



# Opportunity for Sistership with the Aves Honduras Sanctuaries



Baltimore Oriole\_Vlad\_g

*Together, we can strengthen ecosystem conservation, habitat for migratory and resident birds, birdwatching destinations, and ensure the sustainable development of the people of Honduras, in northern Central America.*

**Dear Friends of Central American birds,**

Aves Honduras, a non-profit NGO with 15 years of experience working throughout Honduras with over 400 active members, invites you to join our organization in a partnership to strengthen bird conservation in Honduras.

Our members currently manage **13 Aves Honduras Sanctuaries**, privately managed spaces for bird conservation and ecotourism development. These spaces offer great potential for educating young people in nearby communities. They also protect key biodiversity habitats recognized as Important Bird Areas. Each one is a winter home for dozens of North American migratory bird species.

## About Aves Honduras

Aves Honduras, legally registered as the Honduran Ornithological Association (ASHO), was

founded on July 17, 2010, as an initiative of biologists, birdwatchers, photographers, and conservationists committed to the research and conservation of the country's birds. It is a non-profit organization that also promotes birdwatching and environmental education. It currently has a



Scarlet Tanager\_Chris T Photography



Rose-breasted Grosbeak \_Doug White



Yellow Warbler \_Doug White





technical and administrative team that executes its main activities nationwide. For more than a decade, Aves Honduras has led initiatives in multiple regions, strengthening community participation in the conservation of Honduras's wild birds.

With the support of BirdLife International, we launched the Aves Honduras Sanctuaries program in 2023. To date, Aves Honduras and its donors have invested more than \$480,000 in the creation and conservation of the sanctuaries.



### **What we propose.**

With the aim of strengthening ties and generating a shared impact, we are seeking a long-term partnership that includes several mutually beneficial activities for the birds that live in (or visit) Honduras.

Activities may include:

- ***A guided birding tour for your members or collaborators to the Aves Honduras Sanctuaries***

We offer a low-difficulty tour to at least six sanctuaries, with comfortable lodging, and observation (and photography) of more than 150 bird species. The tour can last 8 to 12 days, for up to 12 people. Dates are flexible and can be secured with a 50%



deposit, ideally at least five months in advance. Costs will be adjusted based on duration and dates, but are estimated at \$3,000 per person for 12 days (includes transportation within Honduras, shared accommodations, meals (no alcohol), professional guiding, and a donation per participant to the Aves Honduras Sanctuaries program).



- ***Funding for improvements to the sanctuaries.***

Improvements include signage, infrastructure (restrooms, visitor center, photo blind, trails), monitoring equipment (Motus antenna, cameras, camera traps), educational materials (binoculars, books), and other key elements, depending on the needs of the sanctuaries.

- ***Funding for training and education.***

We offer training programs for sanctuary owners and managers, and programs for local schools to educate their students about birds and sanctuaries.



- ***Funding for basic operations and research.***

Includes funding for transportation for the technical team, bird population research, program administration, and more.

- ***Funding for habitat conservation.***

Expansion of the sanctuary program, either through land purchases or through the establishment of long-term agreements with property owners, for the creation of new sanctuaries.

- ***Exchanges and experiential learning.***

Creation of internships between staff from sanctuaries in Honduras and the sister organization's country, or potentially between sanctuaries within Honduras.



### **A long-term alliance.**

We propose a long-term partnership (10 or more years), with a minimum commitment of 3 years of financial support.



### Next steps

We will appreciate your letter of commitment or "letter of intent," along with a deposit to reserve the tour to see the birds and the Aves Honduras sanctuaries. Details regarding the amount and use of funds to be donated annually or periodically can be finalized after the tour, should you wish tour participants to participate in the development of the work plan for the sistership program. Upon receiving your letter, we will send instructions for depositing the funds or donations.

We look forward to discussing this proposal further and exploring ways to strengthen this conservation partnership. We appreciate your interest and commitment to birds and their habitats, and we hope this initiative marks the beginning of a lasting and transformative collaboration.

With sincere regards,

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## ANNEX – 25 July 2025

Attached you will find a detailed table with the current needs and estimated budget by activity at the Aves Honduras Sanctuaries.



No.	Needs in the Aves Honduras Sanctuaries	Unit Cost	Total
1	Hiring a backhoe to extract rock and install a biodigester for public restrooms (Santuario Salinera Santa Alejandra)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
2	Legal advisory fund for emerging issues in some sanctuaries or potential sanctuaries	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
3	Construction of 11 educational kiosks about resident and migratory birds	\$ 2,200	\$ 24,200
4	Improvement of trail network in 12 sanctuaries	\$ 1,500	\$ 18,000
5	Elevated boardwalk through mangroves in the Santa Alejandra Salt Pans Sanctuary	\$ 7500	\$ 7500
6	Observation equipment (6 binoculars + 1 telescope per sanctuary, 13 sanctuaries)	\$ 2,000	\$ 26,000
7	Construction of photographic hides in 12 sanctuaries	\$ 1,500	\$ 18,000
8	Standard cabins construction (6 sanctuaries)	\$ 7,500	\$ 45,000
9	Suspension bridges for the Las Orquídeas Sanctuary and the Santa Cruz Forest Sanctuary	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000