

Project Update: July 2023

Bird data collection using the point count method and vegetation surveys

As part of the field work, we gather bird data doing 558 surveys distributed in 62-point counts located along Amatenango del Valle, Comitán, Chamula, Huixtán, San Cristóbal, Tenejapa, Teopisca and Zinacantán. Through the bird survey we obtained 8,313 records belonging to 140 species. From these data and the information from the vegetation plots we elaborated an article titled "Chiapas Highlands avifauna response to anthropically disturbed forest composition and structure" which is currently under revision.



Figure 1. Performing a bird point count in Montetik Reserve, San Cristóbal.

Bird morphological measurements obtained from museum specimens and through mist netting capture, measurement, and release to perform functional analysis

During the pandemic months we obtained measurements of specimens from the SEMAHN Regional Bird Collection located in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez. The remaining measurements were obtained from birds captured using mist nets. The birds were released after being measured. The data obtained was used to measure different attributes of the functional diversity of communities and functional groups.



Figure 2. Team members during the bird and vegetation surveys in Chacaljocom, Comitán.



Figure 3. Performing morphological measurements from museum specimens at SEMAHN Regional Bird Collection.



Figure 4. Measurement of the birds captured using mist nets.

Elementary school's workshops about bird importance and conservation

We conducted more workshops than we initially planned in partnership with the programme Ecoaprendo from Pronatura Sur. For the workshops, we prepared different materials such as a bird lottery, cards with information about bird habits and distribution, posters with bird silhouettes and migratory routes, bird and cats masks for the migration obstacle game (from BirdSleuth K-12 Cornell Lab Educational materials). We had the participation of 246 students from five elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and two summer camps. We believe that through the workshops the children and youth enjoyed learning about birds and how small actions can contribute to their survival.



Figure 5. Bird workshop performed with the elementary school Pequeño Sol in San Cristóbal.



Figure 6. Bird conservation workshop performed with the elementary school of the ejido Laguna Petej from Chamula.



Figure 7. Bird conservation workshop performed with the elementary school Colegio Arcoiris.



Figure 7. Bird workshop performed with kids from the ejido Chijilté in Teopisca.



Figure 8. Bird Conservation workshop performed with the middle school from the ejido El Aguaje.



Figure 9. Bird Conservation workshop performed with the middle school Colegio de Chiapas students.



Figure 10. Bird ecology workshop performed with high school students from El Colegio Libre de Chiapas.



Figure 11. Small bird workshop performed with kids from summer camp.



Figure 12. Bird migration workshop performed with kids from Mundo de Talentos program.



Figure 13. Bird lottery game created for the workshops and some of the educational materials donated by Pronatura Sur and Environment for the Americas.

Collaborative workshops for the authorities that manage natural reserves in Chiapas Highlands region

We have been developing a poster with a scientific illustrator to communicate our results and recommendations in a more accessible and attractive way. The illustration will be shared through a poster and will also be part of the manuals with forest management recommendations that we will elaborate.

