



BIRD CONSERVATION NETWORK

www.bcnbirds.org

BCN Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Camp Sagawau, Lemont

Attendees: Bobbi Asher, Chris Van Wassenhove, CAS; Annette Prince, CBCM; Nancy Tikalsky, COS; Glenn Gabanski, Linda Padera, DBC; Suzanne Checchia, Lloyd Davidson, ENSBC; Joan Bruchman, IOS; Jean Sodemann, Lake-Cook; Diane Rosenberg, LCAS; Judy Pollock, Lee Ramsey, NAS-CR.

President Joan Bruchman called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. A quorum was established with 13 representatives from 9 member organizations.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The 1/14/2012 Quarterly Meeting Minutes were approved, as amended for one typographical error.
2. Treasurer's Report – Glenn Gabanski

Prior to the meeting copies of the financial spreadsheet and the membership report were distributed.

As of the April 21, 2012 meeting BCN has received income of \$1,850 and paid \$355.52 in expenses. Current checkbook balance is \$5,107.91. Part of the income was a \$500 donation from a generous supporter; the rest were dues.

In February the treasurer filed Federal Tax Form 990-EZ and Illinois Form AG990-IL to comply with tax filing requirements for our 501(c)(3) tax status.

In March the BCN Executive Committee approved funding of the RHWO Blitz expenses up to \$200.

A vote was taken and the report was approved as written.

3. Membership Report – Glenn Gabanski

As of February 15th all organizations and individuals had paid their dues to renew their memberships. BCN currently has 18 organizations and 3 individual memberships.

4. Conflict of Interest Statement – Joan Bruchman

Bob Fisher has been too busy with the off-shore wind issues to address this. Bobbi Asher volunteered herself and Chris Van Wassenhove to work on a draft statement for the next BCN meeting.

5. BCN E-Mail List Use – Joan Bruchman

Joan passed out the following language to be placed as a heading above the BCN member list:
“Bird Conservation Network – Member Representatives Directory

This directory is intended for the exclusive use of the members of BCN and for BCN approved business only and may not be used for any other purpose or reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from the BCN Executive Committee.”

Additional discussion was held concerning having representatives sign a conflict of interest at the beginning of each year; and having a list of policies and procedures sent to each club with the annual dues notice, which would include allowed uses of the BCN e-mail list, among other items.

Further discussion is to be held at the next BCN meeting.

ADVOCACY

1. March 8, 2012 Evanston Bird Friendly Building Meeting – Judy Pollock

Judy reported on this meeting for Donnie Dann who was unable to make this BCN meeting.

Donnie approached the Evanston Environmental Board regarding a possible bird-friendly design ordinance for new construction and building rehabs. Donnie worked with Christine Shepard of the American Bird Conservancy to propose restrictions on new buildings and additions, based on the new San Francisco building codes, that: 1) are adjacent to areas that are heavily used by birds and 2) contain features that are known to cause high mortality such as transparent walkways or reflective windows a few yards from bushes.

Donnie continues to do homework with the hope of getting more people on board with these concepts, including architects and Northwestern University, which is in conflict with bird byways with almost any new construction on the campus. Donnie hopes to eventually bring the concepts to the city of Chicago.

2. New Northwestern University Welcome Center – Judy Pollock

Northwestern is planning a new welcome center on the beach near Church Street and plans to cut down half of the trees in that location to accommodate the building. This is the last wild patch of

woods on the Evanston lakefront. Libby Hill is talking to the city of Evanston and the university about the replacement of any trees cut down with an equal number of new plantings elsewhere.

3. Cook County Research Forum Meeting – Judy Pollock

Judy attended this meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2012 and talked to Dr. Donna Alexander, the Cook County Animal Control Director. She believes TNR is working and would be willing to attend a BCN meeting to discuss the topic. Judy will invite her to the next BCN meeting.

4. BCN Sign-on Letters Recap – Joan Bruchman

Donnie has sent approximately six new letters. If anyone is interested in obtaining copies, please contact Joan and she will send them.

5. Off-Shore Wind Energy – Joan Bruchman

Donnie and Bob Fisher continue to work to enact restrictions on off-shore wind turbines, but it has been a difficult process to get people on board. More studies are needed to understand where birds are migrating so that any future construction could avoid these locations or require the turbines to be turned off during certain peak movements of birds.

