**Technical justification for the American Bird Conservancy to provide services in the support and design of a payments for ecosystem services (PES) scheme in the Agalta Valley, Honduras**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is currently financing a road paving project (HO-L1033) in the Agalta Valley of Honduras. A portion of the Valley through which the road passes is one of only four areas in the world known to be occupied by the globally endangered Honduran Emerald Hummingbird — the only bird species endemic to Honduras. One of the activities financed under HO-L1033 was the development of a Honduran Emerald Hummingbird conservation strategy paper for the Agalta Valley. In the area of influence of project HO-L1003, the strategy paper identifies twenty remaining fragments of suitable Emerald habitat. All but one of these fragments is located on private land.

The paper recommends the development of a payments for ecosystem services (PES) scheme as the most viable conservation option. PES schemes are cash transfers from users of environmental services to providers of these services conditional on continued provision. PES schemes have become well known and well established in the LAC Region (LAC leads the developing world in PES implementation) as a financing mechanism to support the protection of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services. The PES scheme for Agalta Valley would compensate landowners for conserving or restoring Emerald habitat found on their land.

The services being sought are for exceptional quality expertise in advanced and economically grounded thinking on market based mechanisms for bird conservation and natural habitat protection from an independent institute of international standing with a robust track record in this field in LAC.

The Bank will directly hire the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). ABC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas and is widely recognized as a leader in bird conservation throughout the Americas. ABC envisions an Americas-wide landscape where diverse interests collaborate to ensure that native bird species and their habitats are protected, where their protection is valued by society, and they are routinely considered in all land-use and policy decision-making.

Internationally, ABC works with local partners to conduct conservation projects involving the creation and management of protected areas and restoration of habitat through tree planting and other activities on public, private, and communal lands. Its partners include local communities, NGOs, universities, and government agencies. ABC often provides co-financing for its projects, as it plans to do with the proposed project for the Honduran Emerald. It also has access to potential donors that could support the endowment of the PES fund.

ABC is a leader in developing sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure the long-term success of projects. The ConservationBirding website (<http://www.conservationbirding.org/>) is one example of this effort. They also work to develop other sources of sustainable income to finance joint projects including establishing endowment funds (e.g. $2M endowment for Vilcanota, Peru) and developing PES schemes. For the latter, they have been working to secure carbon rights for a project in northern Peru and already have the support of a European-based company investing in the carbon credit market.

With regards to the Honduran Emerald in particular, ABC worked on this species between 2002 and 2006 with funding from the USFWS, Arkansas, and Global Conservation Fund, and also coordinated with the World Bank regarding mitigation for potential impacts on the species from a highway project in the Aguan Valley. In addition, ABC works on many other projects specifically related to conservation of hummingbirds throughout the Americas. Examples include the Marvelous Spatuletail and Royal Sunangel in Peru, Gorgeted Puffleg and Dusky Starfrontlet in Colombia, the Esmeraldas Woodstar and Black-breasted Puffleg in Ecuador, research on the Mangrove Hummingbird in Costa Rica, habitat restoration for Juan Fernandez Firecrown in Chile, and Short-crested Coquette in Mexico among others.

In summary, the IDB can directly contract ABC for the unique requirements of this consultancy because it offers: (a) experience in the design of PES schemes to protect critical biodiversity; (b) matching funds for the project as well as access to potential donors for the PES fund; and (c) direct experience with the Honduran Emerald and its natural habitat. As such, ABC is uniquely positioned amongst peers for supporting and designing a PES scheme for the protection of the Honduran Emerald.

**CVs of proposed ABC team**

**DANIEL J. LEBBIN**

246 Hillside Circle SW (607) 351-5467

Vienna, VA 22180 dlebbin@abcbirds.org

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**EDUCATION**

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

**Ph.D., Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, 2007**

* **Dissertation Title**: “Habitat Specialization Among Amazonian Birds: Why Are There So Many *Guadua* Bamboo Specialists?”
* **Teaching Assistant** (paid): Ornithology, Conservation Biology, Evolution, and Introductory Biology.
* **Leadership**: Cornell Student Bird Club (Muck Race Team Captain), Cornell University Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (Vice President), and Graduate Student Assembly (Department Representative).

