

# **LAS GUACAMAYAS BIOLOGICAL STATION & LAGUNA DEL TIGRE NATIONAL PARK**



## **Segundo Cuento Navideño de Aves Second Annual Christmas Bird Count**

**12 de diciembre, 2011**

**With the support of:**



**Summary:** The second annual Christmas Bird Count was undertaken at the Las Guacamayas Biological Station (EBG) in eastern Laguna del Tigre National Park on December 12th, 2011. The count area included a 15-mile (24 km) radius around the EBG station. As during the first count, this second count was not able to cover most of the count circle due to the remoteness of the area, especially the northern reaches of the area (i.e. El Burreal and AFISAP). The counting area was mainly within Laguna del Tigre National Park, however, one group did count birds along the road between Cruce Perdida and Paso Caballos, outside of the national park within adjacent Maya Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone. These areas included degraded forest habitat and cattle pastures that were recently planted (i.e. within the last 11 years).

We recorded a total of 2,287 individuals from 204 species; 200 species were recorded during the count day, and 4 additional species during the two days before and after the official count day (i.e. December 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>). Of the 204 total species recorded, thirty-six (36) species were registered based on only one individual being detected. In comparison to the results of the first count in 2010, we recorded 8 fewer total species (212 in 2010) and five more individuals (2,282 in 2010). We registered one-hundred and two (102) White-crowned Parrots (*Pionus senilis*), the most individuals recorded for any species detected on the count. Notable species reported during the 2011 count included Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*), Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*), King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*), Orange-breasted Falcon (*Falco deiroleucus*), Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*), and Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*). On December 11<sup>th</sup>, >100 Fork-tailed Flycatchers (*Tyrannus savana*) were seen congregating in ranch fields just south of the park station at Sacluc, although only 34 were officially counted on the official count day (December 12<sup>th</sup>).

Due to the increased number of participants as compared to the inaugural count in 2010, we added the route of Peñon de Buena Vista to ensure adequate group size and increase the coverage of the count area. Twenty-six (26) participants were distributed across five distinct routes: 1) Rio San Pedro, Rio Sacluc and surrounding beaches and easily accessible trails; 2) Fincas between Cruce Perdida and Paso Caballos, as well as the upper section of the Rio Sacluc; 3) Trail from the Peru landing to the archaeological site of El Peru, the sibal at the IDAEH camp, and Laguna El Peru; 4) the trails and roads between the EBG and Paso Caballos fallows, principally the ecotone edge areas; and 5) the road from Paso Caballos to the Peñon de Buena Vista, passing through Paso Caballos fallows and next to the Yala lagoon. The count covered 73 km in total: (33 km walking; 17 km by boat; 23 km driving).

## **Details:**

**Bird Count Date:** December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Bird Count Area:** Eastern Laguna del Tigre National Park and adjacent areas of the Maya Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone

**Weather:** The weather was overcast, with light rain showers and drizzles for a majority of the day. The general consensus was that the weather was a significant factor in decreasing the detection of birds, especially raptors and soaring species.

**Number of Count Participants:** 25

**Participants:** Julio Madrid (CONAP), Luis Guerra (CONAP), Manuel Castellanos (CONAP), Rony Manzanero (CONAP), Vinicio Mejia (CONAP), Manuel Castellanos (hijo), Robert Cahill, Ruth Cahill, John Paul Cahill, Peter Cahill, Alejandro Sagone, Jeovany Tut (BALAM), José Maria Castillo (BALAM), Elena Baumanns (BALAM), Adolfo Barajas (BALAM), Romulo Bedoya (BALAM), Sofia Rosales (ARCAS), Fernando Aldana, David Aldana, Daniel Aldana, Med. Vet. Denis Guerra (USAC), Med Vet. Edy Meoño (USAC), Marcial Cordova (WCS), Rony García (WCS), Roan Balas McNab (WCS).

