



## Cause for concern?

It might seem surprising that two species resident on the same lake would look so similar, but Ogilvie (2003) states: “The Junín Flightless Grebe is closely related to the Silvery Grebe and it is believed that a population of these became isolated on the lake tens of thousands of years ago, probably during a period of glaciation, and gradually went flightless as the need to fly to escape predators or find food became redundant.” Ogilvie also states that the two species do not hybridise, but I wonder whether there might be a risk of this should the number of Junin Grebes fall very low? Atitlan Grebe *Podilymbus gigas* – another flightless species confined to one lake – is thought to have become extinct partly due to hybridisation with Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (its likely ancestor species) when the latter colonised the lake in the 1960s, by which time the number of Atitlan Grebes had fallen very low due to other factors. Detecting hybrids in the field would, of course, be extremely difficult.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**7** Sketch identifying the bill-length ratio feature that consistently differentiates between Junin Grebe *Podiceps taczanowskii* and Silvery Grebe *P. occipitalis juninensis* (Fabrice Schmitt/WINGS Birding Tours).

**8** A cropped version of Fig. 3, showing the ratio articulated in Fig. 7, as applied to Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis juninensis*.

**9** Junin Grebe *Podiceps taczanowskii*, Lago Junín, Junín, Peru, October 2013 (Fabrice Schmitt/WINGS Birding Tours). Cropped to show the ratio articulated in Fig. 7, as applied to Junin Grebe.

## REFERENCES

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