

Project Update: August 2014

We successfully conducted fieldwork from January to April 2014 on the Darwin finch and *Philornis downsi* project on Floreana Island, Galapagos Archipelago, Ecuador.

In total we monitored 49 tree finch nests and found *Philornis* parasites in all nests with hatchlings (100% parasite prevalence). The mean *Philornis* intensity was 47 larvae per nest, which again was higher than in previous years. The chick mortality for tree finches was 99.97%.

Four our manual parasite control project we deployed a total of 28 McPhail fly traps in our study area in 4 plots (7 traps per plot) and caught a total of 368 flies.

We are now in the process of analysing the data to explore the vertical distribution of *Philornis downsi*.

We thank the Rufford Grant most sincerely for funding without which this work would not have been possible.



Fledgling with *Philornis* larvae in naris. (Photo: K. Peters) K. Peters deploying fly trap.



Checking the fly traps (Photos: K. Peters)