

The 25 best Neotropical bird books from the last 25 years

Raymond Jeffers

When you think that only the second volume of Handbook of the birds of the world was published in the same year that the NBC was established, 1994 seems a very long time ago. But of all those specifically Neotropical bird books proudly exhibited on our collective bookshelf, which have been the 25 'best' – however you describe that superlative – of the past quarter-century? Neotropical Birding invited a self-confessed bookworm to give his personal view...

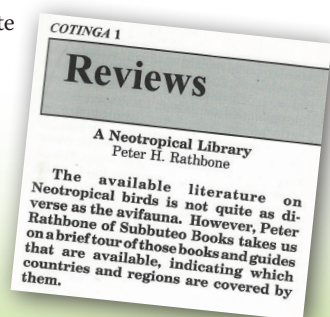
From inception the NBC publications have featured book reviews. In the very first *Cotinga*, Peter Rathbone (1994) concluded his *tour d'horizon* of the available literature on the birds of the Neotropical region with the comment that "there is a huge amount of in-print literature... [birders]... can draw on when planning a visit to this richly rewarding region". Rathbone should know: he was a bookseller who ran Subbuteo Natural History Books for many years.

Two-and-a-half decades later I am tempted to say *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* and yet

this would be an inadequate summary of 'then'

Right: How Peter Rathbone introduces his suggested Neotropical bird library in the inaugural issue of *Cotinga*.

Below: A small part of the editor's Neotropical bookshelf. Which of these tomes will make it into Raymond Jeffers' 'top 25'?



compared to 'now'. Not only has the quality of bird books been on an upward trajectory (generally) but also the coverage is deeper. Peter lamented the lack of a "fully satisfactory" field guide to the birds of Chile, a "modern" guide for Suriname and *any* guide for Ecuador or Peru! Today a month does not seem to pass by without another 'must-have' Neotropical bird book appearing. So, perhaps I should instead say: we have never had it so good!

If that is true, how can I possibly select only 25 'best' books? I need to define my 'book pool' and then apply some selection criteria. Inevitably this renders my list subjective – but then that's the nature of the thing. Book buyers disagree over binary choices such as pocket-size or rucksack-size, paintings or photos, bare-bones pointers on identification or all information known about a species, and so on. My stance is that some compromise is necessary: but where do you draw the line? Well, to update my political clichés, I have adopted the following 'redlines':

1. The book must have been reviewed in *Cotinga* or *Neotropical Birding*. This reduces the 'pool' to around 200! It also excludes pre-1994 'classics' such as *Birds of the high Andes* by Jon Fjeldså & Niels Krabbe which should be on your bookshelf: I know one Peruvian tour leader who takes the book's bird plates into the field because of their peerless portraits of subspecies.

2. The book must be devoted to Neotropical birds. Thus I omit 'global' books such as the incomparable 16-volume *Handbook of the birds of the world* (HBW) and its ancillary publications, the many high-quality monographs about bird families such as *Nightjars [etc] of the world* by Nigel Cleere, and such novel publications as *Birds new to science* by David Brewer.

3. Birds means birds. I exclude general wildlife books. While rarely seen in *Cotinga* or *Neotropical Birding* if one is reviewed you know it has to be good. For example, James Lowen's *Pantanal wildlife* furnishes you with an overview of the local biota of this 'must-visit' wetland. I also leave out general natural-history books. If you desire a non-academic primer on the complex ecology of the Neotropics, John Kricher's *The new Neotropical companion* is for you. It's a classic.

4. Book means book. So CDs and DVDs and even smartphone apps (as reviewed in one recent *Neotropical Birding*) are excluded.

5. The book must be innovative in some way.

This is where my personal predilections surface. 'Innovative', to me, means something that 'breaks the mould' or is a 'first' in some way (for example, country or region). 'Innovative' does not mean faultless but the book must still have 'something' over the competition.

