



Establishing nest protection for the extremely rare Cherry-throated Tanager, Brazil

Report 2022



ZGAP - Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und Populationsschutz e.V.



Hellabrunn
DER MÜNCHNER TIERPARK



Fabio Schunk/IMD Archive



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Introduction

The Cherry-throated Tanager Conservation Program started in 2020. The activities are based on three fronts: Research and monitoring, habitat protection and community engagement and environmental education. This report brings the results of these activities executed as planned in the during February 2022 to January 2023. It also brings the financial report for the funds provided by ZGAP (Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und Populationsschutz e.V.), Project-Code: 2.Nemosia rourei.BRA.2021, **Establishing nest protection for the extremely rare Cherry-throated Tanager, Brazil** (Project Name: Cherry Throated Tanager/ Rubinkehltangare project).

2022 was a great year, with intense activity on the project, both on research/monitoring and in community engagement. We started 2022 with 10 birds at Kaetés Reserve and 7 birds at Santa Teresa (Augusto Ruschi Biological Reserve) and finished with 15 and 7 respectively. It represents a twice increase since 2020 when the program started. Thanks to supporters like ZGAP, the program was able to accomplish the monitoring and data collection of the known flocks of cherry-throated tanagers and collect scientific data, protect nests, and help the populational growth.

Accomplishments:

Activity 1: To detect and follow the flocks before the reproductive season starts, to enhance the probability of finding the nests at its beginning.

During 2022 we did a 4 day per week monitoring of the groups of birds in the two occurrence areas.

At Reserva Kaetés, the birds were monitored in 141 days (1,172 h), allowing our team to find and protect two nests, besides collecting population and natural history data.

We made two ringing campaigns. The first was in September (5 days/ 50 h) using 4 canopy mist nets without success. The other campaign was in November, using 2 nets for 5 days (50 h) and 4 individuals were captured. We collected collected blood samples for genetic analysis, sexing and feces for disease screening.

We hired one biologist (Carlos Harthur Noia) and an auxiliar (Athos José Souza) to monitor the Santa Teresa population. They started it in September after spending two months (August and September) training with Kaetés Reserve team. The effort was 66 days (528h) until the end of the year.



Fig1. Part of PCSA team during the ringing campaign in November 2022. Fabio Schunk is the senior bander. (Marcelo Renan/ IMD Archive)



Fig. 2 - PCSA field permanent staff: From left to right: Victoria Carolina (biologist at Kaetes Reserve), Thieres Fiorotti (auxiliar), Carlos Hartur Noia (biologist at Santa Teresa), Athos José (auxiliar at Santa Teresa), Savio Fassini (ranger) and Gustavo Magnago (field work coordinator). (IMD Archive)

Activity 2: Nest monitoring

At Kaetés Reserve, the first nesting was in March 2022, with 2 chicks that were monitored for 6 days (72 h) and joined the flock successfully. The second nest was in September 2022, with 3 chicks. The nest was monitored for 42 days (504h), also successful.

At Santa Teresa, we found one nest in September that was unsuccessful, the birds did not complete the incubation and abandoned it. The nest was monitored for 16 days (185h).

All biological data collected is under analysis and will be reported in a scientific paper to be submitted to publication in 2023.



Fig. 3 - Scaffold structure used for nest surveillance. (Marcelo Renan/ IMD Archive)



Fig. 4 - Cherry Throated Tanager nest monitored at Reserva Kaetés. (Alex Mesquita/IMD Archive).

Financial Report

The funds provided by ZGAP were spent in the activities according to the project, which allowed us to successfully execute the flock monitoring, data collection and nest protection activities. Because the personnel were hired in July 2022, there are remaining funds that will be used until June 2023. The remaining amount of equipment will be used until the end of March 2023 to purchase cellphone adaptors to the telescope.

ACCOUNTABILITY				
PERIOD: 02/14/2022 to 02/15/2023	EXCHANGE:		R\$ 5,824706177	
FUNDS TRANSFER DATE	02/14/2022	€ 19.778,05	R\$ 115.201,33	
ITEM	PREDICTED (€)	ACCOMPLISHED		REMAINING
		€	R\$	€
Biologist	9.425,45	2.729,16	15.896,58	6.696,29
Auxiliar	4.712,73	2.540,31	14.796,58	2.172,42
Scaffold Observation Tower	2.418,18	2.139,15	12.459,92	279,03
Telescope Ultima 100 - 45° Celestron With Accessories	1.528,73	1.406,56	8.192,80	122,17
Flir Scout Tk Thermal Cam	1.090,91	993,18	5.785,00	97,73
Delivery	221,82	125,49	730,97	96,33
Fuel	380,23	401,24	2.337,11	-€ 21,01
TOTAL	19.778,05	10.335,11	60.198,96	9.442,94
TOTAL RECEIVED	19.778,05	115.201,33		
TOTAL SPENT	10.335,11	60.198,96		
BALANCE	9.442,94	55.002,37		

Other accomplishments:

Kaetés Reserve – Habitat protection

In 2022 we raised funds with international partners to expand the Kaetés Reserve from 285 to 529 hectares. With this protection, about 40% of the area of habitat use of the Cherry-throated Tanager are protected at the Caetés forest. The Kaetés Reserve is a partnership between Rainforest Trust, World Land Trust and American Bird Conservancy and IMD.

