



OSA BIRDS
RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



2021 ANNUAL Report



OSA BIRDS
RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

www.osabirds.org

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On the Cover: Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) is a resident bird of Costa Rica found in gardens and edges. This photo was taken in Rio Nuevo, Peninsula de Osa during the CBC 2020.

Photo by: Pilar Bernal

This page: Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*), a resident bird fairly common on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica and regularly follows army ant swarms. This bird was banded during MoSI 2020.

Photo by: Karen Leavelle



**IT IS OUR MISSION TO PROTECT BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS
IN THE OSA CONSERVATION AREA THROUGH RESEARCH,
EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES.**

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OSA BIRDS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

We want to thank you for all of the support you have shown to Osa Birds. We are grateful for your generous contributions. Please consider making a contribution to help us fulfill our mission to protect birds and their habitats in the Osa region of Costa Rica. Spread the word to friends and family as well! You can ways to donate at www.osabirds.org.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Dear Friends!

I would like to personally thank you all for your generous giving and shared love of birds, a sentiment that becomes ever present as we enter the holiday season. If there is one thing I have learned this past year is not to take anything for granted. Challenges that we faced in 2020 stayed with us through most of 2021, something I don't think anyone expected. While we continue to fulfill our mission to protect birds, we are equally as committed to making sure we are also healthy. We are devoted to staying the course!



We have been fortunate to continue working on all our projects whether they be virtual or in-person. Our bird banding program and reforestation projects that have taken place in rural communities on the Osa Peninsula have been successful because we have been mindful of each other and of the limitations imposed on us each and every day. While our World Migratory Bird Day Festival was a virtual event this year via Facebook Live, our 11th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count saw many groups come out for the event maintaining their social bubbles. I didn't expect people to show up for bird counts, honestly, but what I saw were committed folks who will always find a reason to go birding!

I spent quite a bit of time this year looking through the viewfinder of my camera photographing birds and awe-inspired by their stunning beauty and their drive to survive; I watched the return of the neotropical migratory birds, the nesting colony of Swallow-tailed Kites, a flock of Scarlet Tanagers feasting on a berry filled tree on their way to more southern latitudes, and the flocks of Baltimore Orioles that look like Christmas tree lights! In the midst of climate change and human driven landscape changes, what birds need most from us is stewardship of the land, to protect it and to keep it intact so that they can continue to sing their songs, and so that we can continue to enjoy them.

So, we will continue to do what we do; to show off birds to others, and to protect them with all the means we have available to us. Your support is key to helping us do just that. We thank you for your continued support and please tell your friends about what we are up to down here as well. We hope to see you soon on the Osa!

Best Wishes,

Karen



Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) ©Karen Leavelle 2021

MoSI

Monitoring of Overwinter Survival of Neotropical Migratory Birds



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) is a Neotropical migratory common winter resident that breeds in north America.

Photo ©Karen Leavelle

Over Winter Survivorship of Neotropical Migratory Birds (MoSI)

Title: Establishing a MoSI monitoring Network on the Osa Peninsula.

Donor: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Donation: \$59,167.56

Period: 2020 - 2022

MoSI Station Locations: Rancho Quemado and Dos Brazos de Rio Tigre

Additional Partners: Institute for Bird Populations

Banding Trainers: Pablo Elizondo & Holly Garrod from the
Costa Rica Bird Observatory



Project Focus

IBP's MoSI programs' methodological approach of mist-netting and banding birds along established monitoring routes supplements and bolsters traditional monitoring methods already in place, and are specifically tailored to providing key information on the conservation challenges of neotropical migratory birds in their tropical habitats and year-round resident birds. This approach spells out a distinct objective for this project to understanding bird declines and the factors that limit populations. Implementation of a MoSI mist-netting and banding program will provide the vital rates of bird populations such as adult survival rates, site persistence and populations trends over the long-term (IBP 2019). Specific activities include a MoSI training course, and regular MoSI mist-netting during two years conducted by established monitoring groups in two communities: Dos Brazos de Rio Tigre and Rancho Quemado.

We would like to thank Andy Forbes, Chris Stein and Emily Mest for their support!



Top: Trainees from Rancho Quemado and Dos Brazos; Left: Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphonyxus spirurus*) by Karen Leavelle.

