

ESTIMATING HOME RANGE SIZE OF FEMALE LONG-TAILED MANAKINS (*CHIROXIPHIA LINEARIS*) IN CLOUD FOREST ECOSYSTEMS OF COSTA RICA

Ryan A. Malloy*, Robert Cooper, and Nathan Nibbelink

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Athens, GA 30606

**contact: malloyr@warnell.uga.edu*

Abstract: Understanding species-habitat relationships in the neotropics has been a slow and arduous process; however, it is one that is vital if we care to protect and preserve these incredibly species-rich ecosystems and their inhabitants. In recent years, ecotourism has been employed in many neotropical countries as a means of conservation. As a result, some species have become “poster species” with regard to marketing for ecotourism companies. In the Monteverde region of Costa Rica, the image of the Long-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia linearis*) is commonly used in advertisements for certain rainforest activities (e.g., guided hikes in nature preserves, canopy bridges, and zipline adventures). While the Long-tailed Manakin has been the subject of much research, almost all of the work has focused on the peculiar cooperative breeding and courtship behavior of males within lek sites. However, far less is known about the more secretive and cryptic females. Furthermore, cloud forest ecosystems in which the manakins live are in rapid decline. The conversion of both forested landscapes and shade coffee plantations into pasture land affects resident bird species, as well as both short- and long-distance migrants. In this project, we plan to assess species-habitat relationships of female Long-tailed Manakins using radiotelemetry. In addition, we will monitor nesting activities and quantify nest success rates. This information will be used to educate the local stakeholders of San Luis about the importance of conservation through land use management.