

LAS GUACAMAYAS BIOLOGICAL STATION & LAGUNA DEL TIGRE NATIONAL PARK



Cuarto Cuento Navideño de Aves Fourth Annual Christmas Bird Count

21 de diciembre del 2013

With the support of:



1) Summary: The fourth annual Christmas Bird Count was held at the Las Guacamayas Biological Station (EBG) in eastern Laguna del Tigre National Park on December 21st, 2013. The count area spanned a 15-mile (24 km) radius around the EBG station. As during the prior counts, this fourth count was not able to cover most of the count circle due to the remoteness of the area, especially the count circle's northern section (i.e. El Burreal and AFISAP). The counting area was mainly within Laguna del Tigre National Park, however, two groups did count birds within Buffer Zone areas along the road between Cruce Perdida and Paso Caballos, and south of the Rio Sacluc, in pastures and fallows along the old trail to Centro Campesino. These areas included patches of degraded forest habitat and cattle pastures that were recently planted (i.e. within the last 15 years).

During the 2013 count we recorded a total of 3,321 individuals from 227 species; 219 species were recorded during the count day, and 8 additional species during the two days before and after the official count day (i.e. December 20th and 22nd). Of the 227 total species recorded, forty-five (45) species were registered based on only one individual being detected.

Species with the highest individual totals during 2013 included three hundred and fifty-two (352) Red-winged Blackbirds, two hundred and five (205) Cattle Egrets, and one hundred and eighteen (118) Mangrove Swallows. Notable species included Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*), Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*), King Vulture (*Sarcorampus papa*), Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*), Black-and-white Owl (*Strix neogroleata*), and Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*). Six (6) Common Potoos (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) were spotted in the early morning using a high power scope along the Rio San Pedro. We also recorded the first registry of the White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) during a Christmas count, demonstrating the continued expansion of this colonist species (Note: this species was first recorded in Laguna del Tigre by Mendez et al. in 1998). As during previous years, the day before the official count >100 Fork-tailed Flycatchers (*Tyrannus savana*) were seen congregating in ranch fields just south of the park station at Sacluc; yet only 33 were registered on the official count day (December 21st).

Due to the flooding of the route to Peñon de Buena Vista we developed a "new" 5th route along the Rio Sacluc, including fincas and forest fragments along the southern edge of the river. This modification allowed us to maintain manageable group sizes while monitoring a percentage of the count area comparable to the last two years. Twenty-six (26) participants were distributed across five distinct routes: 1) Rio San Pedro, and surrounding beaches and easily accessible trails through forest patches and fallows; 2) Fincas between Cruce Perdida and Paso Caballos, as well as the upper section of the Rio Sacluc; 3) Trail from the El 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, with the slight modification of continuing through the fallows all the way to Paso Caballos this year, instead of returning to the EBG through forested areas; and 5) the aforementioned new route along the Rio Sacluc, including forest patches and fallows along the southern side of the river. The count covered 75 km in total: (30 km walking; 33 km by boat; 12 km driving).

Details

Bird Count Date: December 21st, 2013

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

Weather: The weather was extremely sunny and hot, with a strong breeze which kicked up in the late afternoon.

Number of Count Participants: 24

Participants: Julio Madrid, Richard Anderson, Marlón García, Jason García, Marcial Cordova, Peter Cahill, Pedro Choc, John Paul Cahill, Alejandro Sagone, Edward Oliva, Daniel Aldana, Luis Estuardo Gonzalez, Ruth Cahill, Roan Balas McNab, Robert Cahill, David Frenchman, Tara Cahill, Carlos Lopez, Helen Stohlman, Marta Julia Aguilar, Juan Cuz, Cornelio Chablé, Mauricio Tec.

