

Project Update: June 2023

Jailene Contreras from the Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral is in the field making observations of bird disservices. She found that the bird species most frequently found in crops were the small ground finch and yellow warbler. The crops most affected, during the period of observation, were corn, tomatoes, broccoli and cucumbers.



Yanella Tutiven, our local field assistant, extracting a bird from a mist net on a farm in Santa Cruz, Galapagos, as part of our study to understand bird services and disservices.



Crop enclosure experiments conducted in the agricultural zone of Santa Cruz, Galapagos. The nets were placed around 2 sets of 5 tomato plants and next to the nets we have 2 sets of 5 tomato plants that are uncovered. The principle is that birds are excluded from the tomato plants where there are nets, however insects are not. This allowed us to isolate the effect of the bird on the tomato crop to determine its role in pest control versus crop consumption.

