

## Project Update: August 2016

We have been working hard on the research goals of our project in Venezuela. Situation is hard and complex, although we have been successful to complete our schedule. Happily, we could begin our third location despite of the political climate and weather.

Activities developed since February 2016 when we send out last report are as follows:

1. Field surveys in Altos de Pipe are finished, although the site required an extra survey effort due to the hard dry season of the last year. As a result, sample sizes for our nectarivorous plant networks were affected, but they are now complete.
2. Fieldwork in the Andes was performed as planned in May 2016. Heavy rains occurred during all the months and many landslides were found in the survey area (photo). Nevertheless, the activity of frugivorous and nectarivorous birds were high and we could complete our surveys. In company of Angel Fernandez, a large collection of plant specimens was obtained including several new records of an unexplored area of the Dinira National Park.



**Figure 1.** Botanical collections of a falled *Cecropia telenitida* in a landslides found in the Dinira area, Lara State.

3. As part of the programme for the World Environment Day on 5th June 2016, we collaborated with PEQUIVEN in several talks to promote the conservation of Palmichal Reserve. The importance of this reserve as a water source for city of Morón was highlighted and promoted. We were very glad that the results of the bird inventory in the reserve were also spread in a brief article of the local newspaper (Picture 2).



**Figure 2.** Talk in Morón as part of the World Environment Day

4. Compared to Palmichal in the Dinira a lesser number of exotic plants have been observed to be consumed by nectarivorous and frugivorous birds. Exotic plant species observed included *Eucalyptus* and other garden plants. These differences will be assessed in the next months.
5. Due to the economic crisis in Venezuela, it has been difficult to prepare some materials for our field surveys. These activities have been time consuming and we are currently outdated of our outreach activities in the blog. We have also faced some limit constraints during these months due to the publishing activities of our results of previous work, but happily our article about the diet of the endemic blood-eared parakeet is currently in print in *Ardeola* volume 63. A copy of the paper is attached.