6. Proposed Federal Rule Change on Lead Bullets and Fox News TV Appearance – Joan Bruchman

Donnie was on Fox News arguing in favor of proposed rules to eliminate lead shot. The counter-argument from the NRA is that they want the public to be able to continue to purchase lead bullets. They do not want any erosion in their current rights, and claim lead bullets travel farther and straighter than alternative bullets. Donnie presented the facts that lead shot has already been banned for duck hunting; as well as that lead has been banned in gasoline and paint given its proven harm to humans and the environment.

FUNDRAISING

1. Sound Approach Bird Fund – Glenn Gabanski

In February we were told by the Sound Approach Bird fund that they were not taking applications until they reassessed things and that we should keep checking their website. Since then Mary Lou Mellon has been checking their website every two weeks and on March 28th saw a page that said they welcomed applications. She resent the email we had sent in February inquiring about an application but never heard back before she left town around April 18th. This non-response leads us to doubt this organization will be a source of grant money for BCN.

2. Guatemala Project – Judy Pollock

The Proposal: BCN will do a 1-year joint fundraising project with Community Cloud Forest Conservation (“CCFC”). Funds will be collected via PayPal and by check. Representatives and monitors will be encouraged to invite their friends to donate, and we will promote the fund at BCN events. All funds raised through this appeal will be evenly divided between BCN and CCFC. BCN funds will be used to fund a new trends analysis. Any extra funds would be used for direct action (to be decided by the BCN) to help birds we have in common with Guatemala, through habitat restoration, and threat reduction. All BCN policy regarding fundraising would apply to the portion of funds that goes to BCN.

Why it is in BCN’s Mission: The purpose of the BCN is to advocate for and promote the perpetuation and appreciation of the native avian fauna of the Chicago region, both resident and migratory, with its associated native flora and fauna, and the habitats that support them through a coalition of birding organizations and individuals. To achieve this goal, an understanding is needed: of the habitat needs of birds during all seasons of the year; the influence human activities and natural processes have on those habitats and all the species that occur in them; and how that influence affects their avian denizens. Promotion of a sound ecological relationship between human populations and their environments, and the education and involvement of the birding community and the public at large in such efforts, is also critical.

- a) BCN has a history of broadly interpreting its mission in order to support the enthusiasm of its all-volunteer “workforce”. This has been a successful strategy for us. Examples: numerous sign-on letters, admitting Peoria Audubon, disbursing funds to a Cerulean Warbler project for work outside the U.S., thank you letter to Senator Mark Kirk for being a co-sponsor of the Red Rock Wilderness bill, and support for Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”) development of a new range-wide conservation strategy for the Greater Sage Grouse.
- b) U.S. conservation organizations have over the last 10 years come to recognize that an important part of conservation of “our” birds is caring for them across the life cycle. Examples: USFS International Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service NMBCA, all the big non-profits, and Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership.

Why it is Important: Please see Appendix A - Conservation Priority and Importance of Project Area.

Why it is Good for BCN:

- a) Engages new supporters
- b) Emphasizes the importance of community-based work
- c) Resonance

CCFC is a 501(c)(3) organization in the U.S. BCN will collect all funds and send CCFC its share. A separate PayPal button can be set up on the BCN website for this project.

The trends analysis will cost approximately \$3,000, according to an estimate from Eric Secker. Eric did a great job last time, and it would cost considerably more to hire a PhD for this work.

An idea for publicizing this project would be to develop a program that could be shared with various groups, schools, etc. CCFC is very tech savvy and would be able to provide materials to help put together a good program.

Diane Rosenberg made a motion to approve the proposal outlined above. Nancy Tikalsky seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

CCFC will make a presentation at the Chicago Botanic Garden next Thursday, April 26, 2012. Judy will hold a dinner Friday, April 27, 2012 in honor of Rob and Tara Cahill, directors of CCFC, to discuss additional fundraising ideas.

3. Fund Raising Committee – Joan Bruchman

Joan said we still need someone to chair this committee. Please let Joan know if you are interested. Glenn, as Treasurer, has agreed to serve on the committee.