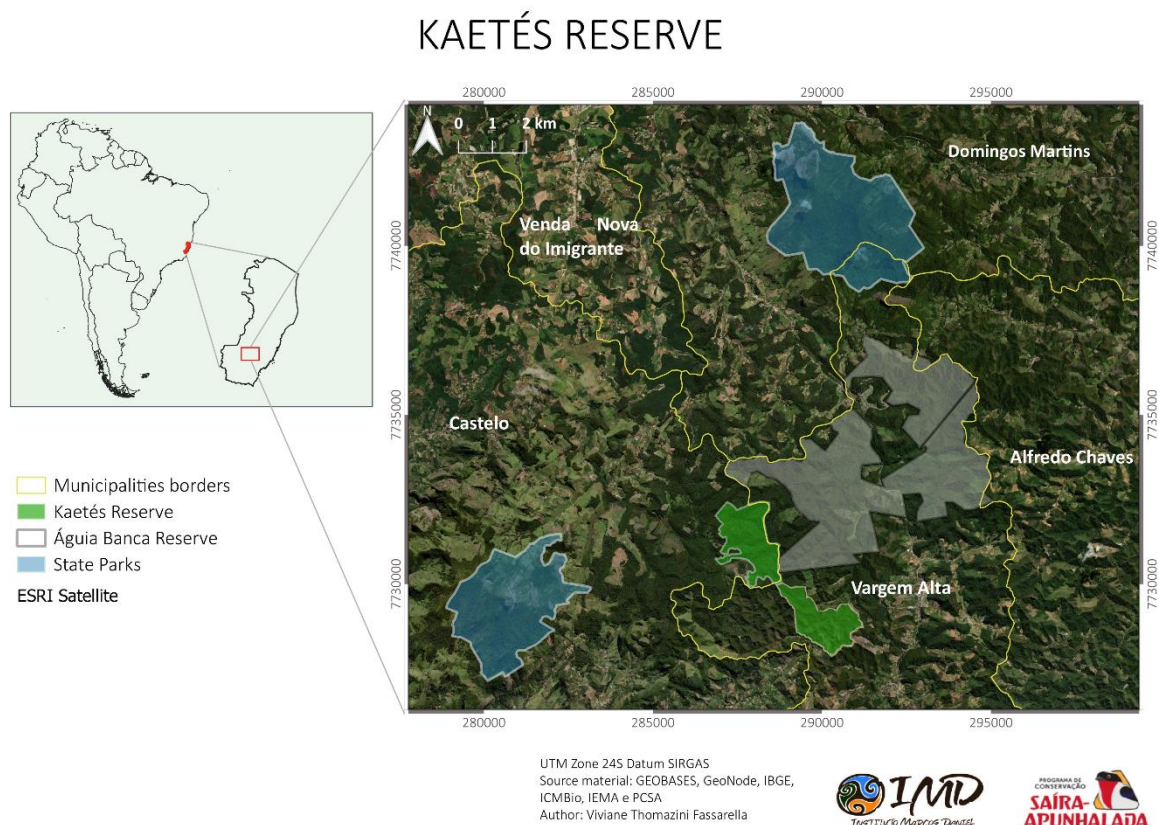


Fig. 5 – Kaetés Reserve actual size with the expansion area in the south.

Community engagement

Since 2020 we are working intensively to engage the local community in the conservation of the Cherry-throated Tanager. In 2022, we developed together with Vargem Alta City a capacitation program for teachers from public schools, on the local ecosystem approach. We trained 26 teachers that will reach 3000 students. At the same time, this program triggered the creation of the first full time elementary school in the city.

We reached 1000 students directly from 17 schools in the reach zone of the Program with lectures and other environmental education activities. 200 of these students took part on a

cultural contest which prize for the best artworks was to visit Kaetés Reserve in an birdwatching activity.

We made an itinerant photographic exhibition called “Aves de Caetés” reaching 7000 visitors that learned about the bird species of the Caetés forest in 5 cities in the state. The exhibition was a great tool to arouse interest specially on government stakeholders on the conservation of the Caetés Forest.

As a result of the environmental education and participation on local cultural events we reached 85 thousand people in the region around the Kaetés Reserve.

Our team is committed to influence positively in the public policies and at local representative instances acting as member of the Espírito Santo State Environmental Council, Pedra Azul State Park and Forno Grande State Park board and in the Board of the State Environment Fund.

We also signed cooperation agreements with Vargem Alta Municipality, Águia Branca Reserve, Montanhas Capixabas Convention and Visitors Bureau and Instituto Nacional da Mata Atlântica.



Fig. 6: Community meeting at a rural school at the neighborhood of the Kaetés Reserve with local producers held in November 2022 (IMD Archive)

Main challenges:

We had difficulties to find a biologist and auxiliar that fit the needs of the project and the possibility of living in Santa Teresa, since the monitoring is a daily activity. We hired them in July for the two months training period, and both are doing a great job now.

The project has two vehicles, one at Kaetés Reserve (a Mitsubishi Triton 2012 4WD pickup truck) and a Fiat Uno 1.0 2010 (not 4WD) at Santa Teresa. Both are used under harsh conditions and present a lot of maintenance needs, consuming many days in the repair shop and demanding a lot of money. The absence of a 4WD at Santa Teresa prevent the team to access the entrance to study area, so they must walk uphill more than 2 km only to access the entry point of the forest, spending precious time every day on that. it would be very beneficial for the project to upgrade the cars to meet the needs to reduce time and money costs.

Future steps:

To search for other flocks in Augusto Ruschi Biological Reserve at Santa Teresa using remote recorders (Audiomoth). The reserve has 3400 hectares with potential occurrence areas that need more search. The bioacoustics will also serve to better understand the habitat use area of the current flock.