

'4th Tuesday'

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, May 23rd - 7:30 pm
in the Learning Center, SJWS

"Harsh New Worlds: the Cryptic Story of the Enigmatic Andean Seedsnipe"

presented by Gabriela Ibarguchi

**Conservation Program Manager, Terns and Plovers,
San Diego Zoo – Institute for Conservation Research**

This month's program takes us far beyond the borders of Orange County to learn about the Seedsnipes (Thinocoridae) a poorly known member of the shorebird family that inhabits the coldest, windiest, and most arid environments of South America, from the highest Andes to the remote latitudes of Tierra del Fuego. During work on her Ph.D., Gabriela Ibarguchi studied this enigmatic shorebird in the Andes, Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego.



incubating female Gray-breasted Seedsnipe

Ibariguchi, who is the Conservation Program Manager for Terns and Plovers at the San Diego Zoo – Institute for Conservation Research, says this about Seedsnipes, "Unlike their closest relative, the plains-wanderer from Australia (family Pedionomidae) and even other related shorebirds, Seedsnipes show remarkable adaptations to life in the mountains, suggesting a long ancestry in the cold. Cryptic in their behavior and appearance, and living in remote regions, Seedsnipes remain understudied, but have served as witnesses to massive environmental change, including the cooling of Antarctica and the rising of the Andes. Through studies of genetics, morphology, and ecology, the diversification of the Seedsnipe lineage is a remarkable story of survival, evolution, and adaptation to new challenges in a rapidly-changing world."