

Feedback

Champions of the White-winged Guan

With reference to the article on the White-winged Guan (*Neotrop. Birding* 9: 37–43), omitted therein were several prominent people pivotal in the species' recovery. Its survival owes much to Victor-Raul Diaz who ran the Barbara D'Achille breeding centre for many years and subsequently established another centre to continue the guan's *ex-situ* conservation. Indeed, since the collapse of the latter (which was managed by Asociación Cracidae) he has safeguarded the birds held there to the present day despite chronic underfunding and support. Likewise, the role of Lucilla Pautrat, who spearheaded the species' successful reintroduction into its natural habitat, including at Chaparrí Ecological Reserve, also merits wider recognition. The 34,412-ha Chaparrí reserve was initiated 12 years ago (with the first external funding being an NBC conservation grant) by the leading Peruvian conservationist and wildlife photographer Heinz Plenge, in collaboration with the community of Santa Catalina de Chongoyape, Lambayeque. The area now protects the single largest population of White-winged Guans (50–60 individuals, some now fourth generation, which are breeding successfully with wild individuals and are dispersing into suitable habitat nearby). Additionally, Heinz and the NGO he runs, Asociación TuTierra, champion the guan's conservation among the region's rural communities. This initiative has recently received funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and will lay the foundation for a community-based conservation strategy and corridor for the species.

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