**Total Species Recorded:** 204

**Species Recorded during Count Day:** 200

**Species Recorded during Count Week:** 4

**Number of Count Groups:** 5

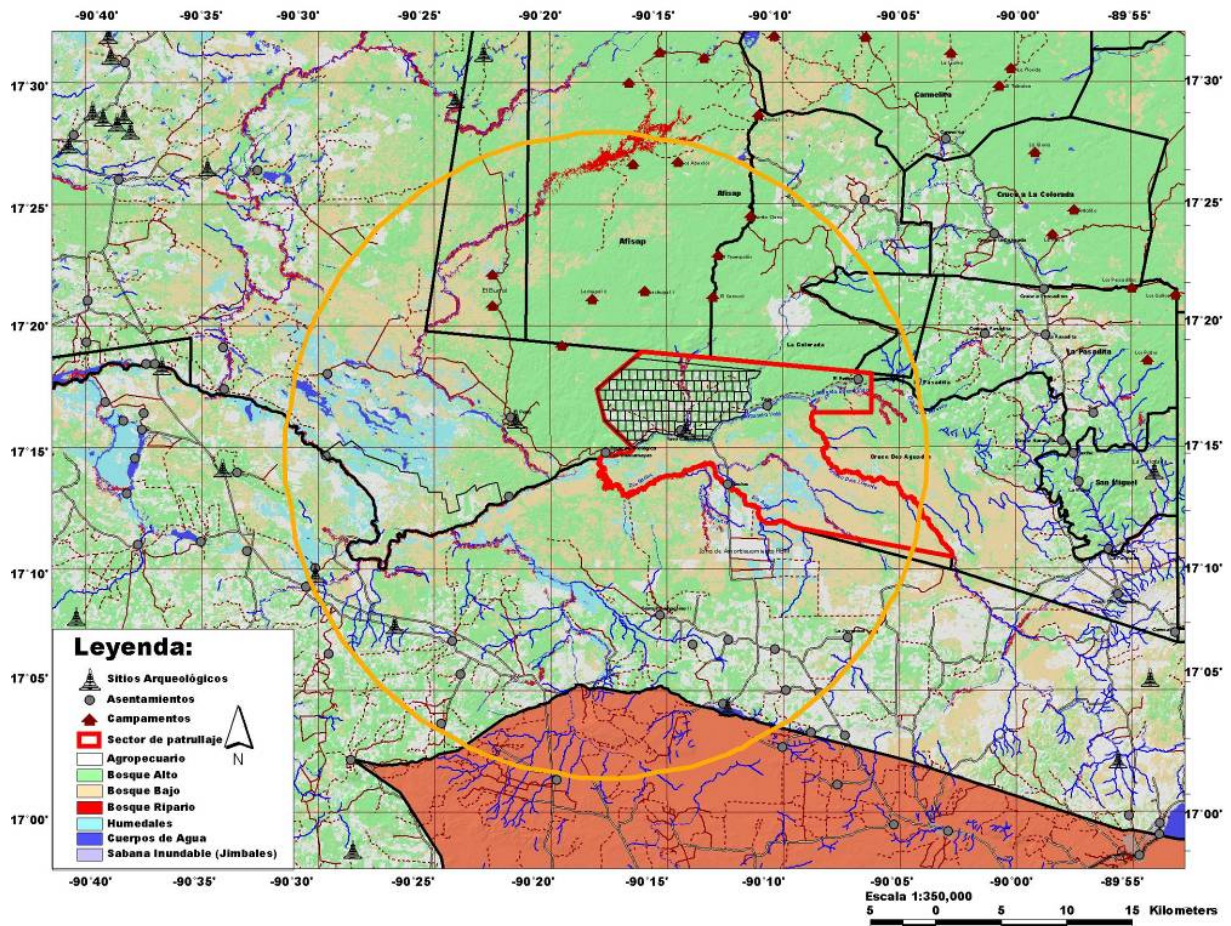
### **Count Areas and Details:**

- 1) Rio San Pedro, Rio Sacluc and surrounding beaches and easily accessible trails, including the trail from Zacatal north towards Laguna el Peru.
  - a. Participants: 7 (2 departed at 10 AM)
  - b. Boat km: 15 km
  - c. Walking km: 3 km
  
