

Welcome to *Neotropical Birding* 25!

In 2019, the Neotropical Bird Club (NBC) marks its 25th anniversary. In celebration, the 25th *Neotropical Birding* is a special edition. Across 96 pages (rather than the usual 80), it features articles commissioned to reflect on how the world of Neotropical birds has evolved over the past quarter-century.

Chris Balchin – as intimately involved in the NBC as anyone – guides us through the NBC's creation and development (page 3). Alex Lees, Joe Tobias and I present the outcome of late nights debating what might constitute the region's 25 most remarkable avian discoveries since 1994 (page 11). Raymond Jeffers offers a personal assessment of the 25 best Neotropical bird books published since the NBC was 'born' (page 33).

Contributors take as a baseline articles published in the first two volumes of *Cotinga* to review subsequent developments. Harold Greeney assesses the revolution in our understanding of antpittas since Niels Krabbe wrote about the then barely known Giant Antpitta *Grallaria gigantea* in

1994 (page 42). Alan Chamorro and Constantino Auca consider efforts to save Peru's Junin Grebe *Podiceps taczanowskii* since Thomas Valqui used *Cotinga* 1 to express concern about the flightless waterbird's critical plight (page 52).

Continuing the theme of globally threatened birds, Graeme Green furnishes a personal perspective on the species enshrined in NBC's logo, Three-wattled Bellbird *Procnias tricarunculatus* (page 57). Meanwhile, *Neotropical Birding* has long been a platform for those who bird 'at the cutting edge'. On page 63, Juan Freile relates the unexpected discovery of a new hummingbird, Blue-throated Hillstar *Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus*. Tom Schulenberg then conjures his much-appreciated magic on recent taxonomic changes (page 73). In our final feature (page 80), I explore the South American Bird Fair, a now-annual event that would have been unthinkable back in 1994 when the Neotropical Bird Club was launched.

James Lowen, Senior Editor



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