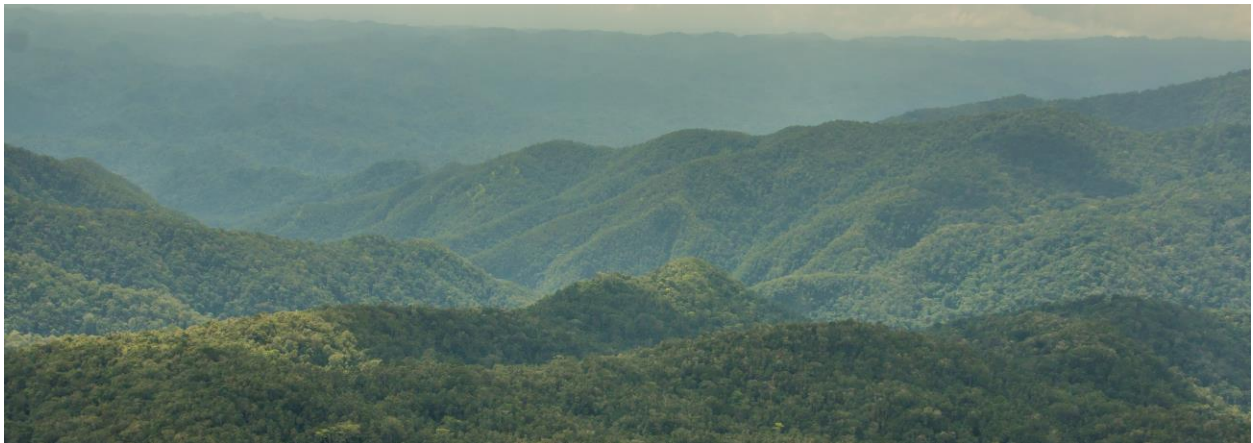

***Bird Survey of the Maya Mountain North Forest
Reserve and adjacent Cacao Agroforestry
concessions***



Survey methods:

Since the survey time was limited to three days, we tried to cover as much ground as possible, non-stop while daylight was available. We used a mix of point counts and travelling counts to maximize species logged. In addition, a neotropical owl mix developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology was also played to attract species which would otherwise be very difficult to detect due to their cryptic nature.

Between 6.00am to 9.00am special attention was focused on forest species and forest-edge specialists. Between 9am and 3pm, in addition to the mentioned species, we also scanned the skies above, for soaring Raptors (birds of prey). This is the time they would likely be detected as they use the thermals to gain altitude above the forest canopy. After 3pm we would again focus mostly on forest species, but also on some crepuscular birds which become active at dusk.

To keep track of the birds observed, we used the eBird mobile app (version 1.6). This app automatically detects your position using the GPS on your device to pin point the location where you begin your list. Additionally, it also logs the precise distance you cover while birding and enables you to submit the checklist to eBird.org as soon as you have an internet connection.

Results:

A total of 726 individual birds of **154 species** were recorded within the three days of survey in the area. A total of **8.75 miles** were surveyed and covered a mix of habitats including roads, trails, cacao plantations, broken ridge, riparian habitat, dense lowland broadleaf forest and disturbed second-growth grassland. The below list compiles all species recorded during the survey.

Great Tinamou	Vaux's Swift
Little Tinamou	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift
Plain Chachalaca	Long-billed Hermit
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	Stripe-throated Hermit
Black Vulture	Purple-crowned Fairy
Turkey Vulture	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird
King Vulture	Violet Sabrewing
White-tailed Kite	White-bellied Emerald
Gray-headed Kite	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Double-toothed Kite	Slaty-tailed Trogon
Bicolored Hawk	Black-headed Trogon
Great Black Hawk	Gartered Trogon
Roadside Hawk	Ringed Kingfisher
White Hawk	Amazon Kingfisher
Gray Hawk	Green Kingfisher
Broad-winged Hawk	American Pygmy Kingfisher
Short-tailed Hawk	White-whiskered Puffbird
Uniform Crane	Rufous-tailed Jacamar
Short-billed Pigeon	Collared Araçari
Blue Ground-Dove	Keel-billed Toucan
White-tipped Dove	Black-cheeked Woodpecker
Groove-billed Ani	Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Squirrel Cuckoo	Smoky-brown Woodpecker
White-collared Swift	Golden-olive Woodpecker

