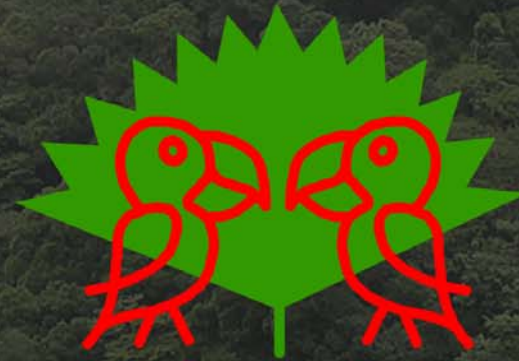


Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

by
Knut EISERMANN



Cayaya Birding

Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

What is a Cloud Forest?



- Water supply mainly from mist
- Condensation zone at 1,200-3,000 m
(3,900 – 9,800 ft)



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

What is a Cloud Forest?



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

What is a Cloud Forest?





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What is a Cloud Forest?





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What is a Cloud Forest?





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Distribution of Highlands

Highlands >1,200 m (3,900 ft)
cover ~30% of Guatemala





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Distribution of Cloud Forests

Cloud forests occur in
Atlantic mountain ranges
and in smaller patches in
the volcanic highlands





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Distribution of Cloud Forests

Cloud forests in
the volcanic
highlands are less
humid





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Drier Montane Forests

Interior mountain
with drier broadleaf
and mixed
woodlands





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Drier Montane Forests





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Drier Montane Forests

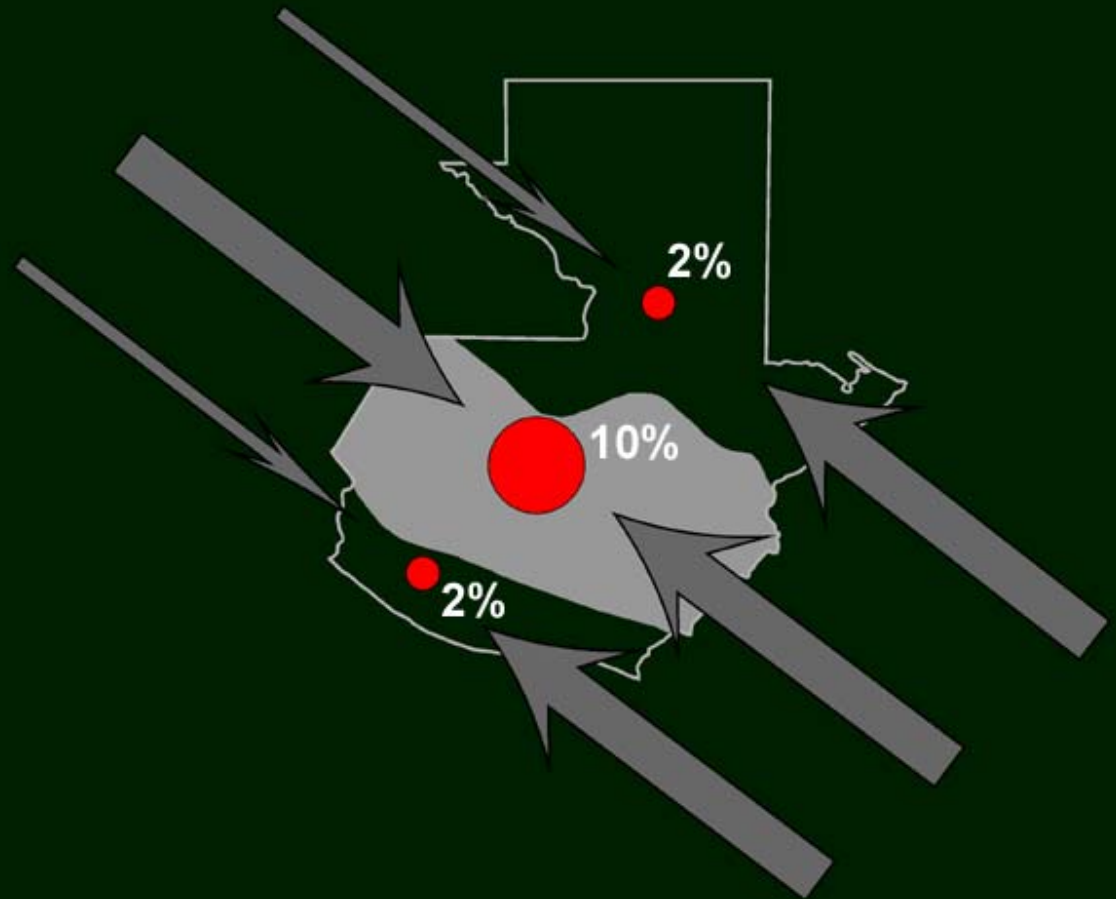




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Zoogeography of Highland Birds

Of all bird species nesting in the Guatemalan highlands, ~10% are endemic to the northern Central American highlands





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Bird Communities

- Some 370 bird species in the Guatemalan highlands
- Low elevation cloud forest most species rich
- High elevation cloud forests with most specialized species



High-altitude cloud forest at Montaña Caquiepec:

- 142 species
- 14 endemic to northern Central American highland
- 39 Nearctic-Neotropical migrants



