

## Project Update: June 2017

At this time, we have several exciting announcements to share about the project. We are now in the height of our field work this season, establishing transects for bird and fruit phenology surveys and installing artificial perches for birds in the restoration plots. We have tried and tested various perch designs, finally settling on bamboo as the most effective material for construction. Bamboo is introduced to the Dominican Republic and commonly planted along rural highways to stabilise slopes, but these plants frequently become a nuisance when overgrown. Not only does using this material provide durable perching structures for birds, but it is also a practical use of an undesirable species for us and our conservation partners that also contributes to its population control. Birds are already starting to take notice of our plots and the structures we have placed within them.



Some of our project members pose in front of one of the first official artificial bird perch constructed for our study (left to right): Cristián (Plan Yaque), Joaris (project technician), Spencer (investigator).



Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) were among the first birds to notice the perching structures in our restoration plots. Not only are these visiting the primary perching structures in our study, but also the fence posts placed around these areas of interest. Our constructions, together, are creating movement corridors for frugivorous birds through abandoned pastures that will contribute to the natural delivery of native plant seeds to the plots.