



NETWORKER Vol. 4, June 2009
Ecuador Program News

Loma Alta: Bird Monitoring

January 2009. Our annual cloud forest bird monitoring at Loma Alta was sponsored by Washington Crossing Audubon and some intrepid volunteers. Group (left to right): Larry Vereen, Dave Topolewski, Mauricio Torres, Dusti Becker, Hillary Holt, Brad Tepaske, & Pascual Torres. The checkered foreground is a bird bag.



We spent one night on the coast and then headed inland to Cerro la Torre for conservation studies of cloud forest birds. We had not used the site for 6 months, so when bats flew out of the pit latrine, there were some squeals.

Bird Monitoring Results

Understory flowers influenced numbers and species diversity of hummingbirds at Cerro Torre. This year, the red *Ancanth* was in bloom, but the white *Psychotria* was not, so the forest was filled with many Speckled Hummingbirds. Bananaquits were robbing the flowers and Violet-bellied Hummingbirds were abundant at feeders due to competition with Speckled Hummingbird at *Ancanth* blooms.

We completed 400 net-hours (nh) in the cloud forest at two sampling areas, and then worked dry forest for 200 nh.



Cloud-forest mist-netting confirmed high numbers and low diversity of hummingbirds with Speckled dominating (photo below). Six other hummingbird species were recorded: Baron's Hermit, Green-crowned brilliant, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Andean Emerald, Rufous-tailed, and Violet-bellied.



In cloud forest we netted 270 individuals of 40 species. In addition to hummingbirds, specialists included: Olivaceous Piculet, White-whiskered Puffbird, Immaculate Antbird, three woodcreepers, endangered Gray-breasted Flycatcher and a boreal migrant, the Swainson's Thrush.

In dry forest we netted 75 individuals representing 20 species. 15 were unique to dry forest and 10 were endemic to southwestern Ecuador: Tumbes Peewee,

Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, Blackish-headed Spinetail, Black-capped Sparrow, Ecuadorian Thrush, Gray & Gold Warbler, Bran-colored Flycatcher, Baron's Hermit, and Tawny-crowned Pygmy-tyrant.

Loma Alta Christmas Bird Count 2008. With 40 participants scouring the watershed in 5 teams, the 6th annual Conteo Navideño found 216 different bird species!



New species for the count circle included: Fawn-breasted Tanager, Blue-headed Parrot, Bay wren (nesting), and Elegant Tern. **Birds of "conservation concern" recorded during the count included:** Pale-browed Tinamou, Gray-backed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Rufous-headed Chachalaca, Rufous-fronted Wood-quail, Red-masked Parakeet, Esmeraldas Woodstar, Pale-mandibled Aracari (8), Choco Toucan (4), Guayaquil Woodpecker (5), Blackish-headed Spinetail, Ochraceous Attila, Slaty Becard, Saffron Siskin. We did not record Henna-hooded Foliage Gleaner this year.

Special thanks to team leaders: Tino Mischler, Paco Hernandez, Mauricio Torres, & Pascual Torres. Extra special thanks to Giovanni Catuto & Julio Cacao for leading teams and doing local organizing for the event. *Y gracias a*

Alejandra Cacao for leading children's events with Life Net support.



The CBC at Loma Alta is supported by Washington Crossing Audubon Society of New Jersey.

For more details visit:

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/CBC>

U.S. Program News

HELP BRING BACK THE JAGUAR TO THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST!



It is remarkable that the magnificent jaguar could be among the most neglected endangered species of the U.S. Life Net's *Jaguar Habitat Campaign* is a cutting edge, grass-roots effort to promote the recovery of the great cat in the American Southwest. A year after we

launched this effort, an Arizona jaguar tragically died after being caught in a snare set by state wildlife managers.

Life Net has identified four essential policy steps for bringing the jaguar back: 1. A federal jaguar recovery program; 2. A wildlife conservation reserve along the US-Mexico border; 3. AZ/NM wildlife agency commitment to jaguar recovery; and 4. Suspension of capture related research until the species is recovered in the U.S. southwest.

We are vigorously advocating for these measures with state and federal decision makers and elected officials. Please contact us for suggestions on how you can help!

For details on our Jaguar Campaign visit: <http://jaguarhabitatusa.wordpress.com>

B-A-T for the Jaguar



If you want to help wildlife and like to cycle this event is for you! The Jaguar Bike-a-thon (BAT) will cover 300 miles

from the border town of Sasabe, AZ to Phoenix. Dates for this 10-day conservation expedition TBA. Even if you can't pedal you can help in many other ways. For more information contact Dr. Tony Povilitis tpovilitis@lifenetnature.org; or visit: <http://jaguarhabitatusa.wordpress.com/2009/05/05/bat-for-the-jaguar/>

Hawaii Calls...for ALOHA!



Life Net continues working to advance protection of Maui Island's coral reefs and native wildlife. Working with county planners and local marine biologists, we are promoting a set of conservation recommendations with Maui authorities and state officials. For details check out: <http://lifenetnature.org/projects.htm>

KENYA Conservation Safari December 2010



Photo by Robert & Linda Scarth

Help with wildlife conservation projects while viewing and photographing wildlife and birds in Kenya and Tanzania. Life Net is teaming with Local Ocean Trust and LA'Rocha to offer an exciting 3-

week safari that "makes a difference" for wildlife conservation in Kenya.

Rendezvous: Nairobi, Kenya
Cost: \$3700 (airfare NOT included)

\$350 deposit secures your place on the safari! Write check to Life Net & mail to: 2465 Olinda Rd. Makawao, HI 96768.

For more information...
E-mail Dr. Dusti Becker:
dbecker@lifenetnature.org

Thank You & Wish List 2009

We thank Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc., Washington Crossing Audubon Society, Boston Foundation and individual donors (friends) of Life Net for supporting Life Net's conservation projects.

Help Sustain Resident Naturalist



Pascual Torres with pale-mandibled Aracari

To pay Pascual Torres as resident naturalist and caretaker of Las Tangaras Reserve, we need to raise \$2400 for his salary through December 2009. Please send a donation as soon as possible. Pascual, his wife Jessica, and two sons live at the reserve and invite you will visit them!



PLEASE JOIN A LIFENET CONSERVATION EXPEDITION OR MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION.

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

PHOTO Gallery



Loma Alta Children's bird count group.



Blackish-headed Spinetail



Sooty-crowned Flycatcher

Happy Summer Everyone! Our July Volunteer program at Las Tangaras is full this year. Check the website for next Loma Alta Expedition December 2009.

Dusti & Tony