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Bird Communities





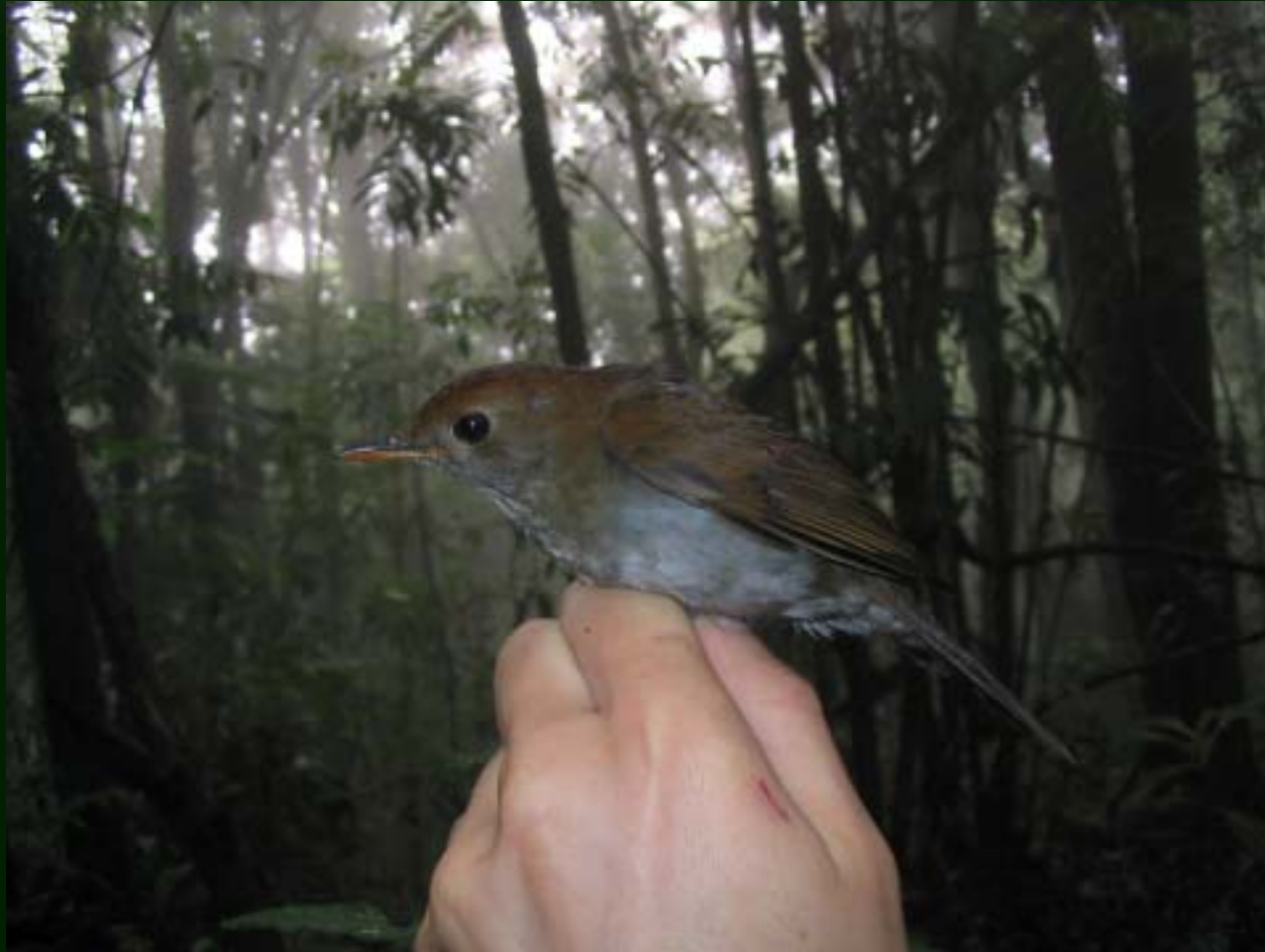
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Bird Communities



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Bird Communities





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Endemics of northern Central American highlands



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Endemics of northern Central American highlands





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Endemics of northern Central American highlands





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Guatemalan Sites





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Chelemhá Cloud Forest Reserve



- Access on paved road from Cobán or Guatemala City to Tactic, from there on dirt road
- Accommodation: rustic lodge with 4 rooms w/ private bathrooms





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Chelemhá Cloud Forest Reserve



- Observation balconies
- Exuberant scenic beauty of very humid cloud forest
- Several trails in primary forest and secondary growth





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Chelemhá Cloud Forest Reserve



- 14 species endemic to the Central American highland
- High density of Resplendent Quetzals



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Sierra Sacranix



- Access via dirt road from Cobán (4-WD vehicle) in 1 hour



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Sierra Sacranix



Knowledgeable local guides, which
are trained bird census takers of
the PROEVAL RAXMU Bird
Monitoring Program





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Cerro Alux Watershed Reserve



30 min from Guatemala City or from Antigua



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Cerro Alux Watershed Reserve



•Several trails in pine-oak forest



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Corazón del Bosque, Novillero



- Access via Panamerican highway
- Accommodation: simple lodges





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Corazón del Bosque, Novillero



- Pine-oak woodland >2,000 m (6,600 ft).
- Several endemics incl. Blue-throated Motmot, Black-capped Swallow, Pink-headed Warbler, Rufous-browed Wren, Rufous-collared Robin, and Blue-and-White Mockingbird.





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Los Trrales Reserve



- Access via paved road between Lake Atitlán and Patulul
- Accommodations: comfortable lodge with rooms w/ private bathrooms.





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Los Trrales Reserve



- Located on the slope of Atitlán Volcano (700 – 3,500 m; 2,300 – 11,500 ft).
- Enthusiastic local bird guides



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Los Trrales Reserve





Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

Online Information

Cayaya Birding – Birding Guatemala: www.cayaya-birding.com

Chelemhá Cloud Forest Reserve: www.chelemha.org

Los Tarrales Reserve: www.tarrales.com

Corazón del Bosque, Novillero: www.corazondelbosque.com

Bird Monitoring at Sierra Sacranix: www.proeval-raxmu.org



Guatemalan Cloud Forest as Bird Watching Destination

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Some of the photos were taken having the bird in hand, during scientific, licenced bird studies.

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