

# Welcome to Neotropical Birding and Conservation

**O**n 1 April 2022 NBC entered a new chapter as we became a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) with the moniker: Neotropical Birding and Conservation. While we remain 'NBC' for short, the longer name brings out our twin objectives of studying Neotropical birds and helping to preserve them. But as our French members might say: *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. Being a CIO means a change in legal structure that has numerous advantages but it does not change the structure or purpose of NBC. We may have a new shell but the inner workings remain the same. We continue to be a registered UK charity with the same trustees (Council), the publisher of two fantastic journals and the provider of research grants.

Unfortunately, there is one event that has necessitated a change, namely the very sad loss of our chairman David Fisher (to whom we paid tribute in *Neotrop. Birding* 30: 3–5). I have the honour and privilege of succeeding David. During the 12 years

that I worked for David on numerous NBC projects I constantly admired the way he chaired and guided NBC. So, you can rest assured that I have every intention of preserving his legacy. Of course, no two people are the same and so inevitably there are some things I will do slightly differently. But what unites David and me is a passion for Neotropical birds and their conservation.

As I begin my term as Chair, I have been canvassing opinions from our friends and stakeholders on how NBC can 'up its game'. The need for organisations such as the NBC is greater than ever and yet our resources are stretched. We must find new ways to increase our income and to use more efficiently the money and time of volunteers we are lucky to possess. I am especially keen to solicit views of members on how we can improve NBC for you, as well as the birds. So please do email your thoughts to me.

Raymond Jeffers

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