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## Sex Distribution of the Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus unicolor*) in Relation to the Cuenca-Molleturo-Naranjal Highway in the Ecuadorian Andes

Sarah Takushi  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Given Harper, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Xavier Silva  
*School for International Training*

Sylvia Seger  
*School for International Training*

Gabriella Samaniego Regalado  
*La Universidad de Azuay*

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**Presenter and Advisor Information**

Sarah Takushi; Given Harper, Faculty Advisor; Xavier Silva; Sylvia Seger; Gabriella Samaniego Regalado; Aguilar Juan Manuel; and Pedro Xavier Astudillo

Poster Presentation P44

**SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*PHRYGILUS UNICOLOR*) IN RELATION TO THE CUENCA-MOLLETURO-NARANJAL HIGHWAY IN THE ECUADORIAN ANDES**

Sarah Takushi and Given Harper\*<sup>1</sup>, Xavier Silva<sup>2</sup>, Sylvia Seger<sup>2</sup>, Gabriella Samaniego Regalado<sup>3</sup>, Aguilar Juan Manuel<sup>3</sup>, Pedro Xavier Astudillo<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Biology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

<sup>2</sup>School for International Training

<sup>3</sup>*La Universidad de Azuay*, Ecuador

The Cuenca-Molleturo-Naranjal highway was recently constructed through the páramo region of the Cajas National Park in the Ecuadorian Andes. The impacts of this highway on the park avifauna- including many endemic and endangered species- are unknown. The purpose of this study was to determine how the highway may have influenced the distribution of male and female Plumbeous Sierra-Finches, one of the most common finch species in the park. Using point transect counts in October, 2011 we observed both sexes (N = 88 sightings) at 18 park locations. There was an equal sex ratio in transects near the highway (< 1 km), while zones farther from the highway (>1 km) had a significantly greater proportion of males. These results suggest that the preferred breeding territories were closer to the highway, which may provide greater foraging opportunities.