

Project Update: June 2017

Our visit in March 2016 was successful. We monitored the turtles for three weeks, finished taking samples for stable isotopes, and then removed all the radios from the turtles that were being monitored.

June 2016 marks a new stage of this project. I have just received the results of the stable isotopes that will allow us to estimate the diet of the Mexican spotted wood turtle and how it changes throughout a turtles' lifetime. Moreover, after a successful master's thesis defence, I bought a one-way ticket to Chamela, Mexico so I can continue and expand this project. My goal over these next few months will be interacting and educating local communities (especially schools) about the local ecosystem, use field surveys to monitor the local population of Mexican spotted wood turtles, and find a PhD program in Mexico that will allow me to continue working in the endangered tropical deciduous forest ecosystem.



Taggart Butterfield measuring a turtle in the field.



A female Mexican spotted wood turtle (*Rhinoclemmys rubida perixantha*) as observed in the field.