MoSI Project Advances

Period: 2020 - 2021

MoSI Super Station Locations: Rancho Quemado and Dos Brazos de Rio Tigre

Rancho Quemado:

SEOS Station: Mixed Forest

BAMB Station: Garden & Early Successional

Dos Brazos

PATI Station: Mixed Forest and Riparian

LALP Station: Lagoon and Mixed Forest

Total # Species netted: 578

Total # Migratory Species Banded: 8

Mourning Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Northern Waterthrush

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Summer Tanager

Broad-winged Hawk

Great Crested Flycatcher

Swainson's Thrush



Top to Bottom: Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphica*), Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*); Lower Left to right: Lesson's Motmot (*Momotus lessonii*), Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*), Edward Montiel bander in training - Dos Brazos.

The Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager Study

Photo ©Manuel Sanchez Mendoza



Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager Reproductive Ecology

Detection and description of nest predation 2022

The Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager (*Habia atrimaxillaris*) is an endemic bird to the Osa Peninsula and is considered to be a Red-Listed endangered (EN: IUCN) species. A new body of knowledge is in the process of being formed but there is still a lot to do in order to properly mitigate this species decline and manage for its future protection.

Now that Arlet Quiros has finished her thesis work on the reproductive ecology of the Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, it's time to take those next steps based on her findings. With 22 nests located and a greater than 90% nest failure rate we are asking the question why? What are the causes of nest predation and how do we detect it?

With the support of Dr. Katie Stumpf PhD at Georgia College, and expert in reproductive ecology and the use of nest cams, Arlet and the Biological Monitoring Group of Rancho Quemado will be working with Katie to place cameras on nests to determine the causes of nest depredation at the two study sites; Dos Brazos and Rancho Quemado.



Project Objectives

- ◆ Determine the causes of nest predation with the use of nest cameras, and collect habitat data
- ◆ Determine the nest success and associated habitat characteristics of the Black-cheeked Ant Tanager.
- ◆ Provide research opportunities for 2-4 undergraduate and 1 graduate student in biology and environmental science
- ◆ Work with stakeholders to develop a Conservation Action Plan



From the Top: One of five Black-cheeked Ant-Tanagers banded during MoSI mist-net training in Rancho Quemado on Dec 10, 2020. Since they are often found in family groups it's not surprising we were able to net so many at once. Nest photos by Arlet Quiros!

Habitat Restoration

Supporting Birds on the Osa Peninsula with Tropical Wings

Más jardines nativos
en el Corazón de Osa
...Rancho Quemado

365 plantas nativas ornamentales y
árboles nativos sembrados

Project Objective

Restore degraded/fragmented lands to support Neotropical migratory and resident birds in and around the community of Rancho Quemado - July 2021.

- ◆ 365 native plants and trees planted
- ◆ 6 hectares restored and beautified
- ◆ 6 jobs provided
- ◆ 1 elementary school with a new green space

Thank you to the board of Tropical Wings who support us each year in the Migratory Bird Festival and Habitat Restoration projects!



Swallow-tailed Kite

Arguably the coolest and most beautiful raptor, the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus yetapa*) is a year-round resident with a breeding population in the southern Pacific Osa region. While we see them usually in small groups throughout the year, we see a surge in numbers beginning in early November moving from coastal areas to known breeding areas just inland. In March and April of 2021 we observed a breeding colony of approximately 8 breeding pairs nesting in a grove of gallinazo (*Schizolobium parahyba*) trees.

We plan to monitor the Osa population to provide additional breeding information for this region. On November 12, 2021, 33 individual Swallow-tailed Kites were observed moving between the previous years' nesting colony area and coastal mangroves perching periodically in the gallinazo trees. Notes from the Field will be found at osabirds.org.





WORLD MIGRATORY BIRDDAY 2021

Sing, Fly, Soar — Like a Bird!

© Sara Wolman - World Migratory Bird Day

2021 was the 8th annual World Migratory Bird Day Festival - Sing, Fly, Sour - Like a Bird!

Our festival vision is to send off our neotropical migratory birds as a sort of going away party as they are flocking up and getting ready for their long journey to North America for the breeding season. People often ask us why we hold a going away party and not a welcome back event in the Fall. Birds generally arrive to their wintering grounds in the tropics during Sept & Oct. These months in the southern coastal zone of Costa Rica are very rainy and wet meaning the festival would likely get rained on. In March however, the weather is warm and sunny and birds are quite active making it a good time to observe birds. So March it is, and we have never been rained on!