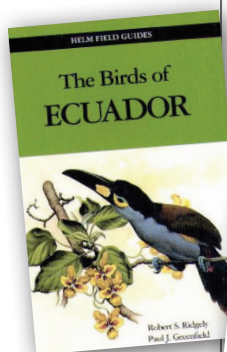
I 'road-tested' my list on a recent seabirding trip with a group of world birders – when the ocean was flat and the birds absent, clearly. There was consensus on a number of titles but disagreement on quite a few others. So, my final 25 will not suit all tastes. Please note that this is *not* a template for a 'Neotropical library' (as Peter Rathbone's article was entitled) but I do believe each title is worthy of gracing any birder's bookshelf. How many do you have? And how many of those you don't have do you want...? My 25 selections appear in bold and italic type – and details are provided on pages 39-40. I mention the edition reviewed in *Cotinga* or *Neotropical Birding* (other editions may exist). References to 'our' reviewer or 'our' review is to the corresponding article in those NBC publications and text in double quotation marks derives from such reviews (unless otherwise stated). For the avoidance of doubt, I have not *ranked* the books – this is merely a 'top 25' with no suggestion that there is an overall best, second-best, third-best etc book.

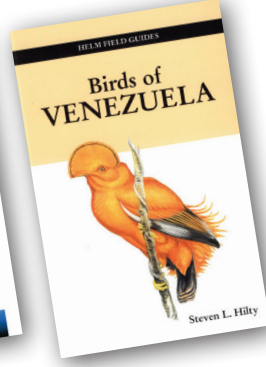
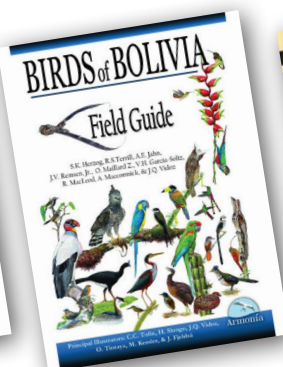
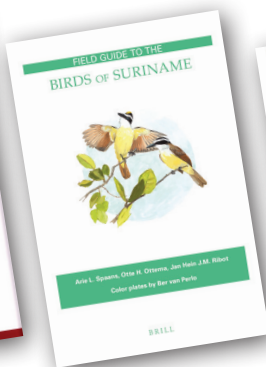
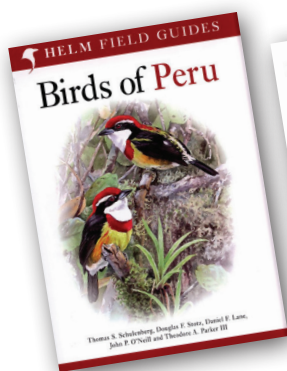
Filling the void

Happily, the four countries identified in *Cotinga* 1 as deficient in the field-guide stakes now bask in the glory of excellent books. First off the blocks, albeit not until the second Millennium, was

1 *Birds of Ecuador* by Robert Ridgely and Paul Greenfield. Rated by our reviewer as "A+" and labelled "monumental", this two-volume set weighs in with over 1,550 pages of text describing almost everything you need to know about Ecuador's 1,599 species. The text expounds on taxonomy, history, location and conservation status. Then there are 1,600 distribution maps and 96 colour plates for all but two of those species. The Galápagos Islands were not included... but do not despair, as relief will arrive shortly.

From time to time (but not often) a book comes along that makes you wonder why all national field guides are not like this. **2 *Alvaro Jaramillo's Birds of Chile*** is one such – and is one of my favourite





South American identification books. The plates are terrific and uncluttered (four to six species per page). The layout is user friendly with usually a quarter-page of text set opposite the relevant painting. As there aren't too many species to cover in Chile (compared to countries further north in the Andes), the volume slips snugly into a jacket pocket. Double the depth and equally indispensable is **3** *Birds of Peru* by Tom Schulenberg *et al.* Its combination of text, maps and 307 bird plates will help readers identify most of the country's birds and, very importantly, motivate them to help conserve the avian paradise that is Peru. Completing the quartet is **4** *Field guide to the birds of Suriname* by Arie Spaans and colleagues. Showcasing that country's 33 Guianan Shield endemics and around another 700 species this "admirably concise and well-illustrated" book will encourage you to visit a country that really deserves a recognised spot on the Neotropical birding trail.

Carrying on

Contemporary authors and artists are the first to acknowledge that they owe a great debt to the field workers and researchers of yore. It's our good fortune that the 21st century has seen publications that provide fitting tributes to these pioneers and also raise the bar for those that will follow. Here are three examples.

