

Project Update: August 2023

As of today (August 30th, 2023), the data collection portion of our project is at 80% completion. The plant census was completed in mid-July 2023 and the last fauna census will be conducted in mid-September 2023. Once data collection is complete, it will take some time for data curation and descriptive statistics to be completed. I am in charge of curating the plant data, of which there are about 6000 plants, some of which with photos to check their species identification. Similarly, the fauna censuses collect seed dispersal data from the birds and bats caught in their mist nets, and they will need some time to guarantee high quality in their species identification. I will provide you with another update once the last fauna is completed and throughout the data curation process. I am attaching a few photos the fauna team shared with me from this month's census.



The fauna census team arrives early to set up bird mist nets at the restored forest patches.



A Northern Banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) pays a visit. An insectivore known for following army ants through the forest, its presence in the restoration patches is indicative of recovering arthropod populations.



A Lesson's Motmot (*Momotus lessonii*) is handled by a member of the fauna team. Motmots are omnivores, often observed eating arthropods, small lizards, and fruit, although their capacity as seed dispersers has not been fully characterized.



A Tricolored Big-Eared Bat (*Glyphonycteris sylvestris*) handled by a member of the fauna team back in the lab. These bats are omnivores, capable of catching insects with the connective tissues between their legs but are also dispersers of small-seeded species such as *Ficus* and *Piper* species.



A White-Breasted Wood Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) held by a member of the fauna team. This wren forages actively in low vegetation for insects and other invertebrates, as such, its presence in the restored forest patches suggests a forest understory is well on recovery.



The stub-tailed spadebill (*Platyrrhynchus cancinus*) is a species with a declining population due to deforestation in Mesoamerica, although the IUCN currently lists it as LC. Its presence in restored forest patches is welcome!



The fauna team after a long night of bat mist netting!