This years festival was held as normal on March 6th but this time it was in a virtual format. Unlike our in-person events of years past, this year we were unable to bring people together in one venue. We got creative however and managed to have our photo and drawing contests (fun festival traditions), the Migratory Birdathon and Facebook Live presentations!

This year we would like to thank our presenters: CR - USA ACOSA: Hermanamiento de Areas Protegidas (Protected Area Partnerships); Storytelling by Lilly Briggs from Finca Cantaros, San Vito: “Pajaro Estaca, donde esta...¿aca?”; UCR: Vocalizaciones de las aves (bird vocalizations); UCR: Plumaje y vuelo de las aves (plumage and flight); UCR: Aves Planeadores (soaring birds); Roberto Vargas - UNED; ICT: Ruta de las Aves (the ICT Birding Route); and ACOSA: Monitoreo Ecologico Comunitario (community biological monitoring).

We would like to thank the following collaborators and contributors: SINAC-ACOSA, UCR - SSur, ADI Corcovado/Carate, Luna Lodge, The Biological Monitoring Group of Rancho Quemado, Guardaparques Junior, Fundacion Corcovado, BioSonidos UNED, ICT, Finca Cantaros, Playa Nicuesa Rainforest Lodge, Osa Dreams Tours: Puerto Jimenez, Escuela Bahia Chal and Escuela Alto San Juan.



World Migratory Bird Day Festival

Photo Contest Winners and Runners-up!

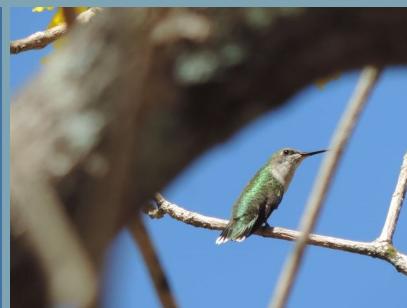


Photo Contest Winners: From left to right: 1st place Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) by Walter A. Sanchez - Drake Bay; 2nd place Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) by Gabriel Rodriguez - Cañaza; Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) by Henry Fallas - Sierpe; Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) by Donovan Álvarez; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) by Rodolfo Dodero, Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) by Ignacio Campos; and Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) by Rodolfo Dodero.



MIGRATORY BIRDATHON 2021

We had 18 routes and 72 participants in this years' Birdathon!

We want to thank and congratulate the following TEAMS and our winner Térraba-Sierpe Birders with a grand total of 26 migratory bird observations.

Congratulations TS Birders, a job well done!!

Lechuza tropicales Sede del Sur - La Leona; Sandí-Parajeles-Roger - Los Patos; Los Planes- Steven , GMBCRQ - Chiqueron jardines, San Pedrillo - Arnoldo Samudio; Tamandúa - Bijagua; Lon Mentados- H. atrimaxilaris - El Bonito; ProPGM Río Oro; Bandada Mixta - RNVS Golfito; Flying Wings - Riyito; Térraba-Sierpe Birders - Boca Sierpe Chocuaco; Los Cacaos - La Tarde; Ficha D - Canaza San Miguel; Térraba – Puerto Cortés Birding - Sitio arqueológico Grijalba 2 , Dique del Río; Extreme Birds Golfito - Cerro Adams; the King Vultures - Palmar Norte; Albonotatus Team (Alex.Bustamante) - Sierpe-Ajuntaderas.



11th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count
Osa Peninsula and Corcovado National Park
December 19, 2020



Orange-collared Manakin

One of four manakin species found in Osa, it is endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama. The males perform courtship lek displays that include wing snaps and buzzing sounds, all to get the girl who is watching this dance from close by!

Photo by Pilar Bernal

Audubon Christmas Bird Count - Osa Peninsula

Because this years 122st Audubon Christmas Bird Count (the CBC) will take place on the 18th of December 2021, we won't have results in for this annual report. We instead bring you results from the last year's count 2020.

121st CBC Results for Costa Rica Osa Peninsula (CROP) Circle

Total Number of Species: 229

of Parties (groups): 17

Total number of observers in the field: 92

Party Hours: 47.95

Kilometers covered by foot: 28.38

Kilometers covered by car: 30.60



Thank you to all of our participants!! This bird count wouldn't be possible without you!