5 *Birds of Bolivia: field guide* by Sebastian Herzog *et al.* is the first comprehensive field guide since 1965 to cover the land-locked country with the most speciose bird list. A team of national and international collaborators have created a top book including first-rate artwork and innovative maps, and the profits from sales go to local conservation. My second example was eulogised by our reviewer as "a monumental work, unequalled in this hemisphere in its scope and accuracy".

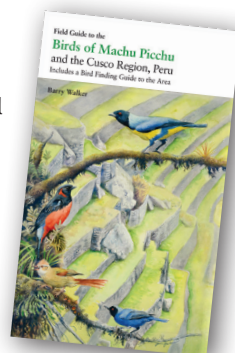
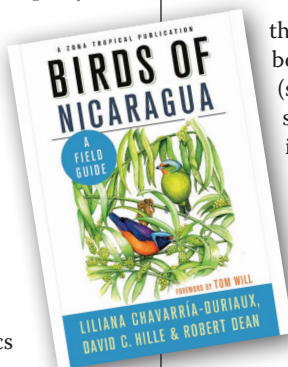
This is **6** *Birds of Venezuela* by Steven L. Hilty. This is an identification guide with thoroughly researched text and superb paintings. More recent and easier to carry in the field is *Birds of Venezuela* by Messrs Ascanio, Rodriguez and Restall. It is also worth a look although with 280 fewer pages, it is naturally less detailed.

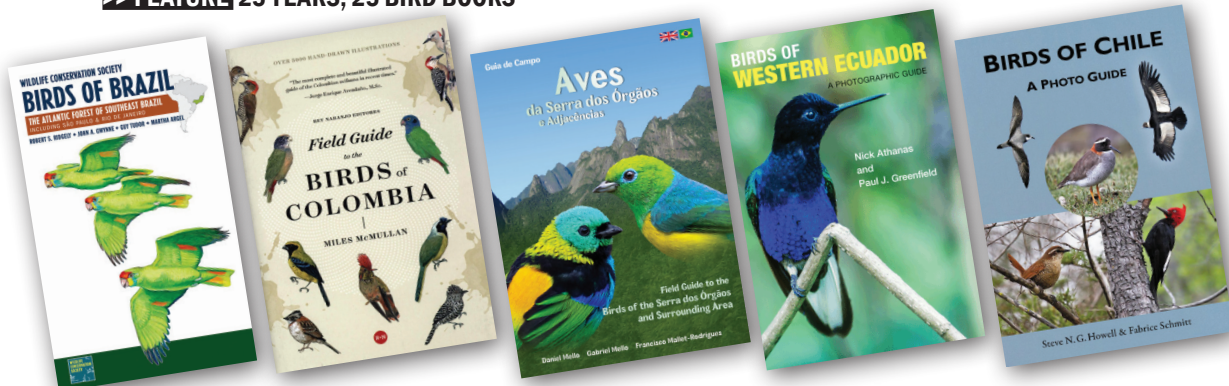
Back in 1994 our reviewer observed that "all Central American countries have been documented in various fieldguides (sic)". However, have you noticed the spate of new books for these nations in the last decade? It's admirable that less-visited countries such as Honduras (see *Guide to the birds of Honduras* by Robert Gallardo) now have modern field guides that will encourage bird tourism. My list recognises this welcome development by selecting the newest offering: **7** *Birds of*

Nicaragua by Liliana Chavarría-Durieux, David Hille and Robert Dean. This very good field guide will open your eyes to a country that has the largest continual block of tropical forest north of Amazonia and a bird list of 750+ species.

Going local

Sometimes no matter how good a national field guide might be it is better to have a more local book. An exemplar of this – and my benchmark for such works – is **8** *Barry Walker's Field guide to the birds of Machu Picchu and the Cusco region, Peru*. Here we have a bird book for one of the greatest World Heritage Sites, written by a resident of more than 30 years, illustrated in part by the incomparable Jon Fjeldså and showing you the taxa you might see (rather than some nominate subspecies that's never been there). The pages overflow with vignettes that only a *habitué*,





calling upon hours in the field, could pen. Take the text on Slater's Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias sclateri*. We are told it "shivers and briefly lifts its wings", can be seen "quite easily along the lower part of the road climbing to Machu Picchu" and is named after "the founding editor of *The Ibis*". Priceless!

