

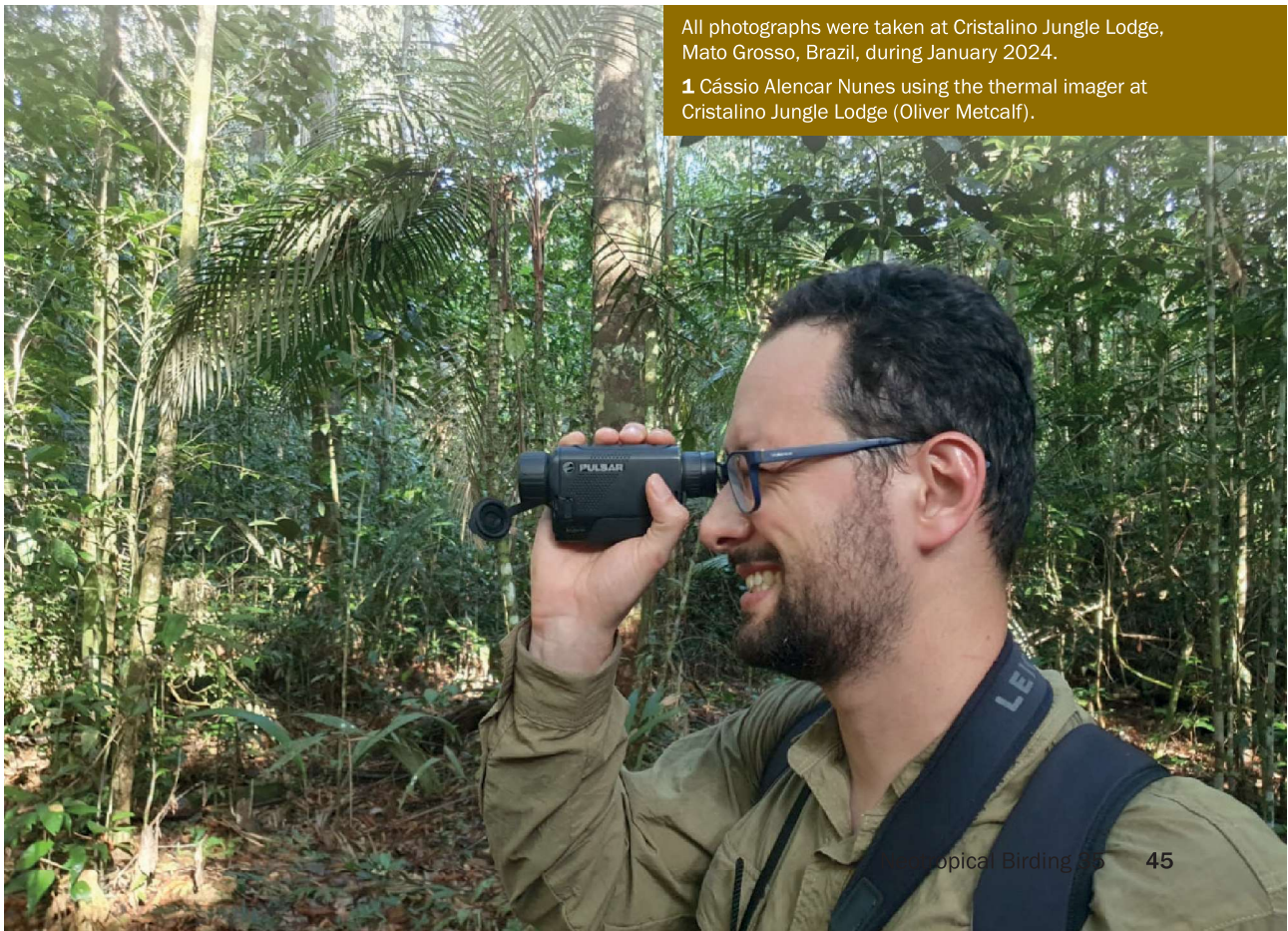
# On the utility of thermal imagers for birding in Neotropical rainforests

**Oliver Metcalf, Cássio Alencar Nunes & Jarilson Garcia Vilar**

Birders are grasping the benefits of using thermal imagers to detect nocturnal or reclusive birds. Here the technology is put to the test in rainforests in the Brazilian Amazon, with pleasing initial results.

**C**ristalino Jungle Lodge, in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, will require little introduction here, being one of South America's most celebrated ecolodges (see Lees *et al.* 2013 for a thorough review of the avian delights available). Our latest research project, using passive acoustic monitoring to survey rainforest birds (see Metcalf 2022), required some pilot data

at short notice, and Cristalino kindly agreed to host us. We approached the trip with mounting excitement—it was the first visit to this hallowed locality for all three of us—but also with a degree of trepidation, for we were going in January, i.e., during the rainy season, when Amazonian birds can be quiet and notoriously tricky to detect.



All photographs were taken at Cristalino Jungle Lodge, Mato Grosso, Brazil, during January 2024.

**1** Cássio Alencar Nunes using the thermal imager at Cristalino Jungle Lodge (Oliver Metcalf).