Total Species Recorded: 227

Species Recorded during Count Day: 219

Species Recorded during Count Week: 8

Number of Count Groups: 5

Count Areas and Details:

- 1) Rio San Pedro and surrounding beaches and easily accessible trails, including the trail from Zacatal north towards Laguna el Peru.
 - a. Participants: 5
 - b. Boat km: 18 km
 - c. Walking km: 2 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: 2 km
 - c. Driving km: 12 km

- d. Lancha km: 5 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: 0.5 km
 - c. Walking km: 15 km
 - 4) Trails and roads between the EBG and Paso Caballos fallows, including ecotone edge areas, 2 km on a forest trail in the EBG area, and fallows on the road returning to Paso Caballos.
 - a. Participants: 7 (2 returned at Noon).
 - b. Walking km: 10 km
 - 5) Sacluc River, including forest fragments and fallows along the southern shore of the river.
 - a. Participants: 3
 - b. Walking km: 1 km
 - c. Driving km: 9.5 km

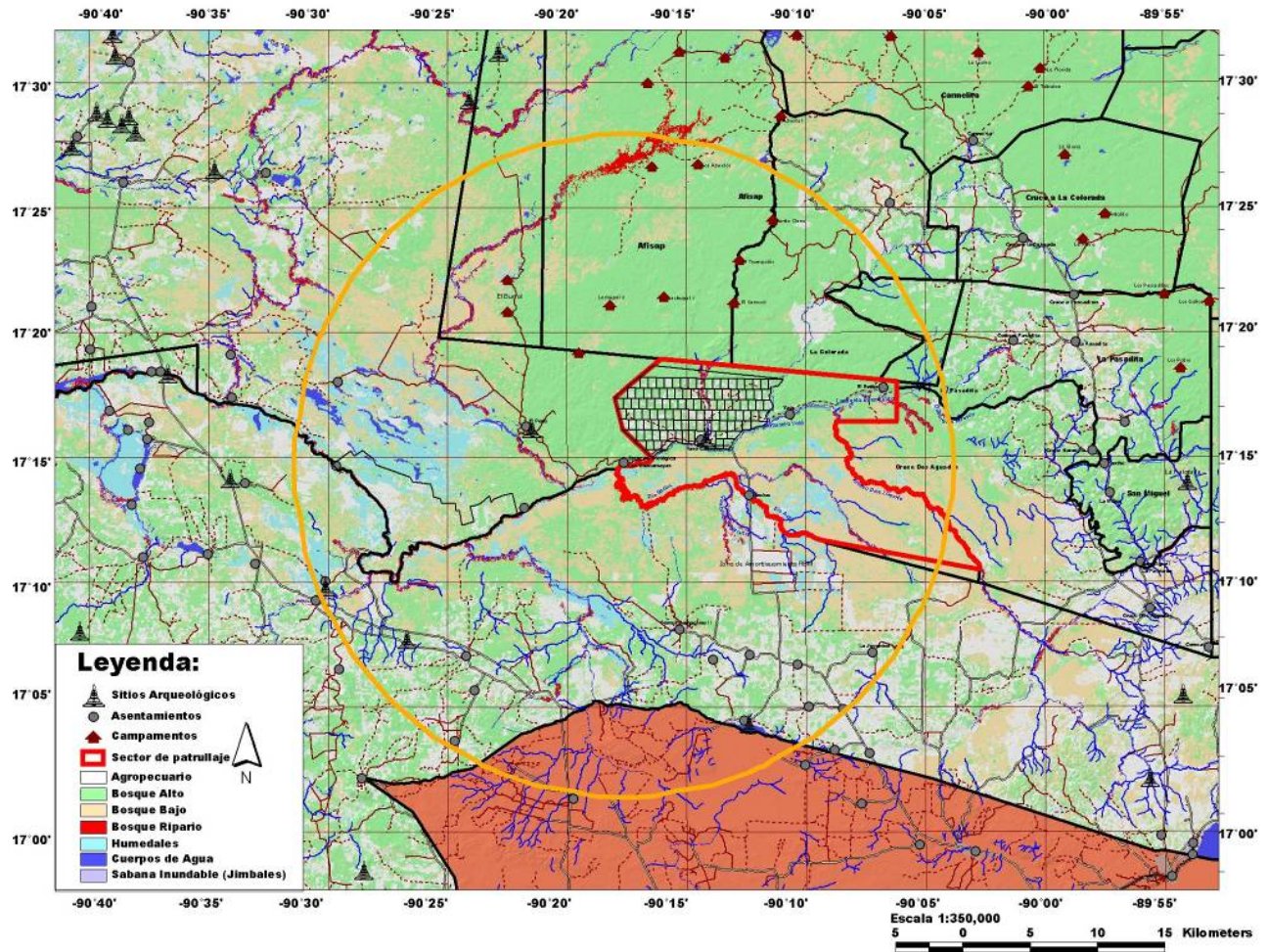
Total kilometers Covered: 75 km in total: (30 km walking; 33 km by boat; 12 km driving)

