

Project Update: July 2016

I am excited to be writing this report. The Golden Swallow Project has been busy this past year, and I have a considerable amount of successes and other news to relate to you. I want to start by thanking the Rufford Committee for affording me another year's opportunity to continue pushing my work forward. I am proud to say that your generous funding was used to accomplish a variety of high-impact goals that would have otherwise been stunted by financial constraints. Thank you.

I want to point out that all embedded images in this document have been attached as full-sized pdf's for the Rufford Foundation to use in any capacity.

Awardee update

In the fall of 2015 I was awarded my Masters in Science from Cornell University after three very productive years as a graduate student in their Department of Natural Resources and Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. My thesis – accepted and bound in hard copy – is entitled:

I have attached the thesis in pdf format to this correspondence. I want to point out that I went with the thesis format option of collating two publications. Both publications have since been peer-reviewed and accepted by the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology. My colleagues and I are currently working on final revisions, and we expect both publications to hit the press by the end of the calendar year. Following their publication, I plan to have both articles professionally translated into Spanish and disseminated both electronically and in hard copy throughout the Dominican Republic. The Rufford Foundation is gratefully acknowledged in both publications.

Since graduating from Cornell University, I have fallen under the umbrella of [BirdsCaribbean](#), the NGO with whom I have long been collaborating. BirdsCaribbean is extremely active with avian projects throughout the Caribbean, and is undeniably one of the best organizations to help me continue moving my research forward. In addition to working for BirdsCaribbean, I have been hired as a Production Editor for their in-house journal, the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology. Needless to say, I'm really excited about the road ahead.

Project coordinators

As discussed with the Rufford Foundation during the application process in 2015, I chose Andrea Thomen to help coordinate and carry out the objectives of my Second Rufford Small Grant proposal, and to act as a local liaison with the many stakeholders involved with the efforts. Andrea Thomen is a Dominican biologist, ornithologist and coordinator. She has become an imperative asset in helping facilitate scientific research across the Dominican Republic, and was key to the success of the projects discussed below.



