonian portions of Bolivia have barely been studied, and the actual species list may therefore be much more extensive. About 20 species are endemic, with three times that number represented by endemic races. Another hundred or so are endemic to the limited ecosystems that share a border with Bolivia's neighbors. Join us on this unique birding adventure to the heart of South America.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...**DETAILS**

Tour Dates	16th to 30th September 2012
Tour Price	US\$3,950 * £2,490 * €2,820 * ZAR27,100 per person sharing. (See below) (Tour price fixed in US\$, other rates subject to exchange rate fluctuations)
Tour Size	A maximum of 10 participants with 1 Rockjumper leader and 1 local birding leader

THE ITINERARY

16th September	Santa Cruz to Buena Vista
17th September	Northern Amboró National Park
18th September	Buena Vista to Los Volcanes
19th September	Los Volcanes
20th September	Los Volcanes to Comarapa
21st September	Siberia cloud forest
22nd September	Comarapa to Cochabamba
23rd September	Cochabamba to Villa Tunari
24th September	Carrasco National Park
25th September	Villa Tunari to Cochabamba
26th September	Cerro Tunari area
27th September	Cochabamba to La Paz
28th October	La Cumbre Pass and Coroico Road
29th October	Lake Titicaca and Sorata
30th October	Return flight home from La Paz

THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

Day 1, 16th September: Santa Cruz to Buena Vista. We arrive this morning in Santa Cruz. This is the second largest city of Bolivia and lies in the transitional zone between the seasonal marshes and Chaco desert to the east, the southern edge of the Amazonian rainforest to the north, the scrub and grasslands to the south, and the foothills of the Andes to the west. On arrival we will go birding at the local botanical gardens for a brief introduction to Bolivian birds. After having a picnic lunch here, we will then drive north towards the small city of Buena Vista where we will spend the following two nights. Buena Vista is located on the edge of the northern boundaries of Amboró National Park, and en route we will cross some grassland habitats that are always very productive. Some of the birds we can expect to see today include Blue-crowned Parakeet, Toco Toucan, Burrowing Owl, Whistling Heron, Scaly-headed Parrot, Gilded Hummingbird, Black-banded Woodcreeper, Yellow-chinned Spinetail and Stripe-backed Antbird, to name but a few.



Day 2, 17th September: Amboró National Park. Amboró National Park protects 180,000 hectares of pristine bird habitat and is nestled amidst three unique and very different ecological regions: the Andes, the Amazon basin, and the Chaco. We will explore the forests of Amboró in the vicinity of



Buena Vista, searching for birds such as Yellow-tufted and Red-necked Woodpecker, Blue-crowned Trogon, Purplish Jay, Buff-throated and Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Great and Barred Antshrike, Fork-tailed Woodnymph and Russet-backed and Crested Oropendola. In the early evening we will bird the nearby marsh of Curichi Cuajo, where we expect to see some very charismatic species including Southern Screamer and the bizarre Hoatzin.

Day 3, 18th September: Buena Vista to Los Volcanes. We will leave our hotel in Buena Vista very early in the morning and drive back towards Santa Cruz. Just before arriving there we will take the road to Samaipata for about 70km in order to reach Refugio Los Volcanes, where we will spend the following two nights.

Day 4, 19th September: Los Volcanes. Los Volcanes lies right next to the most southeastern corner of Amboró National Park, and is situated in a deep valley overlooking some impressive sandstone cliffs and surrounded by wet tropical forests. The area is remarkable not only for its birds but also for its flora. Around 100 species of orchids have been identified here, and there is also a wide variety of Bromeliads. We will spend our one and a half days here exploring the trails around our lodge, searching for several species of Parakeets, including Blue-crowned, Mitred and Dusky-headed. Flocks of Andean Condors are often seen here as well. We will also bird a dry, deciduous forest near Samaipata to look for specialties including White-faced Dove, Green-cheeked Parakeet, Buff-bellied Hermit, Slender-tailed Woodstar, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail, Lined Antshrike, Ocellated Piculet, Slaty Gnateater, Grey-crested Finch, Black-capped and Ringed Warbling Finch and Dull-colored Grassquit, amongst others. Black-capped Antwren, Plush-crested and Purplish Jay, Moustashed Wren, Common Piping Guan, Tataupa Tinamou, Black-goggled, Orange-headed and Guira Tanager, Rufous-bellied Thrush and Dusky-green Oropendola are also all possible in this area.

