

Hi all,

Long-time lurker, first-time poster here – love this site and wish the lifelist fishing community had something similar. I recently took a trip to Patagonia (Chile & Argentina) and found some mammals that I figured could be worth mentioning to everyone over here! I'm quite a novice when it comes to mammal watching so much of this info may not be useful, but I wanted to post it somewhere just in case :)

**Torres del Paine:**

We drove the roads east of the park in the Laguna Amarga area for two morning and two evenings before finally seeing the obvious target: Cougar/Puma (*Puma concolor*)! Heard another calling as well but never made a sighting. The population seems to still be strong and there were several guides driving the roads as well – most seemed to be driving the Y-160 from the junction with Y-156 to Laguna Azul. There were also some nice valleys with plenty of Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) on the Y-166, with great views of the Torres. Guanaco sightings guaranteed everywhere.



We ended up making our sighting here (-50.95893, -72.70153), it was resting initially with it's head up and slowly sauntered it's way over the ridge, giving us some great skylined views.



We also saw some Guanaco being chased by something here (-50.95692, -72.67730), but they were too far off and we never saw what was disturbing them. Finally, we heard one calling hear but embarrassingly didn't even realize it was a cougar call and mistook it for a raptor of some sort (-50.88305, -72.73362). We realized our mistake days later while watching a Puma documentary.

We saw a few Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) while driving, one seemed to be living here (-50.92415, -72.71518) near this pull-off area which also made a great temporary campsite. At least, I assume this is a Brown Hare – ID help appreciated!



We also surprisingly saw only one fox the entire time, a Chilla (*Lycalopex grisea*) we spotted here (-50.97801, -72.64983) as we headed out of the area after our cat sighting. Apologies if I'm getting the common names wrong – going off of iNat here.



**Punta Arenas – Faro San Isidro:**

The journey to the “fin del camino” also had a few notable sightings. What I think are European Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are all over Punta Arenas – seen easily here (-53.14426, -70.89042) and here (-53.10736, -70.87960).



Pods of Commerson's Dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus commersoni*) were seen a few times fairly close to shore, just past the edge of the kelp forests. I also saw Molina's Hog-nosed Skunk (*Conepatus chinga*) rooting around someone's yard in the middle of the day near here (-53.52131, -70.94821), but I doubt this is a consistent sighting.



A final surprise in this area was a (sadly) very habituated Culpeo (*Lycalopex culpaeus*) at the end of the road – definitely a great place to see one here (-53.74171, -70.97043).



**Punta Delgada Ferry Crossing:**

Excellent views of Commerson's Dolphin during most of the crossing, very memorable experience seeing them jump and put on a show. A bit unrelated, but we also saw several Magellanic Penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) as we crossed – definitely a budget option compared to the penguin tours!