2) Results 2010-2013: A total of 278 species have been recorded during the four Christmas bird counts undertaken at the Las Guacamayas Biological Station. The respective species totals of species and birds counted over the four years are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Total species and birds counted 2010-2013 EBG Laguna del Tigre					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Species	211	204	233	227	278
Birds	2281	2287	2372	3320	10260

This database provides one of the most complete registries of birds found in the Laguna del Tigre ecosystem to date; previous registries include 173 species obtained by a Rapid Ecological Assessment undertaken by Conservation International in 2000; and 285 species recorded by Mendez et al. in 1998 (ProPetén/CI).

Appendix 1: Count Area



Appendix 2: Species with one bird recorded - 2013

Species with only one bird recorded – 2013 Count			No.
Cairina	moschata	Muscovy Duck	1
Agamia	agami	Agami Heron (chestnut-bellied)	1
Mycteria	americana	Wood Stork	1
Cathartes	burrovianus	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	1
Sarcoramphus	papa	King Vulture	1
Leptodon	cayanensis	Grey-headed Kite	1
Elanus	leucurus	White-tailed Kite	1
Ictinia	plumbea	Plumbeous Kite	1
Buteogallus	urubitinga	Great Black Hawk	1
Spizaetus	ornatus	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	1
Micrastur	semiorquatus	Collared Forest-Falcon	1
Caracara	plancus	Crested Caracara	1
Porzana	carolina	Sora	1
Larus	atricilla	Laughing Gull	1
Columba	cayannensis	Pale-vented Pigeon	1
Zenaida	asiatica	White-winged dove	1
Claravis	pretiosa	Blue Ground-Dove	1
Leptotila	plumbeiceps	Grey-headed Dove	1
Tapera	naevia	Striped Cuckoo	1
Dromococcyx	phasianellus	Pheasant Cuckoo	1
Strix	virgata	Mottled Owl	1
Strix	nigrolineata	Black-and-white Owl	1
Phaethornis	superciliosis	Long-tailed Hermit	1
Florisuga	mellivora	White-necked Jacobin	1
Anthracothorax	prevostii	Green-breasted Mango	1
Chloroceryle	amazona	Amazon Kingfisher	1
Centurus	pygmaeus	Yucatan Woodpecker	1
Piculus	rubiginosus	Golden-Olive Woodpecker	1
Glyphorhynchus	spirirus	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	1
Cercomacra	tyrannina	Dusky Antbird	1
Camptostoma	imberbe	Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	1
Mionectes	oleaginus	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	1
Onychorhynchus	coronatus	Royal Flycatcher	1
Terenotriccus	erythrurus	Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	1
Empidonax	albigularis	White-throated Flycatcher	1
Myiarchus	yucatanensis	Yucatan Flycatcher	1
Cyclarhis	gujanensis	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	1
Cyanocorax	yucatanicus	Yucatan Jay	1
Poliottila	caerulea	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	1
Dendroica	dominica	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Seiurus	motacilla	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Chlorophanes	spiza	Green Honeycreeper	1
Thraupis	episcopus	Blue-grey Tanager	1
Tiaris	olivacea	Yellow-faced Grassquit	1
Cyanocompsa	parellina	Blue Bunting	1

Photographs

NONE PROVIDED