

Forty years of birding Peru

Barry Walker

Launching a new, informal series encompassing birding tales from the Neotropics, arguably the region's best-known ex-pat birder (and a strong supporter of the NBC since its formation) looks back on more than forty years of birding in Peru. Barry shares with us some gripping stories of his early adventures – in the days before invariably paved roads, smartphone apps, digital cameras, the internet and even field guides. So, imagine you are 'down the pub', beer in hand, relaxing while listening to these fireside birding tales.



In December 1980, immediately after a nerve-racking encounter with the Peruvian military at Ilo, Moquegua, one of the target species we were elated to see was **1** Andean Avocet *Recurvirostra andina* (San Pedro de Atacama, Antofagasta, Chile, July 2012; Fabrice Schmitt/WINGS Birding Tours).