My other 'local' is something completely different – but the same rationale applies. When sojourning to Brazil do you *only* pack the groundbreaking *Birds of Brazil* by Ber van Perlo with its 400+ pages, 187 plates and distribution maps for around 1,800 species? Well, maybe not: another option exists for some trips. The Wildlife Conservation Society is on a mission to cover all of Brazil through five regional books, each of which will be portable for the field. So far, we have two from the accomplished team of **Robert Ridgely, John Gwynne, Guy Tudor and Martha Argel**:

9 *The Atlantic Forest of southeast Brazil*. My pick is the latter because it's the more recent and is all you need for the birds of the top sites of Porto Seguro, Parque Estadual de Intervalos (for birding tips to which, see *Neotropical Birding* 24: 9–16) and Parque Nacional Serra da Canastra – among many others.

Pocket this

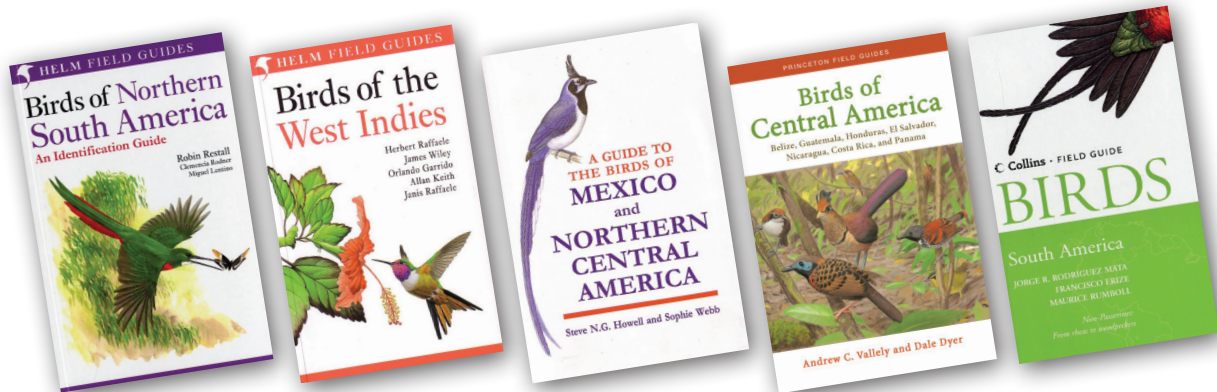
One creative feature of some modern field guides is their small size. Designed to slip into a pocket they offer competition to the standard-sized field guide (such as 14 x 20 x 2.75 cm): commonly by being less wide and thick. Of course, there is a trade-off to consider. Suppose you are visiting Colombia. For comprehensive coverage you cannot do better than *A guide to the birds of Colombia* by Steven Hilty and William Brown. Regrettably putting that monster (15 x 22.75 x 5 cm) into your pocket will tear it! However, no problem with **10** *Field guide to the birds of Colombia* by Miles McMullan, Thomas Donegan and Alonso Quevedo (12.5 x 21 x 1.5 cm). It's a kilo lighter, depicts 1,800-odd species over 244 pages and

nestles into a trouser pocket. The paintings are bright, accurate and uncramped, and accompanied by concise text. And now Miles McMullan (with Leslis Navarrete) has authored the even slimmer *Fieldbook of the birds of Ecuador*.

Photo-capture!

Do you prefer paintings or photos? The points of contention here are well known: real life versus artist's impression, photos in poor light contrasted with crisp artwork, and so on. With advances in digital photography and many birders sporting a good camera, the quality and coverage of bird photos has improved. Certainly, there is a growing catalogue of popular photo-only books. Our reviewer hailed Andy Swash and Rob Still's *Birds, Mammals & Reptiles of the Galápagos Islands* as "a model for guides to other regions..." but with a caveat "...with relatively few species". I offer three titles that might make you think twice about photo books.