Day 5, 20th September: Los Volcanes to Comarapa. Today we will leave our lodge at Los Volcanes and drive west to explore the Samaipata region, after which we will continue for another 60 miles (97 kilometers) to Comarapa, where we will arrive before the end of the day. Comarapa is the best area to see the rare Red-fronted Macaw, while there are also numerous possible raptors here. This part of the itinerary will allow us to bird a highly transitional zone, ranging from the humid tropics to the Bolivian desert. The vegetation becomes drier as the altitude increases, and we finally enter the dry valleys in the rain-shadow of the surrounding mountains. Our simple yet adequate accommodations are located in the Village of Comarapa, which will be our base for the next two nights while we bird a variety of different habitats.



Day 6, 21st September: Siberia Forest. A short drive up the mountains takes us to some of the southernmost deciduous forest in the eastern Andes. At elevations above 8000 feet (2,440 meters), the abundance of epiphytes and purple flowers (of the Family *Melastomaceae*) are truly astounding as we enter Siberia Forest!

The avifauna here is quite different from what we would have been seeing thus far. This is the easternmost distribution range for Scaly-naped and Black-winged Parrot, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Pearled Treerunner, Unicolored Tapaculo, Red-crested and



Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Tawny-rumped and White-throated Tyrannulet, Sierran Elaenia, Spotted Nightingale-Thrush, Spectacled and Brown-capped Redstart, Pale-legged Warbler, White-browed Conebill, Blue-winged and Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager, Rufous-naped and Stripe-headed Brush Finch, and Grey-bellied and Moustached Flowerpiercer.

Other more difficult species here include Blue-capped Puffleg, the stunning Crested Quetzal, Crested Becard, Plumbeous Tyrant, Band-tailed and Barred Fruiteater, Rusty-browed Warbling Finch, and the endemic Light-crowned Spinetail and Rufous-

Antpitta. Our Bolivia bird list should be much higher by the end of today!

Day 7, 22nd September: Comarapa to Cochabamba. An early start to Cochabamba will allow us time to stop off at some good birding spots. We will specifically target the endemic Black-hooded Sunbeam and the very restricted Blue-capped Puffleg, while the showy Red-tailed Comet is also possible. After crossing a very scenic pass through the high mountains near Siberia, the road drops down again through a series of valleys and ridges. We will soon reach slopes that are covered with gnarled, red-bark *Polylepis* forests. These trees grow at higher altitudes than any other trees and support a large number of new bird species for us. These include Olive-crowned Crescentchest, Spot-breasted Thornbird, Rufous-bellied Saltator, and both Rufous-sided and Rusty-browed Warbling Finches. As the day progresses, we will stop in other habitat for the lovely and near endemic Citron-headed Yellow Finch, Spot-winged Pigeon, Bare-faced Ground Dove, Grey-hooded Parakeet, Golden-breasted Flicker, Striped Woodpecker, Plain-breasted and Rock Earthcreeper, Brown-capped Tit-Spinetail, Streak-throated Bush Tyrant, D'Orbigny's and White-browed Chat-Tyrant, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Hooded Siskin, Ash-breasted and Black-hooded Sierra Finch, Greenish Yellow Finch, and Plain-colored and Band-tailed Seedeater, amongst many others. We'll also look for Maquis Canastero and the endemic Cochabamba Mountain Finch. A handful of delightful hummingbirds include Giant, Sparkling Violet-ear and further chances for Red-tailed Comet. At the end of the day we cross the last ridge and descend to the historical city of Cochabamba to spend the night.

Day 8, 23rd September: Cochabamba to Villa Tunari. This morning we leave Cochabamba, at 8,400 feet (2,560 meters), to climb the Puna ridge to 12,000 feet (3,660 meters), before dropping back down again to rich, montane temperate forest. This is



the Villa Tunari road, known to be one of the best birding sites in South America. We'll bird here for Black-winged Parrot, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Great Sapphirewing, Black-hooded Sunbeam, the fabulous Golden-headed and Crested Quetzals, White-throated Quail-Dove, Hooded Mountain Toucan, Blue-banded Toucanet, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, the endemic Black-throated Thistletail, Rufous Antpitta, Andean Tapaculo, Rufous-breasted and Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Blue-and-Black Tanager, and White-browed Conebill. Thereafter we'll descend to the tropical lowlands and our hotel overlooking the river in Villa Tunari, where we will spend the following two nights.



Day 9, 24th September: Carrasco National Park. Located at the foot of the Andes at 1480 feet (450 meters) above sea level, Villa Tunari is in one of the wettest areas of sub-tropical forest on the continent. Here we will spend the morning birding the lower forests of Carrasco National Park, our goal being to explore a cave with the southernmost population of Oilbirds on Earth. The river-crossing is an adventure

in itself: in a safe but thrilling procedure, a little cable car is pulled across the rushing river below. The forest here harbors a number of Amazonian species such as Amazonian Umbrellabird, Black-throated Antbird, Black-spotted Barbet, Black Phoebe, Swainson's thrush, Red-crowned Ant Tanager, Crested and Dusky-green Oropendola, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Screaming Piha, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, the restricted Upland Antshrike and the stunning Andean Cock-of-the-Rock.