Surcos Tours

Fundación Neotropica

SINAC - ACOSA

Bosque del Rio Tigre

Lapa Rios

Everyday Adventures

Playa Preciosa

Luna Lodge

Crocodile Bay Resort

Grupo de Monitoreo Dos Brazos de Rio Tigre

Grupo de Monitoreo Rancho Quemado

Conservacion Osa

Osa Safari Rainforest Adventure

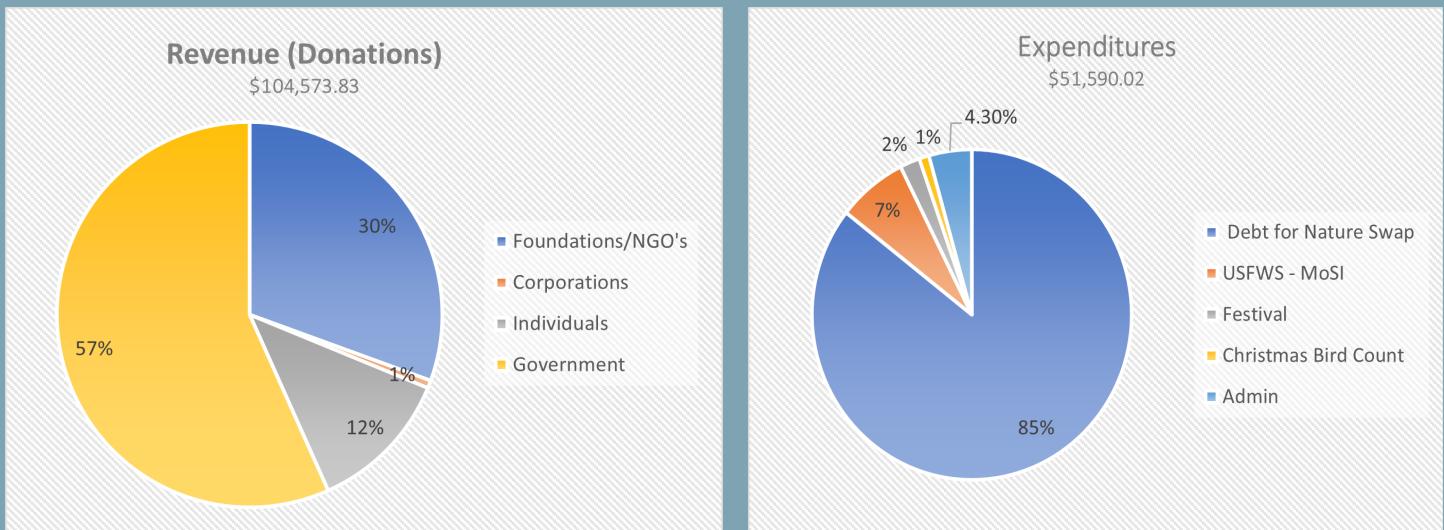
Thank you Neftali and Pilar for your gorgeous photos!!

We submit our observations to Audubon and eBird!!!



Fiscal Year Revenue & Expenditures 2020

Osa Birds fiscal year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Revenue and Expenditure information for 2021 will be made available after January 1st, 2021 and in the annual report for 2022.



Just Because: Photos ©Karen Leavelle. Left to Right: Fiery-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossus frantzii*), Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)

Osa Birds would like to extend our gratitude to all of our Partners and event participants

The US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Institute for Bird Populations

Costa Rica Bird Observatories

Georgia College

Tropical Wings

Environment for the Americas

National Audubon Society

Grupo de Monitoreo Biológico Rancho Quemado

Grupo de Monitoreo Biológico Dos Brazos de Rio Tigre

ICT - Instituto Costarricense de Turismo

The Osa Conservation Area (ACOSA)

Conservacion Osa

Crocodile Bay Resort

Lapa Rios Rainforest Lodge

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Finca Cantaros

Fundación Neotropica

Surcos Tours

Luna Lodge

Bosque del Rio Tigre

Amigos de Costa Rica

Everyday Adventures

Osa Safari Rainforest Adventures

Playa Preciosa

***With much gratitude to all of our donors in 2021!!