

Point Count Survey Proposal

Cloudbridge Nature Reserve, Costa Rica

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Introduction

In order to develop our understanding of the bird species in the cloud forest of Costa Rica, our knowledge of the diversity of the species and their habitats needs to be expanded. Point count surveys are the best way to estimate the population of bird species in varying habitats. The data from the surveys can be used to estimate populations of birds, to identify the habitats that are used by specific species and, with repeated surveys over the years, to identify trends in population and habitat use.

Materials

Orange flagging tape or reflective tape

Camera

Compass

Binoculars

Handheld GPS

Clipboard and waterproof paper

Metal or wooden stakes

Permanent marker

Point Count Protocol

This point count protocol is taken from a previous study done at Cloudbridge by Nathan Marcy in January 2007. The count will be conducted every day for 30 days during the first three hours after sunrise. The point counts will be conducted at a chosen site within a radius of 25 meters. Upon reaching the site, the boundaries as well as the point count station will be marked by orange tape so that they are clearly visible. During the first 2 minutes, I will make general observations of the climate and surrounding vegetation and then I will proceed with the count. Each count will be conducted for 10 minutes, which will be further divided into three periods of 3 minutes, 2 minutes and 5 minutes respectively. After completing the 10 minute observation, I

will walk around the site, removing the orange tape and marking the center of the station with a metal stake and permanent marker. The GPS coordinates of the site will be noted.

The surveys will be conducted over a one month period. Upon arrival to the Cloudbridge site, I will choose an appropriate number and type of sites which will be representative of the diversity of habitats on the Cloudbridge property.

References

Marcy, Nathan December 2005. Avifauna at Cloudbridge.

<http://cloudbridge.org/research/avifauna.htm>

Hostetler, Mark E. and Martin B. Main February, 2001. Florida Monitoring Program: Point Count Method to Survey Birds. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW140>