



DATA FROM EBIRD SUGGESTS THAT HABITAT RANGE OF MILITARY MACAW (*ARA MILITARIS*) IS DECREASING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC COAST OF MEXICO

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Photo credit: Pete Oxford

Abstract

Military Macaws (*Ara militaris*) have a habitat range that could be decreasing. Population decline is caused by habitat loss and capture for domestic trade. To assess habitat range we generated a map using the online database, eBird, then compared it to a range map proved by Natureserve and analyzed deforestation in the Sierra Norte. Results show that the range of macaws could be decreasing due to deforestation. We suggest that further research be done on habitat range to rule out error from eBird.

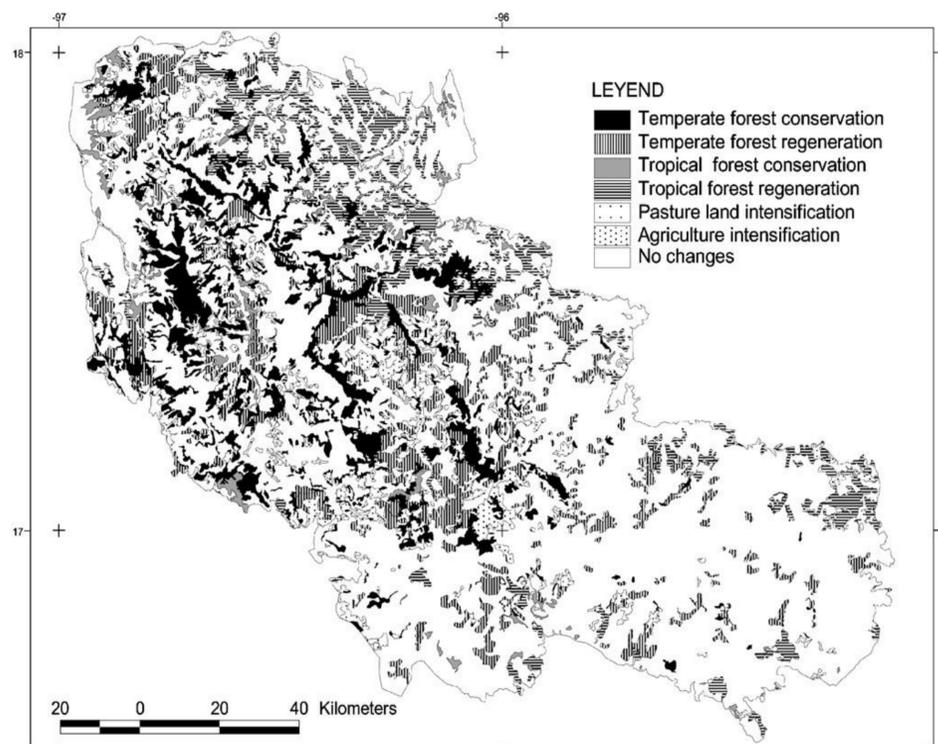
Methods

For this study, we performed a search on eBird to generate a map of the distribution of Military Macaws spotted and reported in Mexico. We used all the data given on Military Macaws throughout the whole year, for the past ten years. Populations from the map provided by Natureserve and the map generated by eBird were compared geographically, using the states to determine location.

Habitat loss is presumed to be a leading cause in the decline of Military Macaws so deforestation was analyzed. Deforestation was only analyzed in the Sierra Norte forest where decline of the species was shown.



Map generated from eBird



(Gomez-Medoz et al. 2006).

Results and Discussion

eBird shows that the macaw population has completely disappeared on the southwest coast. The population closer to the eastern coastline is depicted the same in both maps. Deforestation in the Sierra Norte has been increasing and could be causing the decrease in Military Macaw populations. Pine forest, oak forest, tropical forest, and cloud forest have all had forest reductions over 30% .

Surveying the Military Macaw population in the south pacific coast in recommended for determining if the population is decreasing or if there is error in eBird.



Photo credit: superstock.com

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Key Reference:
 BirdLife International (2013) Species factsheet: *Ara militaris*.
 eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York.

