

Welcome to *Neotropical Birding* 36!

Neotropical *Birding* magazine proudly celebrates many things. The birds of the Neotropics, self-evidently, and their conservation. And we also love excellent photography, great writing and the pioneering spirit that leads to discoveries.

The article by Steve Howell and colleagues investigating bird taxa endemic to the Tres Mariás archipelago of Mexico (p3) embodies all those prized elements. Until recently, the islands had been closed to the world for over a century. Although its bird community remains poorly known, Steve and co. suggest that at least seven endemic taxa seem worthy of species status. Moreover, no single endemic taxon has yet been lost—a remarkable, welcome contrast to the history of extinction that stalks islands worldwide.

Another regular author keen to push boundaries, Rob Jansen, is back. This time he explores El Beni, Bolivia (p23). Rob is also a fabulous bird photographer so we are delighted to publish nearly 50 of his images, a magazine record for a single article. Having seen over 9,000 bird species worldwide, it speaks volumes that Jonathan

Newman loves antbirds more than any other family. On p59, he recounts a quest to see Acre Antshrike in Brazil. On p41, Milosz Cousens reports from the Esteros de Iberá in northern Argentina, advising readers on less well-known areas to see the globally threatened grassland specialities for which this fabulous region is renowned.

Tres Mariás, El Beni, Acre and Iberá and are all excellent birding destinations, but they might not be entirely suitable for a holiday with non-birding partners, family or friends. Josh Jones redresses the balance in the Caribbean (p49), suggesting where and how to see Jamaican endemics while enjoying a relaxing vacation.

Last, but the very opposite of least, Tom Schulenberg sets out some fascinating splits, lumps and shuffles in his latest column on taxonomic changes (p66), covering storm-petrels, giant hummingbirds, a tanager and—I sense Jonathan Newman's ears pricking up—an antshrike. Happy Neotropical birding, everybody!

James Lowen, Senior Editor



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