4. BCN Brochure Update – Joan Bruchman

Suzanne Checchia, Mary Lou Mellon and Judy Pollock have completed updating the existing BCN brochures to reflect its not-for-profit status.

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

1. Camp Sagawau Window Collision Update – Joan Bruchman

Joan introduced Mary Bernat, BCN monitor at Camp Sagawau for the past three years, to provide BCN with an update. After the new visitor center was completed, it proved to be prone to bird strikes. BCN gave Mary the support to bring the issue to the attention of Arnold Randall, the Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Mary, Joan, Judy Pollock and Mary Lou Mellon met with Supt. Randall at Camp Sagawau on April 1, 2011 and Annette Prince of CBCM made a presentation on bird collisions. Supt. Randall agreed to work toward a solution. From that point, Joan worked with his assistant Jim and netting was finally approved to be installed over the windows. Installation was done on March 10, 2012 and no bird casualties have been noted since.

Mary provided a tour of the building with the new netting.

2. Birding America Recap – Chris Van Wassenhove

The Chicago Audubon Society held its 9th biannual Birding America conference on March 17, 2012 at North Park University. The event was very successful with approximately 200 people attending.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Erik Johnson, National Audubon's Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi Flyway conservation biologist, discussing efforts to protect the Gulf and speed its recovery from the BP oil spill. The Closing Speaker was Greg Miller, discussing events surrounding his Big Year in 1981 with over 700 species. Nine other great speakers also made presentations throughout the day.

3. Wild Things Conference – Judy Pollock

Planning is just underway for the conference to be held next February/March. It will be held at UIC again. Judy is seeking ideas for speakers for the bird track portion of the conference. Several ideas were shared with Judy.

4. 2012 Red-headed Woodpecker Blitz – Judy Pollock

All protocols are on the BCN website. Two training sessions were held last week. There are 7-8 coordinators. Some coordinators have 20+ people signed up.

The Nature Conservancy will map the results. The Lincoln Park Zoo may put cameras at some of the nest sites via its Urban Wildlife conservation unit.

5. BCN 2012 Monitoring Season – Lee Ramsey

The season looks good so far with 10-12 new monitors signed up and better control over the statistics. Lee polled approximately 110 existing monitors (not including DuPage) and most stated they would return again for monitoring.

No workshops are planned as Lee feels that it is more successful to work individually with monitors. There are 150 active monitors in the Chicago Region covering approximately 200 sites in 9 counties in Illinois and Indiana. Monitors cover sites at least two times (at least a week apart) during the month of June (the breeding season). Monitors are encouraged to also visit their sites in the spring and fall, but this is not required. In DuPage monitors do six straight weeks from June through mid-July.

6. Lake County Fishing Line Tube Caps Installation Update – Diane Rosenberg

Mary Lou Mellon had asked Gary Glowacki of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) who from the district should be contacted about the container issue. In February 2012, Gary suggested Greg Townsend. Diane asked other Lake County Audubon Society (LCAS) board members if they had any connection with Greg. Board member Jack Nowak contacted Greg with the request and an offer to provide labor for the project.

LCAS sent Greg the information Mary Lou provided about what had been done in Cook County, including the flyer distributed to fishermen by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The February/March edition of LCAS's Audubon Outlook included an article by Diane titled "PVC Pipes Death Trap for Birds". The article ended with the fact that the LCFPD had been contacted and LCAS would keep readers apprised of the outcome. By the first week of April 2012, the LCFPD had capped all of the fishing line tubes in Lake County. Diane plans to follow up with another article in the Audubon Outlook thanking Greg and the LCFPD.

7. DuPage County Fishing Line Tube Caps Installation Update – Linda Padera

DuPage took down all of its fishing line tubes. They have a prototype for a smaller tube with a spring-loaded top. It has an angled tube, which is easier to empty. Workers had been getting injured emptying the previous tubes. An Eagle Scout project is planned to install the new tubes, which will be emptied once a week. DuPage will notify Linda when the tubes have been reinstalled.

Annette Prince wrote to BOATUS.com, requesting that they retrofit the cap-less tubes they provided, with the best intentions, for disposing of fishing line.