First up is **11** *Field guide to the birds of the Serra dos Órgãos and surrounding areas* by Daniel Mello, Gabriel Mello and Francisco Malet-Rodrigues with 104 plates each typically housing 8–10 images of 4–10 species. Our reviewer remarked, "this is the finest photographic field guide I have ever handled". It also merits a place on the list as an inspiring example of three birders not finding a guide to identify the birds on their local patch and so deciding to assemble their own book! Next **12** *Birds of western Ecuador: a photographic guide* by Nick Athanas and Paul Greenfield rebuffs the foregoing "relatively few species" point by exhibiting its photos of 946 species. It's a remarkable collection of 1,487 photos from 72 photographers. Game, set & match to photos then? Perhaps not, as our reviewer noted that although the book "might start to change ... minds", it is not comprehensive, lacking a photo of Berlepsch's Tinamou *Crypturellus berlepschi*. The last of my trio is **13** *Birds of Chile: a photo guide* by Steve Howell and Fabrice Schmitt.



For our reviewer it is “an outstanding field guide” and “bold” in its suggested revisions to Chilean taxonomy. The “stand-out characteristic of the book” is the way many images are of “birds in habitats”. I agree!

Having it all

Unfortunately, the Neotropics does not have a modern multi-volume handbook equivalent to the well-known *Birds of the Western Palearctic* or *Birds of Africa*. I can, however, recommend the two-volume **14** *Birds of northern South America* by Robin Restall, Clemencia Rodner and Miguel Lentino, which covers Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. One strength of ‘BNSA’, as it is affectionately known, is that it illustrates 6,388 different plumages (males, females, immatures of species and some subspecies). On the downside, obviously it omits much of the southern Neotropics.

If you must have a ‘field guide to the [whole] Neotropics’ I offer the following idea: a DIY five-volume set where each book is a gem in its own way. There are drawbacks, of course: not all island endemics are covered and the books become out of date with every new discovery and taxonomic change. Yet for a reasonable financial outlay you will acquire a good overview of the Neotropics. Here goes...

15 *Birds of the West Indies* by Herbert Raffaele *et al.* is a field guide pared down from the 50%-bigger hardback guide of 1998. (If the budget stretches you might also buy the “highly recommended” *Birds of Cuba* by Orlando Garrido and Arturo Kirkconnell.)

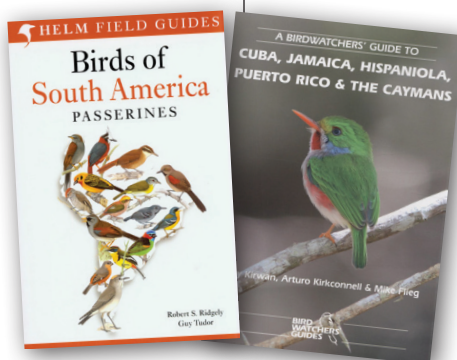
16 *A guide to the birds of Mexico and northern Central America* by Steve Howell and Sophie Webb is “an extraordinary

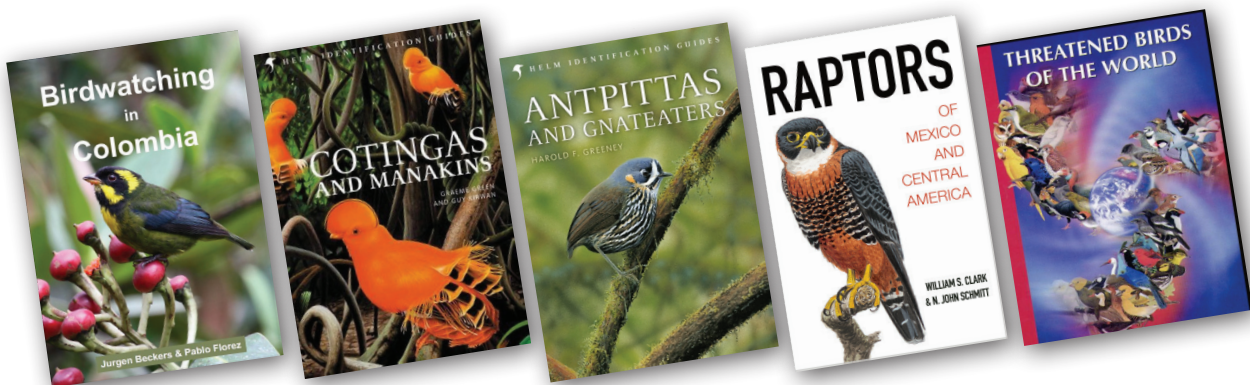
contribution to our knowledge of the regional avifauna”. A ‘golden oldie’ that’s still the best guide for Mexico. **17** *Birds of Central America* by Andrew Valley and Dale Dyer was published in 2018 and comprises the modern format of double-page spreads with plates on the right and, on the left, a concise text on distribution, ID, habits and voice plus map for each illustrated species. **18** *A field guide to the birds of South America* by an Argentine trio led by Jorge Rodriguez Mata covers 1,273 species of non-passerine (only) in 156 (mostly excellent) colour plates. The page of ground-cuckoos is especially mouth-watering! The final member of this quintet is **19** *Birds of South America: passerines* by Robert S. Ridgely (writer) and Guy Tudor (artist), a dream team if ever there was one.

