

Project Update: May 2011

During April and May 2011, I intensively collected ornithological data from mature forest with uncontrolled selective logging, early secondary forest, and agricultural fields, including hedgerows. First results indicate some bird species highly sensitive to land modification and direction on a diversity gradient, elucidating some alternatives for landscape management in relation to expansive agricultural activities.

The observed situation in remnant native forest is severe, with a negative impact on bird populations by fragmentation and structural changes of tree and undergrowth cover. This scenario was also observed in areas close to the districts of Olmos and Motupe so, with the support of people like Chochope's district mayor, I am including this site and also Jayanca district which has a similar type of vegetation and altitude. An important discovery was the first record of the endemic and endangered Peruvian plant cutter *Phytotoma raimondii* for this last place by Edwin Sánchez and me.

I am returning in June and July 2011 to continue with data collection and start to coordinate talks to authorities, schools and institutions related to conservation and agriculture.



Left: Cornfield surrounded by forest. Right: Dry forest interior view.



Rufous Flycatcher, an endemic and endangered species common in the forest at the study area. © Ana Mercedes Plaza.