Day 10, 25th September: Villa Tunari to Cochabamba. In the morning before leaving the Villa Tunari area, we will check the Tablas Montes and Miguelito trails to search for any species we may still be missing. After lunch we then start on our way back up the mountains and on to Cochabamba, but this time taking a different road. In the late afternoon we will continue up to the tree-line, where we will bird until sunset to try for the rare Swallow-tailed Nightjar that lives in the canyons of this area. This bird is more easily seen here than anywhere else, and we'll make a very concerted effort to find it. After targeting the majority of species we are after in this region, we will continue on to Cochabamba where we will spend another two nights.

Day 11, 26th September: Cerro Tunari area. At dawn we will watch the sun creep over the mountains to the west, soon bringing warmth to the valley below. The endemic Bolivian Warbling Finch is found here, along with dazzling hummingbirds including Red-tailed Comet and Sparkling Violet-ear, and the less common Giant Hummingbird. Grey-hooded Parakeets leave their roosts squawking loudly as they race to the lower forests, and we will pick up these and other birds before continuing on to a tree-line forest with rushing mountain streams, where Torrent Ducks feed next to White-capped Dippers. We'll also search for Tufted and Yellow-bellied Tit-Tyrant, White-winged Black Tyrant, Giant Conebill, Tawny Tit-Spinetail, Puna Hawk, Bare-faced and Black-winged Ground-Doves,



Rock Earthcreeper, Andean Hillstar, Olive-crowned Crescentchest and White-browed Chat-Tyrant. Other birds we might see in the rocky canyons include Andean Swallow, Andean Flicker, Plain-breasted Earthcreeper, White-winged Cinclodes, Streak-throated Canastero, White-fronted, Cinereous and Puna Ground Tyrant, Greenish and Bright-rumped Yellow Finch, Rufous-bellied Saltator, Fulvous-headed Brush Finch, Plumbeous Sierra Finch and White-winged Diuca Finch.



After the activity dies down in the mid-morning, we will then continue up the mountain road.

Above the tree-line, the scenery changes drastically. Here, sheep and Llama farmers live in houses unchanged since the early 1500s, giving this place a very medieval look. Their lifestyle has also changed very little, so visiting the area will be like a journey back in time! This is also prime habitat for the rare Short-tailed Finch. Later on we'll enjoy a picnic lunch served in a scenic location. We spend most of today at altitudes above 14,000 feet (4,270 meters); important for our acclimatization for the

higher altitudes of the next few days.

Day 12, 27th September: Cochabamba to La Paz. We leave Cochabamba early this morning to begin our journey to Oruro and then on to La Paz. Our first stop is to try for Brown-backed Mockingbird and the endemic, monotypic Bolivian Blackbird in the arid valleys south of town. The road then climbs to the Puna grasslands up a mountain pass, where red-rock canyons harbor Plain-mantled Tit-Spintail, D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant and other interesting, high altitude species. This pass then descends into the Bolivian altiplano; a rolling tableland stretching between the western and eastern cordilleras. Oruro is built on the slopes of a hill at 12,200 feet (3,700 meters). We won't spend much time here, but will make a quick stop just south of town to bird the rich avian delights at Lake Uru-Uru. Interestingly, an ancient inland sea once covered Lake Uru-Uru as well as Titicaca. Today, the two lakes are only connected in wet years by the Desaguadero River. Uru-Uru has extensive shallow shores with teeming waterfowl, shorebirds, marshbirds and waders; the most important species being the endemic Short-winged Grebe. At times, the lake also teems with three species of flamingos: Chilean, Andean and a small number of James's. We then continue on to La Paz in the afternoon; and time permitting, we will stop along the way to look for Darwin's Nothura, Silvery Grebe, Golden-spotted Ground Dove, Mountain Parakeet, Andean Lapwing, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Grey-breasted and Least Seedsnipe, Streak-throated Canastero, Common Miner, Andean Negrito, Short-billed Pipit and Band-tailed Yellow Finch. We arrive at our comfortable hotel in La Paz at the end of what promises to be another very productive day, where we will settle in for a two night stay.