Where are the birds?

There was a time when if you wanted an up-to-date site guide for a country you were about to visit, your best bet was to track down an intrepid birder’s trip report and pray a photocopy would arrive in the post before you left home! Today, we can surf the internet, flick through back copies of *Neotropical Birding* or buy a book. There are many publications worthy of residing on your bookshelf. I only have room for two in my 25.

The first is **20** *A birdwatchers’ guide to Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico & The Caymans* by Guy Kirwan, Arturo Kirkconnell and Mike Flieg. This is a model of how to compile such a work. It contains detailed pre-tour information (when to go, climate, clothing, health and the like), a plethora of accurate maps and a list of the ‘target’ birds with more detailed location information. As our reviewer concluded, this is “an essential purchase for any birder visiting the region”.





The second is **21** *Birdwatching in Colombia* by **Jurgen Beckers and Pablo Florez**. I have a soft spot for Colombia – and who wouldn't for a country with a bird list of around 1,850 (depending on taxonomy etc) and growing. This work is particularly attractive because it is a gold mine of good information (some of it original) covering 127 sites with helpful maps and texts, and all condensed into a book to pop into your travel case.

Two 'near misses', suitable for those who 'want it all', I can recommend Nigel Wheatley's pair of *Where to watch birds* titles – one for *Central America & the Caribbean* (with David Brewer) and the other for *South America*. Both are a little out of date but remain a good starting point for planning purposes.

All in the family

The Neotropics are blessed with some showy endemic bird families which make for a number of wonderful monographs to pore over. **22** *Cotingas and manakins* by **Guy Kirwan and Graeme Green** (see the latter's article on Three-wattled Bellbird *Procnias tricarunculatus*, page 57) is a detailed guide for birders that is written, painted and photographed by birders. The combination of distinguished author, long-time Neotropical field birder, tour leader-artist Eustace Barnes and a stunning bird family was bound to be – and is – a winner.

Our reviewer of **23** *Antpittas and gnateaters* by **Harold Greeney** concludes that this "labour of love... [is]... one of the best-researched avian monographs ever published" (see the full review on page 86 as well as Harold's article on page 42). Particularly impressive is the author's Herculean task of reviewing many internet records – from the likes of xeno-canto, Internet Bird Collection and e-Bird – and then compiling maps that are a "model of clarity" with the innovative inclusion of marked type localities. The paintings by David

Beadle are a joy to view with 156 taxa recognised including a remarkable plate featuring no less than seven currently recognised subspecies of Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula*.

One last 'family' book is **24** *Raptors of Mexico and Central America* by **Bill Clark and John Schmitt**. Admittedly the raptors covered are not all endemic to the Neotropics and more than one family is involved. Nonetheless, this deserves to be on my list because it is a "superbly produced book that straddles the market for specialised field guides and sumptuous coffee-table reference books". Furthermore, I trust it will encourage publishers to commission works on more difficult groups to identify. Bring on the 'easy' guide to *Empidonax* flycatchers!