**DUKE UNIVERSITY**

**B.A., *magna cum laude*, Biology, Environmental Science & Policy, 2000**

* **Honors**: Graduation with Distinction (Environmental Science & Policy) and Dean’s List with Distinction.
* **Leadership**: Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (Vice President), Clocktower Quad Council (Representative), and Blackwell House Council (Representative).
* **Study Abroad**: Australia (Summer 1997) and Costa Rica (Summer 1995).

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & RESEARCH**

* **American Bird Conservancy**: Conservation Biologist (paid, 2008-present)
  + - Co-authored ABC’s Guide to Bird Conservation, and authored articles in other ABC communications including *BirdConservation,* *BirdCalls,* blog posts, etc.
    - Managed international conservation projects in collaboration with NGOs, government agencies, and individuals in Latin America and the Caribbean to create new nature reserves, purchase land, plant hundreds of thousands of trees, construct lodges and guard houses at reserves, research and monitoring, outreach and education and other activities benefiting local communities, resident and migratory birds in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, and St. Lucia.
    - Helped establish $2 million endowment fund for Vilcanota Polylepis project in Peru and occupy one of three voting seats on the endowment fund’s directing committee.
* **Neotropical Ornithological Society:** Treasurer (Four year term beginning November 2011).
* **Grant Reviewer** for: for American Field Ornitholgist’s Bergstrom Award (2011-2013) and Alexander Skutch Award (2013) GPS trail mapping and bird photography in nature reserves (December 2005, Ecuador).
* **Jocotoco Foundation**: GPS trail mapping and bird photography in nature reserves (December 2005, Ecuador).
* **Habitat Specialization of Amazonian birds**: Dissertation research field work (2002-2004, Peru).
* **Bird Communities in Forest Fragments**: Field Assistant for ecological studies on bird communities, trees, and howler monkey relocation; independent research on hummingbird dynamics. (Summers 2000 and 2001, Venezuela).
* **Ivory-billed Woodpecker Search Team**: Bird survey field crew (March 2005, Arkansas)**.**
* **World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)**: Species Conservation Program Research Assistant (paid, 2000-2001) and Intern (paid, Summer 1999). Researched palm oil industry in Indonesia and participated in edible oils workshop (Switzerland) and tiger conservation workshop (Indonesia).
* **The Nature Conservancy (North Carolina Chapter)**: GIS mapping of Black Ankle Bog (1998-2000, North Carolina).
* **Warbler Survival in Agricultural Landscapes**: Field Assistant (March 1998, Jamaica).
* **National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC)**:Research Training Program Intern (paid, Summer 1998) and Volunteer (1992-1997).
  + - Created visual identification systems for individual animals in collection (Registrar), Keeper Aide (Invertebrate Exhibit, Australia Pavilion, and Amazonia Exhibit), produced illustrations on display (Pollinarium Exhibit and Amazonia Exhibit), and educator (Zoo Olympics Program and Reptile Discovery Center).

**STUDENT GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

• Fulbright Fellow • Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid

• Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Fellowship • Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies Travel Grant

• Amazon Conservation Association Research Grant • Andrew W. Mellon Student Research Grant

* Duke University Undergraduate Research Grant • Cornell Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Lebbin**, D. J. 2013. Nestedness and patch size of bamboo-specialist bird communities in southeastern Peru. *The Condor* 115(2):230-236.

**Lebbin**, D. J., F. Olmos, R. Williams, C. Aucca C. 2012. Nightbird paradise: owls and other nocturnal birds in northern Peru. *Neotropical Birding* 11:41-46.