Annette also mentioned that fishermen should be required to pay additional fees for fishing licenses to cover the cost of fishing line cleanup. Annette said that CBCM constantly gets calls about birds tangled in fishing line.

8. Cook County New Fishing Guide – Joan Bruchman

The fishing guide handed out by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County includes a picture of the BCN flyer with the correctly covered tube. BCN has encouraged authorities to hand out the BCN flyer, which describes how to correctly dispose of fishing line, when fishing licenses are sold.

9. Asian Longhorned Beetle Monitoring Project – Suzanne Checchia

Suzanne attended a discussion on the beetles held at the Morton Arboretum. This is still an issue in the Chicago region. Shipping crates are now supposed to be treated with heat or pesticides, but compliance and inspections are not always done as required. Now there is also an issue with international law preventing the use of these pesticides. With the Emerald Ash Borer, all ash trees in North America are expected to be eliminated. With the Asian Longhorned Beetle, the issue is even worse because they attack 40 different varieties of trees.

Ordinary citizens have noticed the majority of cases discovered so far. An adult beetle sighting was recently confirmed in Northbrook.

Andrea Dierich, Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project Coordinator at the Morton Arboretum, would like to give programs to educate the public about the beetles; and would like to present its 45-minute program to BCN or any member group that is interested. Suzanne will post the program details on Beebuzz. A suggestion was made that this may be a good program for Wild Things.

10. Lake-Cook Audubon Barn Owl Project Update – Jean Sodemann

Mick Wallis, a Lake-Cook Audubon member, is now spearheading this project. The first box will be installed at Illinois Beach State Park in the south unit, beyond the area that is accessible to the public. The site has been selected, and Mick is working out the logistics. Trying to work with the public agencies for permission to install boxes has stalled the project considerably, and so the Liberty Prairie Conservancy has been contacted to see if any of the landowners connected with their project would be interested, and that will be pursued. In the meantime, we are still in contact with Middlefork and Rollins Savannas, and there may yet be something that would work out there.

If anyone among the BCN members has any ideas of other Lake or north Cook County properties that would meet the criteria (open grassland for hunting, no nearby roads or railroad tracks that would endanger the owls, and no nearby Great Horned Owls), please contact Rena Cohen at rena@sspr.com, or Lake-Cook Audubon at www.lakecookaudubon.org.

The boxes will most likely be put on poles because we are unlikely to find a barn on a hospitable property. We have been in touch with Jeff Walk and Terry Esker, both involved with the Barn Owl Recovery Project in Illinois, and have received explicit instructions on box installation.

11. BCN Monitors' Bird Walk and Brunch May 12, 2012 – Lee Ramsey

All BCN monitors have been invited to a guided bird walk at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve followed by a brunch at Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve (both in DuPage County). Unlike previous years when the brunch was usually in July, this year's will be in the midst of spring migration – an experiment to see what kind of response we can expect at that time. Bob Fisher will lead the bird walk.

Ten people have registered so far. Contact Joan if you wish to attend. Need to promote it more on BCN.net and Beebuzz.

Joan mentioned that the Executive Committee should bring something for the potluck. There is no electricity at the open pavilion.

12. Give Back to Birds Day May 26, 2012 – Judy Pollock

Lee Witkowski is planning the day at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. It is supposed to be listed on the BCN website, but Nancy Tikalsky could not find it earlier so Joan will check that it is posted.

13. Give Back to Birds Day Fall 2012 – Judy Pollock

Judy had an e-mail from Joe Van Wassenhove regarding a potential work day at Emiquon NWR in Fulton County. This would be an overnight trip. No date has yet been set.

OTHER

1. Chris Van Wassenhove reported that the CAS annual meeting and board elections would be held on Thursday, April 26, 2012, with Glenda Daniels of Openlands making a presentation on the new Lakefront Preserve at Fort Sheridan in Lake County. The meeting will be at North Park Village Nature Center at 7:30 PM. CAS will also have a bird walk at the new preserve on Saturday, April 28th beginning at 8 AM. Alan Anderson and Jeff Sanders will be co-leaders.

