

# Birding Vale do Café, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

**Daniel Mello, Gabriel Mello & Rodolfo Eller**

Given that 2022 is the 200th anniversary of Brazil's independence, it seems appropriate to celebrate the country's fabulous avian offerings. Three experienced birders from Rio de Janeiro (two of whose latest book is reviewed in *Neotropical Birding* 28: 77) offer a guide to one of their favourite (and lesser known) birding regions in the state.

Unless otherwise stated, all photographs are by Daniel Mello (✉ [irmaosmello.com.br](mailto:irmaosmello.com.br) @ [irmaosmello\\_rio](https://www.instagram.com/irmaosmello_rio)). All photos were taken in Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil. Where the month and year of the photo are not provided, they are unavailable.

**1** Singing male Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*, September 2017 (Gabriel Mello: ✉ [irmaosmello.com.br](mailto:irmaosmello.com.br) @ [irmaosmello\\_rio](https://www.instagram.com/irmaosmello_rio)). One of a pleasing number of exciting birds to be found in the Vale do Café, this Near Threatened cotinga can be seen in Arcádia, Miguel Pereira.