

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole

Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Gabriel Rocha Sagrera
Project title	Yellow Cardinal (<i>Gubernatix cristata</i>) and other threatened grassland birds conservation in Uruguay
RSG reference	10887-2
Reporting period	January 2012 – December 2012.
Amount of grant	£5,378
Your email address	ornito@adinet.com.uy
Date of this report	21/01/2013

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Establishment of a regional grasslands birds monitoring programme			X	All censuses were very important for new sites for yellow cardinal and other threatened birds as <i>Sporophila</i> sp. The people of local communities near to the priority sites, was involved in the censuses.
Establishment of a Geographical Information System (G.I.S.) by A.C.U.O.			X	Thank to GIS we can find other sites very important to identify areas where they could be the yellow cardinal.
Signed conservation agreements with local landowners for development area management plan		X		In one area in Florida Province in Uruguay, where is present the yellow cardinal we will have the possibility of signing an agreement with the landowners (Mr. Hector Leon and Mrs. Estela Cabrera). But the signing be held in this year 2013.
Continuation of the establishment of a birdwatching industry in the region, through promotion of the area for bird watching at the national and international level			X	During all project we working with locals communities for development birdwatching activities and was very important for yellow cardinal conservation because de people involved not allowed to hunt this specie and others. The local people of Lavalleja, Paysandú, Rocha and Cerro Largo received good training and tools for ecotourism development.
Establishment of a working group and a network of volunteers to promote bird habitat conservation and ensure habitat protection			X	In the four Provinces we create groups for yellow cardinal conservation and development ecotourism. In Cerro Largo Province was en Melo City. In Paysandú Province was in Guichón city. In Lavalleja Province was in Minas city. In Rocha Province was in Castillos city.

To make new brochures and posters with information about the threatened species and habitat for distribution in school, high school, and local communities near to the important birds areas.			X	We made brochures and posters with the threatened bird species and we did a good distribution for all education places.
---	--	--	---	---

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

He had some difficulty entering the fields of some owners but only in the first instance, because after that the owners knew our work they allowed our income.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The three most important outcomes were:

- 1) Identify six new sites in Uruguay where the yellow cardinal is present and we can made research about your behaviour and we made conservation activities in the field and with the local communities.
- 2) Development of ecotourism activities with local communities, with local and international birdwatching customers. The field owners were the yellow cardinal and other threatened birds are present, demonstrated willingness for guides of the local communities to enter areas.
- 3) The formation of local groups in the four Provinces for the futures works of censuses, ecotourism activities and conservation activities. All groups have between 6 and 10 people of different ages and sexes. This is very important for to continue working in the Yellow Cardinal and habitats conservation.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The local communities of four Provinces had an excellent response to our stimuli. We made training modules of bridwatching guides and birds monitoring. Also we made talks with all people of the communities and to visit schools, high schools and colleges.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, with the local communities involved and the field owners that we have opportunities to work on these sites, we continue working with ACUO help.

Was very important the new sites that the yellow cardinal is present and we need continue monitoring these sites for conservation habitats and birds.

In this year 2013 we try to present new projects in different donors to continue working with the Yellow Cardinal conservation and development the ecotourism activities.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

The different forms:

We present the results of the project with oral dissertation the Uruguayan Zoology Congress (11-12-2012) in the Science University and in the Resume book of congress. (**Annex 1**)

Also we posted on our ACUO-FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/ACUO-AVES-EN-URUGUAY/480706345547>

and our web: www.avesacuo.com

And in this year 2013 I will make a new book of birds of Uruguay and in this book I will use some of the important results of this project. Of course with the thanks to Rufford mentioned in the book.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The first date to project was November 2011 – October 2012, but we started the project in January 2013 because is the date that the money of project was available for started to work in ACUO.

The final date to project was January 2012 - December 2012, the extension was the same, only was a little shift.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Local Exchange:

U\$\$/£: 1.587 (£ sterling to dollars).

