

Project Update: August 2023

Report Campo Mann National Park

During July and August 2023 we conducted surveys of bird communities and large frugivorous birds (grey parrots, hornbills and blue turaco) in Campo Mann National Park in the south of Cameroon. We used a nested fractal sampling design to sample bird communities in the rainforest. In total we made 36-point counts (10 minutes) and 33 linear transects (300 m) where we registered any bird observed and heard, using distance sampling. We also mapped territorial breeding pairs in the plots using spot mapping. In parallel we made six linear transects of 3 km with 10 temporal replicates for counting grey parrots, large hornbills and blue turaco. We registered a very rich community of forest birds composed of ant-followers and different insectivorous and frugivorous groups and many specialist species. We found very small flocks of grey parrots in the transects and large groups of hornbill species (black casqued, white tailed and piping hornbills). Blue turacos were also abundant. During the fieldwork we involved a young Cameroonian ornithologist who obtained skills and advanced training for sampling and monitoring tropical birds. We have four other forest sites in protected areas in Cameroon (Mbam et Djerem, Lobeke and Dja) which we will survey in the coming months. Overall, these preliminary findings in our first sampling site suggest a diverse forest bird community and the data collected of these communities will be a valuable benchmark (reference) to study the changes in Afrotropical bird communities under climate change and other stressors such as logging, poaching and land use change.



Fraser's forest flycatcher (*Fraseria ocreata*).



Young ornithologist taking part of bird surveys.



Forest gap inside the forest.



Me working in the plots with the laser scanner.