NEXT MEETING

The next Quarterly Meeting of the BCN will be held on July 21, 2012. The location is not yet set.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Van Wassenhove

Secretary, BCN

Appendix A

Conservation Priority and Importance of Project Area

The Guatemalan National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) lists Alta Verapaz as **one of nine priority areas for biodiversity conservation in Guatemala**. NBS recommends a community-based approach to conservation in the central highlands “relying on local culture and realities of selected forests of global, national and regional significance,” working to foster “management of selected sites with the participation of local people and institutions in accordance with local culture and social realities.” (NBS: April 1999) **The Q’eqchi’ Maya people of Guatemala’s central highlands are the key to the protection of the rich biodiversity of the forests of the central highlands.**

The central highlands of Guatemala are part of the southernmost reach of the Madrean highlands biome. These highlands, geographically separated from the Madrean highlands north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, are rich in endemism. Guatemala’s central highlands are at the **center of the Endemic Bird Area: North Central American Highlands (EBA 018) (BirdLife International, 2001)**. One hundred percent of CCFC’s work area falls within EBA 018.

CCFC focuses on areas identified by the NBS document within **three Important Bird Areas**: IBA Sierra Yalijux, IBA Sierra Sacranix and IBA Candelaria-Campur (IBAs: GT010, GT007, and GT009, respectively). CCFC gives highest priority and works most intensely along both slopes of the Sierra Yalijux (IBA GT010).

The **leading threat to the birds of these IBAs is habitat loss** as Q’eqchi’ Maya peasants eke out a subsistence level income by their traditional agricultural practices including slash and burn and frequent incursions into primary forest. In ancient times, these traditional agricultural practices were sustainable because of relatively low population density. Today, these agricultural practices are destroying the forests.

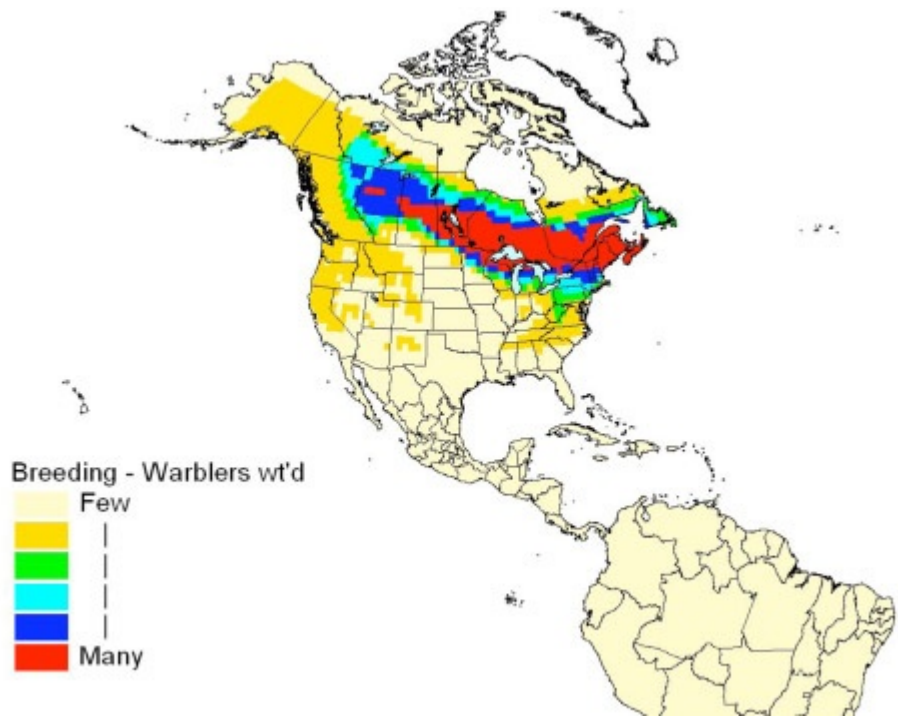
CCFC is actively working to protect the forests of this region. **World Wildlife has designated the cloud forests and pine-oak forests of the central highlands as Vulnerable (VU)** among the tropical moist broadleaf forests: designated as Central American Montane Forest (NT0112) and Pine-Oak Forest (NT0303). (World Wildlife)

