

Welcome to the eighth issue of *Neotropical Birding*, the birding magazine of the Neotropical Bird Club!

From its diffuse northern limits to the clear-cut southern tip, the Neotropical realm is full of ornithological surprises. *Neotropical Birding* keeps bringing news of them to you.

Seven issues ago, in the very first magazine, we learnt about the Refugio Paz de las Aves: a place where antpittas became tame after learning to feed on worms served by the owners of the reserve. Now the word has spread and a growing number of antpittas can be enjoyed easily in Ecuador and Colombia (pp. 4–10). And if this is not enough, more skulkers are revealed in *Neotropical Birding* 8! The discovery of the vocalizations of one of the smallest and least-known crakes in the world, the Dot-winged Crake *Porzana spiloptera*, is an important step forward that will enable birdwatchers and researchers to learn a lot more about this species (pp. 40–43). Neotropical riverine habitats harbour a rich avifauna restricted to linear watercourses; exploring these habitats in Brazil is always rewarding and may result in the finding of one of the nicest tyrant flycatchers amidst lianas in a tangled forest (pp. 75–78). In the far north and right on the bridge of the Americas, a generous dose of good luck in Panamá can bring you face to face with an unforgettable ground cuckoo (pp. 68–73).

With almost 100 species of birds of prey only in South America, raptor identification is notoriously difficult even for skilled birders. Things get worse when the raptor in question is almost unknown in life (pp. 29–39). We hope to hear about members' success in identifying their first White-collared Kites *Leptodon forbesi* based on this article! If you share a passion for birds of prey, our feature article on the best places to see scores of migrating raptors in Middle America (pp. 12–21) will surely inspire you.

More quetzals and trogons, more skulking little birds (yes, tapaculos...), more woodcreepers but fewer warblers (and some shuffles) in the Neotropics are described in the taxonomic update of this issue (pp. 22–28).

Our birding menu samples very different environments. The lush Atlantic Forest of Guapiassu is home to a raft of endemics including several bamboo specialists and the sought-after

Shrike-like Cotinga *Laniisoma elegans* (pp. 60–67). Despite the relatively low species richness, the dry Monte Desert of Argentina hold most of the endemic birds of this country (pp. 52–58). Careful planning and enough time may allow you to visit these contrasting habitats in the same trip, perhaps stopping along the way to look for the threatened Helmeted Woodpecker *Dryocopus galeatus* (pp. 45–51).

As the 2011 Neotropical Ornithological Congress approaches, we offer our next NBC tour to Peru (p. 44) which will raise money for the Club's Conservation Awards programme. Check it out and see if you can resist the temptation... The Club's well-received move to two issues of *Neotropical Birding* per year was made at considerable financial cost. We can continue this frequency of publication only if we significantly increase our membership. If you enjoy *Neotropical Birding* and *Cotinga* please recruit a birding friend as a member and to ensure the future of these publications and to help strengthen the club's Conservation Awards programme.

Happy (Neotropical) Birding!

Nacho Areta, Editor



NEOTROPICAL BIRDING LOOKS FOR NEW EDITOR

The Neotropical Bird Club's council is looking for a new editor for the *Neotropical Birding* magazine. Applicants for the role should be proficient in English, have ample knowledge of the Neotropical avifauna, and be willing to contribute with ideas on possible new articles and sections for the magazine. Knowledge of photo-editing and previous editorial experience are essential. If you are interested in filling this position, please contact the Editorial Committee by e-mail to: chair@neotropicalbirdclub.org.

Thanks!