

Project Update: August 2018

The summer phase of our 2018 work is off to a blistering pace. In addition to our ongoing artificial perch experiments and twice-monthly bird and phenology surveys at six sites, we have carried out over 300 hours of foraging observations on 32 species of trees and shrubs. This accounts for nearly half of all the bird-dispersed plants documented from the highlands of Jarabacoa. As seasons change, we expect to see new plants phase into reproduction and an influx of neotropical migrants that could remain on wintering grounds for up to 8 months. We have also been busy with several outreach activities, including a field ornithology workshop for university students to learn research techniques and leading outings for a youth summer camp. Not only did the kids get their fill of birding, but they also learned to construct feeders, use motion-sensor wildlife cameras, and release birds captured at our banding station.



Some of our current research involves surveying sites for fruit availability and subjecting fruiting trees to focal observations for foraging birds. With a lot of patience and focus, we are able to collect important information on plant-disperser mutualisms such as this Black-crowned Palm Tanager consuming fruits from an *Inga vera* tree. ©Alejandra Sacbel Monsiváis



This summer, we were invited by ISA University (Santiago, DR) to host a field ornithology techniques workshop for ecology students. The workshop included both classroom, practice field surveys, and a bird banding demonstration led by professional bander, Holly Garrod.