Conservation, conservation, conservation

We need works devoted to conservation as a reminder to do whatever we can to help to preserve our precious worldwide avifauna. Hence, for my last pick I am abandoning one of my 'redlines' by choosing a 'global' book: **25** *Threatened birds of the world*, edited by **Alison Stattersfield and David Capper** and published under the auspices of BirdLife International and Lynx Edicions. Our reviewer (back in 2004) predicted that the book would "serve a critical role in orientating conservation efforts around the world" and it has. Today more up-to-date information can be found because BirdLife International reviews annually the avian dimension of the IUCN Red List (see also, e.g., Symes *et al.* 2017, Lowen *et al.* 2019). Just the same, as a snapshot in time of basic information on 1,186 globally threatened species (including population estimates, ecology threats and recommended conservation steps) this book remains in equal part a warning, inspiration and treasure trove. Keep reading!

TOP 25 NEOTROPICAL BIRD BOOKS, 1994–2019

These are my top 25 books, listed in alphabetical order by title together with details of the review (and reviewer) in one of the two NBC publications, *Cotinga* or *Neotropical Birding*.

A birdwatchers' guide to Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico & The Caymans by Guy Kirwan, Arturo Kirkconnell and Mike Flieg. 2010. Cley-next-the-sea, UK: Prion Ltd. 198 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 33: 173 (Chris Bradshaw).

A field guide to the birds of South America by Jorge R. Rodríguez Mata, Francisco Erize and Maurice Rumboll. 2006. London, UK: HarperCollins. 384 pp. Hardback. Review: *Cotinga* 28: 95–96 (David Fisher).

Antpittas and gnateaters by Harold F. Greeney. 2018. London, UK: Helm. 496 pp. Hardback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 25: 86–87 (Christopher Sharpe).

Birds of Bolivia: field guide by S. K. Herzog, R. S. Terrill, A. E. Jahn, J. V. Remsen, Jr., O. Maillard Z., V. H. García-Solíz, R. MacLeod, A. McCormick and J. Q. Vidoz. 2016. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia: Asociación Armonía. 491 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 21: 63–66 (Raymond Jeffers).

Birds of Central America by Andrew C. Valley and Dale Dyer. 2018. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 584 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 25: 92–93 (Christopher Sharpe).

Birds of Chile including the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia by Alvaro Jaramillo and illustrated by Peter Burke and David Beadle. 2003. London, UK: Christopher Helm. 240 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 23: 93–95 (Manuel Marin).

Birds of Chile: a photo guide by Steve N. G. Howell and Fabrice Schmitt. 2018. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 240 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 25: 90–91 (James Lowen).

Birds of Ecuador by Robert S. Ridgely and Paul J. Greenfield. 2001. London, UK: Christopher Helm & Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Vol 1: status, distribution and taxonomy. 848 pp. Softback. Vol 2: a field guide. 741 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 18: 117–119 (John Moore).

Birds of Nicaragua by Liliana Chavarría-Durieux, David C. Hille and Robert Dean. 2018. Ithaca, NY: Comstock (a Zona Tropical Publication). 480 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 25: 88–89 (Christopher Sharpe).

Birds of northern South America by Robin Restall, Clemencia Rodner and Miguel Lentino. 2006. London, UK: Christopher Helm. Vol 1: species accounts. 656 pp. Softback. Vol 2: plates and maps. 880 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 28: 93–95 (Thomas Donegan).

Birds of Peru by Thomas S. Schulenberg, Douglas F. Stotz, Daniel F. Lane, John P. O'Neill and Theodore A. Parker III. 2007. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press & London, UK: Christopher Helm. 664 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 31: 175–176 (Huw Lloyd).

Birds of South America: passerines by Robert S. Ridgely and Guy Tudor. 2009. London, UK: Christopher Helm. 750 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 32: 184–185 (Huw Lloyd).

Birds of Venezuela by Steven L. Hilty. 2003. London, UK: Christopher Helm. 878 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 20: 119–122 (Christopher Sharpe).



Birds of western Ecuador: a photographic guide by Nick Athanas & Paul J. Greenfield. 2016. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press. 448pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 21: 62–63 (Rob Williams).

Birds of the West Indies by Herbert Raffaele, James Wiley, Orlando Garrido, Allan Keith and Janis Raffaele. 2003. London, UK: Christopher Helm & Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 216 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 23: 92–93 (Guy Kirwan).