- 2) Fincas between Cruce Perdida and Paso Caballos, as well as the upper section of the Rio Sacluc
  - a. Participants: 3
  - b. Walking km: 5 km
  - c. Driving km: 10 km
  
- 3) Trail from the Peru landing to the archaeological site of El Peru, the sibal at the IDAEH camp, and Laguna El Peru.

- a. Participants: 6
  - b. Boat km: 2 km
  - c. Walking km: 12 km
- 4) Trails and roads between the EBG and Paso Caballos fallows, principally the ecotone edge areas, and 2 km on a forest trail in the EBG area.
- a. Participants: 4
  - b. Walking km: 10 km
- 5) Road to Peñon de Buena Vista, passing through fallows of Paso Caballos, across the Rio Yala, past the Yala lagoon, and arriving to the Peñon de Buena Vista.
- a. Participants: 5
  - b. Walking km: 3 km
  - c. Driving km: 13 km

**Total kilometers Covered:** 73 km in total: (33 km walking; 17 km by boat; 23 km driving)

**Count Area:**



Species with only one bird recorded			No.
Cairina	moschata	Muscovy Duck	1
Phalacrocorax	brasilianus	Olivaceous Cormorant	1
Fregata	magnificens	Magnificent Frigatebird	1
Agamia	agami	Agami Heron (chestnut-bellied)	1
Elanus	leucurus	White-tailed Kite	1
Geranospiza	caerulescens	Crane Hawk	1
Falco	sparverious	American Kestrel	1
Falco	deiroleucus	Orange-breasted Falcon	1
Aramus	guarauna	Limpkin	1
Strix	virgata	Mottled Owl	1
Phaeochroa	cuvierii	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	1
Campylopterus	curvipennis	Wedge-tailed Sabrewing	1
Anthracothorax	prevostii	Green-breasted Mango	1
Heliothyrs	barroti	Purple-crowned Fairy	1
Trogon	massena	Slaty-tailed Trogon	1
Chloroceryle	amazona	Amazon Kingfisher	1
Piculus	rubiginosus	Golden-Olive Woodpecker	1
Sclerurus	guatemalensis	Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser	1
Microrhopias	quixensis	Dot-winged Antwren	1
Myiopagis	viridicata	Greenish Elaenia	1
Mionectes	oleaginus	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	1
Empidonax	flaviventris	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1
Empidonax	albigularis	White-throated Flycatcher	1
Empidonax	minimus	Least Flycatcher	1
Myiarchus	yucatanensis	Yucatan Flycatcher	1
Lipaugus	unirufus	Rufous Piha	1
Hylophilus	ochraceiceps	Tawny-crowned Greenlet	1
Basileuterus	culicivorus	Golden-crowned Warbler	1
Tangara	larvata	Golden-hooded (masked) Tanager	1
Thraupis	abbas	Yellow-winged Tanager	1
Volatinia	jacarina	Blue-black Grassquit	1
Saltator	coerulescens	Greyish Saltator	1
Saltator	maximus	Buff-throated Saltator	1
Cyanocompsa	parellina	Blue Bunting	1
Passerina	caerulea	Blue Grosbeak	1
Passerina	cyanea	Indigo Bunting	1

## Photographs



**Vermillion Flycatcher (RBMcNab)**



**Lesser Yellow-headed (Savanna) Vulture (RBMcNab)**



**Magnificent Frigatebird (RBMcNab)**



**Ladder-backed Woodpecker (Robert & Tara Cahill family)**



**White-tailed Kite (Robert & Tara Cahill Family)**



**Las Guacamayas Biological Station, Laguna del Tigre National Park**