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Trainers in birdwatching techniques	480	480	0	
Poster and brochure design	170	217	-47	The cost of posters was slightly more expensive.
Legal consultancy for establishment of signed conservation agreements with local landowners	275	250	+25	
Production of workshops materials and final workshops report	360	360	0	
Rental of local hall for development of 4 workshops in the different provinces	180	170	+10	
Bird guides and monitoring training workshops	333	320	+13	
Production of signs and bird watching trail 4 birding hotspots	390	410	-20	Error in estimating the cost
Per-diem for regional work (80 work days, £ 15/day, 2 people and 1 volunteer)	1.200	1.200	0	
Travel costs (includes bus trips, round-trip	375	418	-43	We need pay some more

from Montevideo to region)				miles on the bus.
Travel costs in rent a car and fuel for 3.750 km (2.330 Miles)	250	250	0	
Birding Field Trips with local owners and authorities. Four field trips	520	510	+10	
Secretarial work (secretary, telephone, office).	140	140	0	
School and high schools class in four provinces (teachers and travel)	70	85	-15	We need give some more hours of classes.
Bird guides, text books, binoculars, for people networks in four provinces for ecotourism activities	195	200	-5	Error in estimating the cost.
Geographical Information System (GIS)	190	220	-30	Error in estimating the cost.
Education materials for children teenagers of schools and high schools	100	140	-40	We prepare extra material for teachers.
Contingency costs	150	125	+25	
TOTAL	5.378	5.495	-117	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

a) Continue strengthening and empowerment the groups already formed in the local communities.

b) Present new projects to different donors to be able to obtain new funds to continue working in the Provinces and contact the Province Government authorities to involve them in the conservation and education activities.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, we use the RSGF logo in materials and various power point presentation and in our facebook and web.

11. Any other comments?

During the bird monitoring programme and the search of new sites where live the yellow cardinal we find a new bird species to Uruguay, *Knipolegus striaticeps*, and we present this new bird for Uruguay in the Uruguayan Zoology Congress.

I and all ACUO Committee Board acknowledge all people of Rufford Small Grant Foundation for help and give us the opportunity to work in the conservation threatened birds and development environmental education with local communities.

Annex 1

Distribución y estudios de comportamiento de *Gubernatrix cristata* (Aves, Emberizidae) en Uruguay.

Rocha, G.¹

¹Asociación Conservacionista Uruguaya de Ornitología, acu@adinet.com.uy

El Cardenal amarillo (*Gubernatrix cristata*) es muy territorial, generalmente se la encuentra en pareja, grupos familiares o esporádicamente en bandadas de hasta trece individuos (varias parejas adultas con juveniles). Se alimenta de semillas y granos que busca en sus hábitats predilectos que son el monte parque (Acacia coven, *Prosopis* sp.) y la pradera arbolada ondulada (*Celtis spinosa*, *Scutia buxifolia*, *Schinus molle*), donde se lo ha encontrado nidificando. Amenazado de extinción a nivel global, en la categoría "en peligro" (Endangered, IUCN), su rango de distribución es Uruguay, Argentina y Brasil, con tendencia a la disminución de sus poblaciones. En Brasil prácticamente ha desaparecido, registrándose actualmente solamente en el Parque Estadual do Espinhaço (Rio Grande do Sul) en las cercanías de la frontera norte de Uruguay. Las poblaciones más importantes se encuentran en Argentina y Uruguay, estimándose la existencia de entre 1.500 y 3.000 individuos. El objetivo del proyecto fue conocer más sobre la distribución, el comportamiento y utilizar a la educación ambiental como otra herramienta para la conservación de la especie. Metodológicamente se relevaron áreas donde se tenían datos históricos y otras nuevas que por el hábitat existente podría estar presente la especie. Además de la observación se utilizó la técnica del playback. La destrucción de uno de sus hábitats (monte parque) y en otras localidades la caza para la comercialización ilegal de la especie, han hecho disminuir a las ya menguadas poblaciones. Cabe plantearse si las poblaciones siempre fueron relativamente bajas y eso afecta aún más a la especie, ya que por ejemplo *Paroaria coronata* (de la misma familia) es muy cazado para mantenerlo en cautiverio y sus poblaciones no evidencian problemas. Financiado por Rufford Foundation (2012).

Actualización del conocimiento taxonómico de Ampullariidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) en Uruguay: claves para su identificación

Fórrdinz A. E.^{1,2} aehordinz@gmail.com ; Scarabino, E.^{3,4}; Clavijo, C.^{1,5,6}; Serra, W.S.^{1,6,7}; Camargo, A.^{1,6,8}; Thiengo, S.⁶; Hayes, K.⁶; Cowie, R.⁷ & Burks, R.⁸

¹ Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Montevideo - 2. InBiot

³ Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos, Uruguay - 4. CURE Maldonado, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

⁵ FROCRUZ, Brasil - 6. University of Hawaii, USA - 7. University of Hawaii, USA - 8. Southwestern University, USA.

