

STUDIES IN
NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGY
HONORING TED PARKER

Cover drawing: *Herpsilochmus parkeri*, by John P. O'Neill

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J. V. REMSEN, JR.

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(photo by John P. O'Neill)

Theodore A. Parker III (1953–1993)

*Here I sit a world away
Among old books that you will never read,
Thinking of you.*

*When you lie down
Among the night-cries of your brother birds,
Where leaf and cloud and stone
Enfold there intertexture without end,
My prayers go with you
Even so far as Cusco and La Paz,
The peaceful, mountain cradle of the stars.*

Blanford Parker

PREFACE

The future of Neotropical ornithology changed forever when Ted Parker died in August 1993. We'll never know exactly how it was changed, but we know it is going to be different without him. Most of his first 40 years were spent developing an unrivaled knowledge of natural history, and he had just begun to acquire the confidence and stature to apply that background to big problems. His death was, therefore, a multidimensional tragedy. The first two papers in this volume provide many details on Ted and his career, thus allowing this preface to be brief.

Soon after Ted's death his legions of friends searched for ways to express their appreciation for his friendship and his influence. This volume is one of those efforts. A primary goal was to complete as many of Ted's unpublished manuscripts as possible. Otherwise, the only initial criteria for submission of manuscripts was that they involve Neotropical ornithology, that at least the lead author was one of Ted's friends, and that Ted would have enjoyed reading the manuscript. We all hope that we succeeded in the latter; certainly Ted would be gratified to see so many of his favorite themes represented. Ted also would have appreciated the range in author experience, from "household names" in Neotropical ornithology to students and non-professionals submitting their very first papers for peer-review. He would also have appreciated the range in nationalities of the authors as well as the number of authors (15) from countries in the Neotropics.

I thank the many people who reviewed the manuscripts; each paper was reviewed by at least two researchers. Lola de Quintela and Manuel Plenge graciously translated many abstracts into Spanish. The Museum of Natural Science, LSU, provided logistic and clerical support for completion of the manuscript; Marilyn Young was especially helpful. John P. O'Neill donated his time to produce the cover artwork. Tom Schulenberg provided much sound advice and encouragement.

A special thanks is due to John M. Hagan III, editor of *Ornithological Monographs*. John should really be listed as an official co-editor of the volume, but John declined my requests to do this because he said that what he did was just part of his job as editor of the series. But handling the headaches of more than 50 separate manuscripts was far beyond the normal duties of an editor of a monograph series. John's careful editing improved many papers dramatically, and the countless hours of work that he did for this volume merit special recognition. Special thanks also are due to his assistants, Cammy Collins and Rebecca Hagan, for their work on copyediting the final proofs.

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Long may you run, Ted, long may you run.

J. V. Remsen, Jr.

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J. V. REMSEN, JR., EDITOR

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