

Welcome to *Neotropical Birding* 24!

Every year brings a birthday, of course, but some are more special than others. In 2019, this is the case for the Neotropical Bird Club, which celebrates the 25th anniversary of its founding. For details on how the NBC is marking this milestone, see Club Noticeboard on page 78. In brief these comprise a celebratory dinner (15 August 2019, to coincide with the British Birdwatching Fair), a special 25th issue of *Neotropical Birding*, a one-day conference on 26 October 2019, a new logo (cast your eyes a centimetre or two top right!), and 25 free online memberships for 2019!

We are doing a bit of celebration ourselves in this issue of *Neotropical Birding* – albeit of the region’s fabulous birds and birding. We start with an article on the staggeringly gorgeous and once-mythical Rufous-crowned Antpitta *Pittasoma rufopileatum* at Alejandro Solano-Ugalde’s forest-filled *finca* in Pichincha province, Ecuador (page 3). We have guides to exciting



birding sites in Atlantic-Forest Brazil (page 9) and Amazonian Ecuador (page 19). Jeremy Flanagan presents worrying news from Peru, following fires in Cajamarca, which have destroyed an important site for the globally threatened and endemic

hummingbird, Grey-bellied Comet *Taphrolesia griseiventris* (page 55).

We have an examination of what the 2018 IUCN Red List update means for the Neotropics (page 48) whilst Raymond Jeffers escorts us on a journey through Mexico, on the NBC’s latest fundraising tour (page 40). Regulars include Tom Schulenberg’s inimitable round-up of taxonomic changes (page 31), a summary of new and interesting records across the Neotropics (page 62) and an update on the thriving NBC Conservation Awards Programme (page 71), for which the sky really does now seem to be the limit. A measure of success indeed for an organisation commemorating its silver anniversary.

James Lowen, Senior Editor

BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ
 - March/April (Brexit Special Offer for 2019!)
 PRIMATES AND PARROTS AMAZON CRUISE - April/May
 THE PANTANAL AND CRISTALINO - October
 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - Tailor-made birding year round
 ANTARCTICA AND ISLANDS - October - March

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