Birdwatching in Colombia by Jurgen Beckers and Pablo Florez. 2013. Privately published by Jurgen Beckers. 274 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 15: 78–79 (Pete Morris).

Cotingas and manakins by Guy Kirwan and Graeme Green. 2011. London, UK: Christopher Helm. 624 pp. Hardback. Review: *Cotinga* 34: 195–197 (Raymond Jeffers).

Field guide to the birds of Colombia by Miles McMullan, Thomas M. Donegan and Alonso Quevedo. 2010. Bogotá, Colombia: Intergáficas SA. 244 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 33: 166–167 (Jonathan Newman).

Field guide to the birds of Machu Picchu and the Cusco region, Peru by Barry Walker. 2015. Barcelona, Spain: Lynx Edicions & Arrington, VA: Buteo Books. 243 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 18: 53–54 (Christopher Sharpe).

Field guide to the birds of the Serra dos Órgãos and surrounding area by Daniel Mello, Gabriel Mello and Francisco Mallet-Rodrigues. 2015. Rio de Janeiro: Gabriel Jorge de Menezes Mello. 352 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 19: 85–86 (James Lowen).

Field guide to the birds of Suriname by Arie L. Spaans, Otte H. Ottema and Jan Hein J. M. Ribot with plates by Ber van Perlo. 2016. Leiden: Brill. 633 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 18: 54–56 (James Lowen).

A guide to the birds of Mexico and Northern Central America by Steve N. G. Howell and Sophie Webb. 1995. London & New York: Oxford University Press. 1,010 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 6: 40 (Andres Sada).

Raptors of Mexico and Central America by William S. Clark and N. John Schmitt. 2017. Princeton, NJ and Oxford, UK: Princeton University Press. 304 pp. Hardback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 22: 65–67 (Joseph Taylor).

Threatened birds of the world edited by Alison J. Stattersfield and David R. Capper. 2000. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International & Barcelona, Spain: Lynx Edicions. 852 pp. Hardback. Review: *Cotinga* 21: 89–90 (A. T. Peterson).

Wildlife Conservation Society birds of Brazil: the Atlantic Forest of southeast Brazil by Robert S. Ridgely, John. A. Gwynne, Guy Tudor and Martha Argel. 2016. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 430 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 20: 64–66 (Guy Kirwan).



OTHER BOOKS MENTIONED

This box lists other books mentioned in this article, arranged in alphabetical order by title together with details of the review (and reviewer) in one of the two NBC publications, *Cotinga* or *Neotropical Birding*.

Birds, mammals & reptiles of the Galápagos Islands by Andy Swash & Rob Still. 2000. London, UK: WildGuides & Pica Press. 168 pp. Hardback. Review: *Cotinga* 17: 91–92 (Jon Hornbuckle).

Birds new to science: 50 years of avian discoveries by David Brewer. 2017. London, UK: Christopher Helm. 416 pp. Hardback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 22: 67–68 (James Lowen).

Birds of Cuba by Orlando H. Garrido and Arturo Kirkconnell. 2000. London, UK: Christopher Helm & Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 253 pp. Softback. Review: *Cotinga* 15: 74 (Allan Keith).

Birds of the high Andes by Jon Fjeldså and Niels Krabbe. 1990. Svenborg, Denmark: University of Copenhagen and Apollo books. 880 pp. Hardback.

Guide to birds of Honduras by Robert J. Gallardo. 2014. Privately published. 712 pp. Softback.

Birds of Venezuela by David Ascanio, Gustavo Rodriguez and Robin Restall. 2017. London, UK: Christopher Helm. 592 pp. Softback. Review: *Neotrop. Birding* 25: 87–88 (David Fisher).

Birds of the West Indies by Herbert Raffaele, James Wiley, Orlando Garrido, Allan Keith and Janis Raffaele. 1998. London UK: Christopher Helm. 511 pp. Hardback. Review: *Cotinga* 10: 111–113 (Andy Mitchell).

Fieldbook of the birds of Ecuador including the Galapagos Islands and common mammals by Miles McMullan and Leslis Navarrete. 2017. Ecuador: Ratty Ediciones. 240 pp. Softback.

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