Lineated Woodpecker
Pale-billed Woodpecker
Collared Forest-Falcon
Laughing Falcon
Bat Falcon
Orange-breasted Falcon
Brown-hooded Parrot
White-crowned Parrot
Red-lored Parrot
Mealy Parrot
Olive-throated Parakeet
Scarlet Macaw
Barred Antshrike
Dot-winged Antwren
Dusky Antbird
Bare-crowned Antbird
Black-faced Antthrush
Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Ruddy Woodcreeper
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
Northern Barred-Woodcreeper
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper
Plain Xenops
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet
Greenish Elaenia
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher
Northern Bentbill
Common Tody-Flycatcher
Eye-ringed Flatbill
Yellow-olive Flycatcher
Stub-tailed Spadebill
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Bright-rumped Attila
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Great Crested Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Social Flycatcher
Couch's Kingbird
White-collared Manakin
Red-capped Manakin
Masked Tityra
Northern Schiffornis
Tawny-crowned Greenlet
Lesser Greenlet

White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Brown Jay
House Wren
Spot-breasted Wren
White-breasted Wood-Wren
Long-billed Gnatwren
Tropical Gnatcatcher
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Wood Thrush
Clay-colored Thrush
Gray Catbird
Ovenbird
Worm-eating Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Gray-headed Tanager
Crimson-collared Tanager
Passerini's Tanager
Golden-hooded Tanager
Red-legged Honeycreeper
Green Honeycreeper
Variable Seedeater
White-collared Seedeater
Bananaquit
Yellow-faced Grassquit
Buff-throated Saltator
Black-headed Saltator
Green-backed Sparrow
Orange-billed Sparrow
Yellow-breasted Chat
Summer Tanager
Red-throated Ant-Tanager
Black-faced Grosbeak
Blue-black Grosbeak

Yellow-billed Cacique
Montezuma Oropendola
Black-cowled Oriole
Baltimore Oriole

Melodious Blackbird
Yellow-throated Euphonia
Olive-backed Euphonia
White-vented Euphonia

A total of 4 checklists were compiled and submitted to **eBird.org** containing all the above documented species. These checklists can be downloaded under the following checklist numbers:

S40735025, S40735055, S40735229, S40735223

Notes on selected species

Orange-breasted Falcon – This is a critically endangered species which has seen dramatic declines over its range, in part due to its specialized nesting habitat of limestone cliffs with pristine forest below. It also must endure competition with Vultures for nesting space and has a patchy distribution from Belize and Guatemala to South America. Belize has 12 known nesting pairs and is by far the largest concentration of the species in its entire range. We observed one male individual of this species hunting close to an orange orchard, suggesting a nearby pair in the area.

Scarlet Macaw – Although this species has been documented breeding only in the Chiquibul on the western side of the Maya Mountains, it is frequently documented on the eastern flank of the Maya Mountains. We observed several individuals feeding on Inga, Copal and Prickly Yellow trees. This suggests that the eastern side of the Maya Mountains is also a very important foraging area for the species.

Wood Thrush – This species is on the North American conservation watch list after a 60% decline in the population over the last decade. Central American lowland broadleaf forests seem the wintering stronghold for the species.

Golden-winged Warbler – Just like the Wood Thrush, the Golden-winged Warbler has suffered a massive population decline over the last decade. In Belize this species is found mostly in the southern wet forests of Stann Creek and Toledo, more than anywhere north. We found three individuals of this species at the forest edge and nearby the plantations, suggesting this area as wintering ground.

Bare-crowned Antbird, Bicolored Hawk, Uniform Crake – These are three high target species sought after by Birders. If this area is lightly improved for bird tourism, there could be quite a draw if these species were used in the promotion of the area.

Conclusion and acknowledgements:

The portion of the Maya Mountain North F.R. we surveyed, holds a stunning natural beauty which could be enjoyed by many more. As YCT works with the community to promote a sustainable use of the forest, I cannot help but recommend bird tourism as one more means of encouraging this. Minimal infrastructure is needed, but could bring additional sustenance for some of the farmers as an access fee could be established.

I would like to thank Said Gutierrez for giving me the enjoyable task of doing this survey to gather baseline information on the birds of the area. Also to my team, composed of Rosendo Coy, Anignacio Makin, Gerasimo Coc and Chen for their field support and extensive knowledge of the area. With their help, this survey did not feel like work at all, but more of an enjoyable search for birds in the forest, with friends.