

## Project Update: September 2015

The project is making good progress taking advantage of a strong Patagonian tail-wind. Between February and March 2015, we were in the field, together with rangers and volunteers mapping territories of key bird species, counting waterfowl in wetlands and surveying mink populations. Preliminary results reveal that waterfowl communities on mink-infested lakes are significantly different to those on mink-free lakes.

In March 2015 we were training local birdwatchers to survey birds and identify evidence of mink presence. We gave small talks in San Martin de Los Andes and Alumine towns enhancing the local people's knowledge and awareness of the feral mink. We also carried out a workshop on techniques for monitoring bird species threatened by mink in the Patagonian wetlands. Finally, we have expanded the project's network incorporating a young ornithologist specialising on torrent duck (*Merganetta armata*), who lately has become quite concerned about the threat that mink represents for this bird species.



Juan Manuel giving a small talk about feral mink in a meeting with local people from San Martin de Los Andes. Photo courtesy of Nicolas Ferreira, a National Park Biologist.



Birdwatchers and rangers talking about bird census techniques with Juan Manuel in the field. Photo: courtesy of Carlos Montoya, graphic designer from Alumine.