



**NETWORKER Vol. 3, November 2008
Ecuador Program News**

Las Tangaras, July 2008. Life Net had 9 participants on the cloud forest bird-monitoring project this summer, ranging in age from 26 to 75. Larry Vereen returned to help on the project for the 15th (!) time, and Steve Estebo and Susan Guerrero returned having helped at Loma Alta. Jessica and Pascual's two young sons enlivened day-to-day life at the cabin.



Life Net Team July 2008

Other team members and staff included Alan Dages, Lindsay Dimitri, Tim Schmalz, Krista Knutson, Bill Taylor, and Ecuadorian field assistant Mauricio Torres, his wife Alicia, and her sister Emelia.

Bill Taylor took charge of banding hummingbirds on the project - a great help! The variation in sizes and species had him and everyone entranced. We had the privilege to study up close a tiny 2.8 g White-bellied Woodstar and next, a huge 8.5 g Green-crowned brilliant.

There were plenty of exciting and even new (for the area) bird species netted at Las Tangaras this past summer....

For more photos from July 2008 go to <http://s539.photobucket.com/albums/ff356/LifenetEcuador/>

Bird Monitoring Results

Las Tangaras July was rainier than usual and there was a huge regional flower bloom spreading the hummingbirds far and wide. As a result, we had very few hummingbirds at our feeders.

Still we netted plenty of hummingbirds and even a new species for the Las Tangaras list: a Hoary Puffleg (below). Our record at 1200m was at a lower elevation than usual for the species which, according to Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), ranges between 1700-2100m.



During 10 field days we recorded 167 different bird species on or near the Las Tangaras Reserve. New for our list was Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Scrub Blackbird, Band-tailed pigeon, Scaled Antpitta, Snowy-throated Kingbird, Laughing Falcon, Guira Tanager, Streak-capped Treehunter, Hoary Puffleg and White-bellied Woodstar.



Steve Estebo & Andean Cock-of-Rock

Four new ACOR were color-banded at the lek and 10-16 males were typically displaying each day. Three males color banded in 2007 were at the lek this summer displaying in same areas as 2006.

Loma Alta Christmas Count & Bird Monitoring - December

A Life Net volunteer team is organizing to monitor cloud forest birds December 7-19, followed by the 7th Conteo de Navidad (Christmas Bird Count) December 19-21, 2008. You can still join the expedition, but time is running out to do that. Call today!

Other Program News JAGUAR CONSERVATION



Through the "Eyes of the Jaguar," we envision enduring natural landscapes for the American Southwest!

A decade ago, Life Net was instrumental in having the jaguar placed on the U.S. endangered species list. That effort resulted in federal protection from hunting. Since then, however, critical habitat for the great cat in Arizona and New Mexico continues to be lost to runaway land development, and government wildlife agencies have not agreed to protect it.

In response, this spring we launched the **Jaguar Habitat Campaign**. For more information on the Campaign and how you can help, please visit our website/blog <http://jaguarhabitatusa.wordpress.com/>

Coral Reef Crisis, Maui, Hawaii



Coral ecosystems are besieged by pollution, overfishing, and climate change.

Life Net has begun working to help ensure that measures for protecting coral reefs on Maui are strengthened and fully implemented. Coral reefs on Maui, Hawaii are suffering severe damage, and authorities admit that existing programs and implementation are inadequate to protect them. Research demonstrates what snorkelers and divers are seeing: nearly 25% of all living coral has been lost during the past decade or so. One of the best coral reefs on the Island, Maalaea, has seen astounding degradation with up to 67% coral lost since 1993.

Effluent from sewage wastewater is fueling profuse growth of marine algae thereby smothering living corals. Reefs where native herbivore fish have been depleted by poor enforcement of fishing regulations are often the most severely impacted. Other factors contributing to the problem include fertilizer runoff from agricultural fields, lawns, and golf courses, and runoff of soil and debris from construction sites and urbanized areas. Construction sites such as in the photo below release soil sediments that smother corals.



The Endangered Andean Deer



For years, Life Net contributed field research and conservation support in an effort to help Chile save its endangered national symbol, the Andean deer (known as the huemul). As a follow up to his work, Dr. Tony Povilitis was recently asked by Chilean colleagues to contact President Michelle Bachelet Jeria in support of a rescue project and stepped-up habitat protection to help the critically endangered huemul population of central Chile.

His letter in Spanish and favorable replies from the President and Chilean Authorities are downloadable:
<http://lifenetnature.org/publications.htm>



Glistening-green Tanager

E-mail Dr. Dusti Becker at:
dbecker@lifenetnature.org

Thank Yous & Wish List 2009

A robust "thank you" to The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc. for a kind contribution of \$2,000 to Life Net for much needed computer equipment, to Washington Crossing Audubon Society for \$5000 in support of bird monitoring and Christmas Counts at Loma Alta, and to the Boston Foundation for \$2000 in support of Las Tangaras Reserve, and to many individual donors (friends) of Life Net.

Help us Sustain Resident Naturalist at Las Tangaras



Pascual Torres with pale-mandibled Aracari

We want to keep Pascual Torres as resident naturalist and caretaker of Las Tangaras Reserve. We need to raise \$4000 throughout 2009 for his salary. If you would like to support the position and Pascual, please send a donation as soon as possible.



PLEASE JOIN A LIFENET CONSERVATION TEAM OR MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION IN 2009

Visit www.lifenetnature.org for more information or call Dr. Dusti Becker at 406-600-4802 or e-mail her.