TROPILUNCH

Assemblage and structure dynamics of terrestrial birds in southwestern Amazonia: A camera trap study

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TUE, APR 09

12:45 - 1:45

Grinter 376

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @ 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter Hall, Room 376.

Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on TCD's YouTube Channel.

BIO

Carla Mere is a Peruvian Ph.D. student in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. She is advised by Dr. Eben Broadbent. Carla completed a bachelor's degree in Biology at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (Lima, Peru) and a Master degree in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University (VA, USA). Since 2010, she had worked in research projects related to the conservation of biodiversity in the Peruvian Amazon. Carla's work and research experience encompass studies on avian, mammal, and dung beetle ecology, sustainable management of natural resources, and the use of "Traditional Ecological Knowledge" of Amazonian indigenous communities. For her Ph.D. dissertation, she wants to apply a landscape approach for conservation planning in the Amazon, working closely with local and/or indigenous communities.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

The Peruvian Amazon is among the most biodiverse regions of the world for both flora and fauna. It is also under considerable threat from anthropogenic factors, including illegal logging and mining. Terrestrial birds are an understudied aspect of diversity in these forests but have a great diversity and play key roles in ecosystem function. Here I present results from a camera trap study focused terrestrial birds in this region. From 2017-18 I collected camera trap data for 16 consecutive months at the Los Amigos Biological Station in Madre de Dios, Peru, where I spent that year working as Station Science Coordinator. Here I describe results from this study, including an: (a) overview of the types of terrestrial avifauna identified; (b) assessment of seasonal and ecosystem impacts on their compositional change; and (c) insights into how diurnal activity patterns overlap and interact for ecologically similar and sympatric species (i.e. tinamous). This research opened a series of questions that will be addressed during my dissertation research and permits a discussion of conservation aspects of this region in general.

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