BirdLife International rates the conservation priority of the Sierra Yalijux IBA as high. This IBA is home to 15 endemic bird species, four of which are either Near Threatened (NT) or Vulnerable status (Red List 2010). In addition to endemic birds, the area is important for many migratory birds of special concern. There are 130 migratory species of concern listed in the U.S. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) wintering in the central highlands. This list includes: Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher (NT), Wood Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler (NT), Golden-cheeked Warbler (EN),

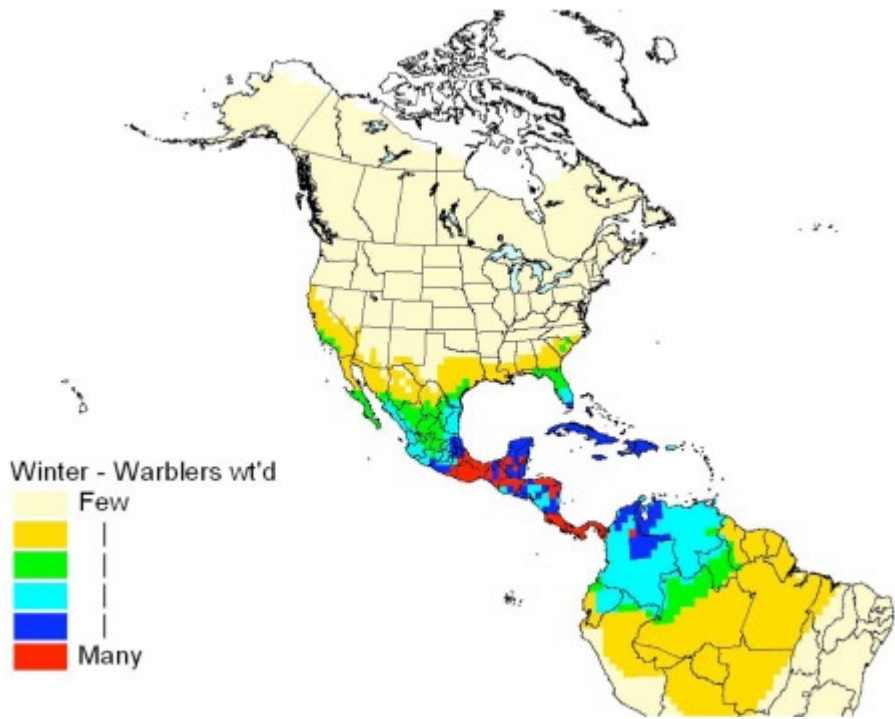
Grace's Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

Areas targeted by this project have a high conservation priority because of their importance to migratory bird species of special concern and their high number of species endemic to the highlands of northern Mesoamerica. **The leading threat to these Important Bird Areas comes from land conversion as subsistence farmers in local villages slash and burn pristine forests to plant corn and beans. Through environmental education, research and conservation CCFC helps people in these villages understand their forests and birds as natural resources to be protected.**

Endemic species found in the project area [Horned Guan \(*Oreophasis derbianus*\)](#) EN, [Ocellated Quail \(*Cyrtonyx ocellatus*\)](#) VU, [Bearded Screech-owl \(*Megascops barbarus*\)](#) NT, [Fulvous Owl \(*Strix fulvescens*\)](#) LC, [Rufous Sabrewing \(*Campylopterus rufus*\)](#) LC, [Green-throated Mountain-gem \(*Lampornis viridipallens*\)](#) LC, [Slender Sheartail \(*Doricha enicura*\)](#) LC, [Wine-throated Hummingbird \(*Atthis ellioti*\)](#) LC, [Blue-throated Motmot \(*Aspatha gularis*\)](#) LC, [Bushy-crested Jay \(*Cyanocorax melanocyaneus*\)](#) LC, [Black-capped Swallow \(*Notiochelidon pileata*\)](#) LC, [Rufous-browed Wren \(*Troglodytes rufociliatus*\)](#) LC, [Blue-and-white Mockingbird \(*Melanotis hypoleucus*\)](#) LC, [Rufous-collared Robin \(*Turdus rufitorques*\)](#) LC, [Black-capped Siskin \(*Carduelis atriceps*\)](#) LC, [Pink-headed Warbler \(*Ergaticus versicolor*\)](#), and [Azure-rumped Tanager \(*Tangara cabanisi*\)](#) EN



VU



The project is in the horizontal red line that goes through Guatemala