Los miembros de la familia Ampullariidae son los gastropodos dulcícolas de mayor tamaño y se encuentran distribuidos originalmente en las zonas tropicales y subtropicales de África, Sudamérica, América Central y Asia. Aunque para Uruguay se han citado diez especies nativas (4 géneros), los caracteres morfológicos utilizados para su descripción han sido pobremente descritos, algunos de ellos no han sido estudiados para algunas especies, y no se han considerado las variaciones ecofenotípicas y ontogenéticas. Además, algunos caracteres importantes como las puestas y los opérculos no han sido considerados en las descripciones originales. En tal sentido, la generación de claves actualizadas de identificación para las especies de Ampullariidae basadas en caracteres morfológicos resulta crítica debido a que: 1) son especies invasoras en Norteamérica, Europa y el sudeste asiático afectando cultivos de arroz; 2) existen especies exóticas pertenecientes a la misma familia con potencial invasor en Uruguay y que eventualmente pueden afectar a las especies nativas; 3) interactúan con especies incrustantes invasoras (i.e. *Limnoperna fortunei*), afectando potencialmente su conservación; 4) ofician como hospedadores intermedios de parásitos que afectan al ser humano (*Angiostrongylus cantonensis*), provocando meningitis eosinófica; y 5) son un importante ítem en la dieta de vertebrados nativos. Mediante revisión bibliográfica y análisis de colecciones nacionales, así como de ejemplares provenientes de nuevas colectas, se realiza un glosario que reúne y estandariza la terminología y provee una descripción completa actualizada y objetiva de partes duras y puestas. Sobre esta base a) se analizan los problemas taxonómicos detectados en las especies de la Cuadrícula del Plata y b) se construyen claves taxonómicas pictóricas con la utilización de software específico, a efectos de proveer herramientas útiles para no especialistas, basadas en caracteres diagnósticos desprovistos de ambigüedad.

HÁBITAT - MONTE PARQUE



HÁBITAT – MONTE PARQUE

Principales asociaciones arbóreas.

- Espinillo (*Acacia caven*).
- Algarrobo (*Prosopis nigra*).
- Ñandubay (*Prosopis algarroBILLA*).
- Quebracho Blanco (*Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco*).
- Palmera Caranday (*Trithrinax campestris*).



DISTRIBUCIÓN GLOBAL Y ESTADO DE CONSERVACIÓN



"En Peligro"
(Endangered)



DISTRIBUCIÓN HISTÓRICA EN URUGUAY

Siglo XX y principios del S. XXI

- 1920. Juan Tremonelas (Canelones y Lavalleja).
- 1945. Luis Barattini (Paysandú).
- 1953. Horacio Arredondo cita la especie para prácticamente todo el país.
- 1962. Juan Cuello (Rocha, Treinta y Tres y Lavalleja).
- 1978. E. Gore y R. Gepp. Citan a la especie en todo el país, con importante disminución general y la desapareciendo de los alrededores de Montevideo. Status "escaso".
- 2001. Adrián Azpiroz registra a la especie en todo el país, menos en Montevideo y alrededores. Más frecuente en Salto, Paysandú y Río Negro. Status "raro".
- 2003. Gabriel Rocha. Registros en Salto, Río Negro, Paysandú y Cerro Largo. Status "escaso".



CONCLUSIONES Y DISCUSIÓN



- Población histórica.
- Educación ambiental.
- Cría en cautiverio.
- Estudios genéticos.

Distribución y estudios de comportamiento de *Gubernatrix cristata*

(Aves, Emberizidae) en Uruguay



Gabriel Rocha
Director Ejecutivo ACUO
ornito@adinet.com.uy
Diciembre 2012



HÁBITAT - PRADERA CON PASTIZALES



DISTRIBUCIÓN ACTUAL SEGÚN REGISTROS DURANTE EL PROYECTO

2011 - 2012

Registros más representativos:

En Lavaljea varios grupos numerosos de entre 4 y 13 ejemplares. Con registros de nidificación.

En Florida, Durazno y Tacuarembó, grupos familiares.

En Río Negro, Paysandú y Salto, parejas.

En Artigas y Rivera, machos aislados.



HÁBITAT - SERRANIAS

Principales asociaciones arbóreas.

- Tala (*Celtis tala*).
- Coronilla (*Scutia buxifolia*)
- Molle (*Schinus longifolius*)
- Arrayán (*Blepharocalyx salicifolius*)



COMPORTEMENTO



- Muy territorial.
- En pareja o pequeños grupos.
- Reproducción: octubre - diciembre.
Entre 3 y 5 huevos.