Day 13, 28th September: La Cumbre Pass and Coroico Road. Today we'll experience some of the most impressive drives on plant Earth! Leaving La Paz after an early breakfast, we will climb through the clouds to La Cumbre Pass at over 14,800 feet (4,570 meters), where snowcapped peaks and snowfields will surround us. The natural Puna gardens attract a variety of hummers including Andean Hillstar. This delightful jewel is well adapted to the high altitude with its ability to go into



a dormant torpor in order to save energy at night and on very cold days. From this point we will drop more than 11,100 feet (3,380 meters) in less than 50 miles (80 kilometers), passing through Puna, Andean lakes, cloud forest and, finally, the exuberant rainforests of the Yungas, stopping to



bird the various habitats along the way. Andean Cock-of-the Rocks may be seen from the roadside, and birding the steep temperate and sub-tropical slopes will be exhilarating. We will look for Black-winged and Plum-crowned Parrot, Crested and Golden Headed Quetzal, Band-tailed and Barred Fruiteater, Barred Becard, Crescent-chested Cotinga, Bolivian Tyrannulet, White-eared Solitaire, Golden-browed Chat-Tyrant, Mountain Wren, White-collared Jay and a dazzling array of tanagers. Other possible birds include Citrine Warbler, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher, Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager, the stunning Golden-collared

Tanager, and a race of Light-crowned Spinetail with a white crest. Further down, the habitat becomes more sub-tropical with huge bamboo stands intermixed with cloud forest. Several bamboo specialists forage here, and we will look for Sepia-brown Wren, Plushcap and Superciliaried, Three-striped, Orange-browed and Drab Hemispingus. Some of the forest species include Hooded Mountain Toucan, Rust-and-Yellow, Blue-and-Black and Blue-capped Tanager, Crimson-mantled and Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Long-tailed Sylph, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Rufous-capped Thornbill, Rufous-bellied Brush Tyrant, Blue-banded Toucanet, Hooded Mountain Toucan and Southern Mountain Cacique.

Day 14, 29th September: Lake Titicaca and Sorata. Lake Titicaca is the last stretch of an ancient inland sea that once covered over 38,000 square miles (62,120 square kilometers) and included Lake Uru-Uru. It is the world's highest navigable lake, and stretches over 3,100 square miles (5,050 square kilometers)! Its greatest known depth is 900 feet (280 meters). Floating "totora" reeds enable descendants of the Uru Indians to maintain floating villages, and inhabitants on the southern border use them to build the distinctive reed boats that the lake is renowned for. Today we will bird the marshy shorelines to look for the endemic Titicaca (Short-winged) Grebe among the totora reeds. We will also look for Silvery Grebe, Plumbeous Rail, Andean Ruddy Duck, Mourning and Peruvian Sierra Finch, Black-winged Ground Dove and Black Siskin. Other possible species here include Puna Snipe, Correndera Pipit and Slender-billed Miner. After an active morning we will then have lunch before returning to La Paz. The balance of the afternoon is free to explore the town's interesting markets.



Day 15, 30th September: Return home. Today we transfer to La Paz International airport, where the tour will conclude and we will catch our return flight home.

GROUP SIZE:

This tour will be limited to 10 participants with 1 Rockjumper leader & 1 local leader.



FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The fee for the **Bolivia: Birding the Amazon to Lake Titicaca** tour is **US\$3,950** * £2,490 * €2,820 * ZAR27,100 per person sharing.

The single supplement cost for this tour is **US\$400** and will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBT cannot provide you with a rooming partner although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

This includes:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 15;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- Extra activities as mentioned in the itinerary; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any drinks;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we now quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold (US\$), and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 3 months before the tour.) Approximate single supplement rates have been converted to US\$ but are also subject to exchange rate movements.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration (a minimum of 6 paying participants) a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping:

As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, porters, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does not include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Special Note

- Much of our time is spent in vehicles, as we do have to cover long distances in order to get to the best areas for birds and animals. The more luggage you pack the less room there is in the vehicle, so it is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg for check in luggage and 8kg for hand luggage.



ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour price **does not** include ANY airfares. The tour will depart from the International Airport at Santa Cruz de la Sierra on day 1 at **noon**; kindly arrive in advance of this time on this day or arrive the day before. Further meeting details in this regard will be forwarded to you in due course. The tour will conclude at La Paz International Airport on day 15. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Santa Cruz de la Sierra is the main port of entry for international flights in Bolivia and is serviced by several major airlines. We have the capacity to advise you on the best route according to your preferences, but your local travel agent will best be able to book these flights for you. **However, please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

Photo credits: Green-cheeked Parakeet (Luis Segura), Hoatzins (Jonathan Rossouw), Barred Fruiteater (Niels Poul Dreyer), Black-hooded Sierra Finch (Jonathan Rossouw), Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager (Dubi Shapiro), Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Andean Flicker & Andean Flamingo pair (Jonathan Rossouw), White-collared Jay (Niels Poul Dreyer) & Black Siskin (Jonathan Rossouw).

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