

## Editorial

In this edition of *Conservación Colombiana*, we are proud to announce the exciting news of rediscovery of one of the world's most strikingly beautiful bird species, the Blue-bearded Helmetcrest *Oxygogon cyanolaemus*. This long-lost hummingbird was found by two of Fundación ProAves' reserve staff, Carlos Julio Rojas and Christian Vasquez, representing an important story of grass roots conservation action in South America. We are humbly pleased that the authors have chosen the foundation's scientific journal to publish this story, given the interest of major international journals and world press that other claimed rediscoveries have attracted in the past (cf. Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2005).

The rediscovery of the Blue-bearded Helmetcrest, almost 70 years since the last record, gives hope for potentially avoiding an extinction which some thought had already happened. However, its situation is perilous and requires urgent attention.

In recent decades, several other 'lost' species have been rediscovered in Colombia, although none of them has been lost for as long as this one. Some of these species have subsequently become subject to well-established conservation measures, including the Yellow-eared Parrot *Ognorhynchus icterotis* (Salaman *et al.* 2007), Dusky Starfrontlet *Coeligena orina* (Krabbe *et al.* 2005) and Recurve-billed Bushbird *Clytoctantes alixii* (Laverde *et al.* 2005) all of which are now protected in ProAves nature reserves. It is hoped that populations of Colombia's remaining lost species, particularly Antioquia Brush-Finch *Atlapetes blancae* (last recorded in 1971: Donegan 2009) and Bogota Sunangel *Heliangelus zusii* (last recorded in 1909: Graves 1993) can also one day be located and protected. Fundación ProAves is keen to work with the National Parks authority and indigenous peoples to find a solution to the challenges of conserving remaining populations of this beautiful hummingbird.

We and the authors have decided, for now, not to disclose the exact observation locality, due to its remoteness and the potential effects that numbers of birdwatchers might have on the species.

We also felt that this important discovery should be shared immediately with the ornithological, conservation community and the world, so have brought forward publication of this edition of our bi-annual scientific journal from its scheduled May publication date. This has meant that some other manuscripts which had been pencilled in for this edition but which have not yet completed the review and editorial process will be held back until the October 2015 edition, *Conservación Colombiana* 23, is published.

## Consejo Editorial, Conservación Colombiana

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