**Lebbin**, D. J., Parr, M. J. & Fenwick, G. H. 2010. American Bird Conservancy’s Guide to Bird Conservation. Lynx Edicions and Chicago University Press, Barcelona and Chicago.

**Lebbin**, D. J. 2009. Flammulated Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus flammulatus*), Neotropical Birds Online (T. S. Schulenberg, Editor). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; retrieved from *Neotropical Birds Online*: http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu

**Lebbin**, D. 2009. Sharing your bird sightings to help conservation. *Neotropical Birding* 4:13-17.

**Lebbin**,D. J. 2008. Aggressive interactions and preliminary evidence of reversed sexual dominance in *Ramphocelus* tanagers. *Ornitología Neotropical* 19:329-334.

Tobias, J. A., **Lebbin**,D. J., Aleixo, A., Andersen, M. J., Hosner, P. A., Guilherme, E. & Seddon, N. 2008. Distribution, behavior, and conservation status of the Rufous Twistwing *Cnipodectes* *superrufus*. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 120:38-49.

**Lebbin**, D. J. 2007. Habitat specialization among Amazonian birds: Why are there so many *Guadua* bamboo specialists? Ph.D. dissertation. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

**Lebbin**,D. J. 2007. Nesing behavior and nestling care of the Pavonine Quetzal (*Pharomachrus* *pavoninus*, Trogonidae).

*Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 119:458-463.

**Lebbin**,D. J., Harvey, M. G., Lenz, T. C., Andersen, M. J., & Ellis, J. M. 2007. Mixed-species flock of fall migrant birds foraging at night by artificial light. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 119:506-508.

**Lebbin**,D. J., Tori, W.P. & Bravo, A. 2007. Leucism in a Ruddy Spinetail (*Synallaxis rutilans*, Furnariidae). *Cotinga* 27:68-69.

Andersen, M. J., **Lebbin**, D. J. & Hosner, P. A. 2007. First evidence of Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) for Peru.

*Boletín* de la Sociedad Antioqueña de Ornitología 17:36-38.

Feeley, K. J., Gillespie, T. W. , **Lebbin**, D. J. & Walter, H. S. 2007. Species characteristics associated with extinction vulnerability and nestedness rankings of birds in tropical forest fragments. *Animal Conservation* 10:493-501.

**Lebbin,** D. J. 2006. Notes on birds consuming *Guadua* bamboo seeds. *Ornitología Neotropical* 17:609-612.

Fitzpatrick, J., Bates, J. Bostwick, K. Caballero, I., Clock, B., Farnsworth, A., Hosner, P., Joseph, L., Langham, G., **Lebbin**, D., Mobley, J., Robbins, M., Scholes, E., Tello, J., Walther, B. & Zimmer, K. 2004. Family Tyrannidae (Tyrant-Flycatchers) Pp. 170-462 *in* del Hoyo, J. Elliot, A. & Christie, D. eds. Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 9: Cotingas to Pipits and Wagtails. Lynx Ediciones. Barcelona, Spain.

**Lebbin**,D. J. 2004. Unusual June record of Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) in Bolívar, Venezuela.

*Ornitología Neotropical* 15:143-144.

**Lebbin**, D. J. 2004. First record of Yellow-cheeked Becard *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* in the Department of Madre de Dios, Peru and notes on birds from the same locality. *Cotinga* 22:30-33.

**Lebbin**, D. 2001. Shutting Down a "Center of Excellence." Letters to the Editor, *The Washington Post* April 11:A27.

**INTERESTS**

* **Foreign Languages**: Spanish (proficient), Brazilian Portuguese (beginner).
* **Hobbies**: Bird-watching (featured in *The Washington Post Magazine*, 26 July 2009), painting, photography, and sports (ultimate frisbee).
* **Shofar** (musical horn): participant in religious holiday services at Washington Hebrew Congregation (1991-present) and Hillel (Duke and Cornell); and also performed at National Day of Prayer (U.S. House of Representatives), National Cathedral, and American Israel Public Affairs Committee.