

To MOU members and the Savaloja Grant community:

Thank you for the 2016 grant that allowed us to promote bird tourism in both Nicaragua and Minnesota, and to introduce Minnesotans to **A Guide to the Birds of Nicaragua/ Guía de Aves** in Minnesota. As you will see in the following report, we succeeded not only in presenting the birding connection between Minnesota and Nicaragua to about 275 Minnesotans, but we also engaged a number of Spanish speaking Minnesotans. While we were disappointed that the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was unable to make a better connection with local immigrant communities, we did engage a number of Spanish-speaking Minnesotans in the program, and hopefully they will help engage the local Latino community. The accompanying report, authored by Francisco Muñoz, is presented first in English and then in Spanish, so this report is equally accessible to English- and Spanish-speakers.

As a result of our programs, we now have a delegation of eight Minnesotans travelling to Nicaragua for a “Migratory Birds and Sustainable Development” eco-tour offered by Project Minnesota/León.

I hope you enjoy and are inspired by the following report.

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A Promotional Tour in Minnesota for **A Guide to the Birds of Nicaragua/ Guía de Aves.**

Objective:

This multicultural educational and bird appreciation project seeks to help English and Spanish speakers learn more about both bird migration through Central America. At the same time it provides information about efforts to help Central American communities learn appreciation and conservation of wildlife while, at the same time, developing sustainable livelihoods.

Dates: April 23 to May 16, 2016.



1. Introduction:

I decided to accept an invitation to visit Minnesota in light of a suggestion from Keith Olstad about the importance of promoting both bird tourism in Nicaragua and sales of the book, **A Guide to the Birds of Nicaragua/ Guía de Aves**, and the support by Project Minnesota/León for handling financial matters. I also thought about the various people who visited Nicaragua at the beginning of the project and supported it by paying for eighty of the bird paintings for the guide book.

Mr. Olstad organized and coordinated activities with groups of birders in various settings around Minnesota. For the promotional events, I developed a Power Point presentation about the birds of Nicaragua in which I included: the national bird; a map from the guide book with the zones and principal reserves of Nicaragua; a chart that shows the dates of the first checklist of birds of Nicaragua, the second list and **A Guide to the Birds of Nicaragua/ Guía de Aves**; a chart giving the distribution of bird species in Nicaragua, including both resident and migratory species; a detailed accounting of the bird species shared by Nicaragua and Minnesota; a description of general problems and various field studies; bird species in danger of extinction in Nicaragua and their conservation; settings for bird watching and illustrations of the **A Guide to the Birds of Nicaragua/ Guía de Aves** and other guides. (The PowerPoint is attached.)

As well as having copies of **A Guide to the Birds of Nicaragua/ Guía de Aves**, we used a display board designed by Jim Gindorff. He generously gave it to us to use in all of our presentations. It uses photos by Keith Olstad.



Results:

1. 36 copies of **Guide to the Birds of Nicaragua** were sold in the first five presentations.
2. Six presentations were made as illustrated in the following chart:

No	Date	Organization	Participants
1	28/4/2016	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	38
2	30/4/2016	Public conversation with Carrol Henderson	80
3	3/5/2016	Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	31
4	6/5/2016	Audubon Chapter of Saint Paul	92
5	11/5/2016	Hawk Ridge program at Hartley Nature Center, Duluth	10
6	13/5/2016	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	25
Total			276

3. Three guided birding hikes with birders who speak Spanish were offered in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge with the goal of promoting bird watching among Spanish speakers.



4. As a result of these presentations, Project Minnesota/León is organizing a group of members and bird watchers that are interested in visiting Nicaragua in order to encounter social development projects in León and observe birds at various sites around Nicaragua.

5. A meeting with four members of the National Parks of the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica, who were in Wisconsin for an encounter or partnership between parks of Costa Rica and parks of the United States. It was interesting to see what they are doing to promote conservation activities with youth and organizing competitions of bird paintings and local festivals.



6. Other:

a). On April 30 we participated in a fair at Anoka-Ramsey Community College with Robert Walz of Tropical Wings. He works with Eastern Bluebirds and was in the Miraflor and El Jaguar observing birds. I was his guide there for five days and he said that I was the best of his guides, so we have a great spokesperson in him.

b). I had a dialogue with Carrol Henderson, author of four books about birds, biodiversity, insects and mammals of Costa Rica. He has been Director of Non-game Wildlife Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for forty-three years. He is very well-known in the conservation community of Minnesota. We had a public conversation in which there were eighty participants: birders and members of Project Minnesota/León. It was an hour-long conversation about birds, climate change and ecotourism related to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Minnesota that included questions at the end.



7.- Thanks:

To Keith and Libby Olstad for hosting me in their home for this whole stay, covering the costs of food and other necessities, for their friendship and the work of organizing the program for the entire time in Minnesota. Many thanks.

To Kara Beckman, president of the board of Project Minnesota/León, for handling the funds to cover the costs of this tour.

To friends: Gary and Claire Nelson, Janeen and Mike McAllister, Mike and Sue Engh, Mike Troutman and Amy Blumenshine, Chet and Miriam Meyers, Peter Thiel and Maryellen Skan, Steve and Lois Parker, Jim and Sonya Gindorff, Doug and Sheila Grow who contributed funds and donations.

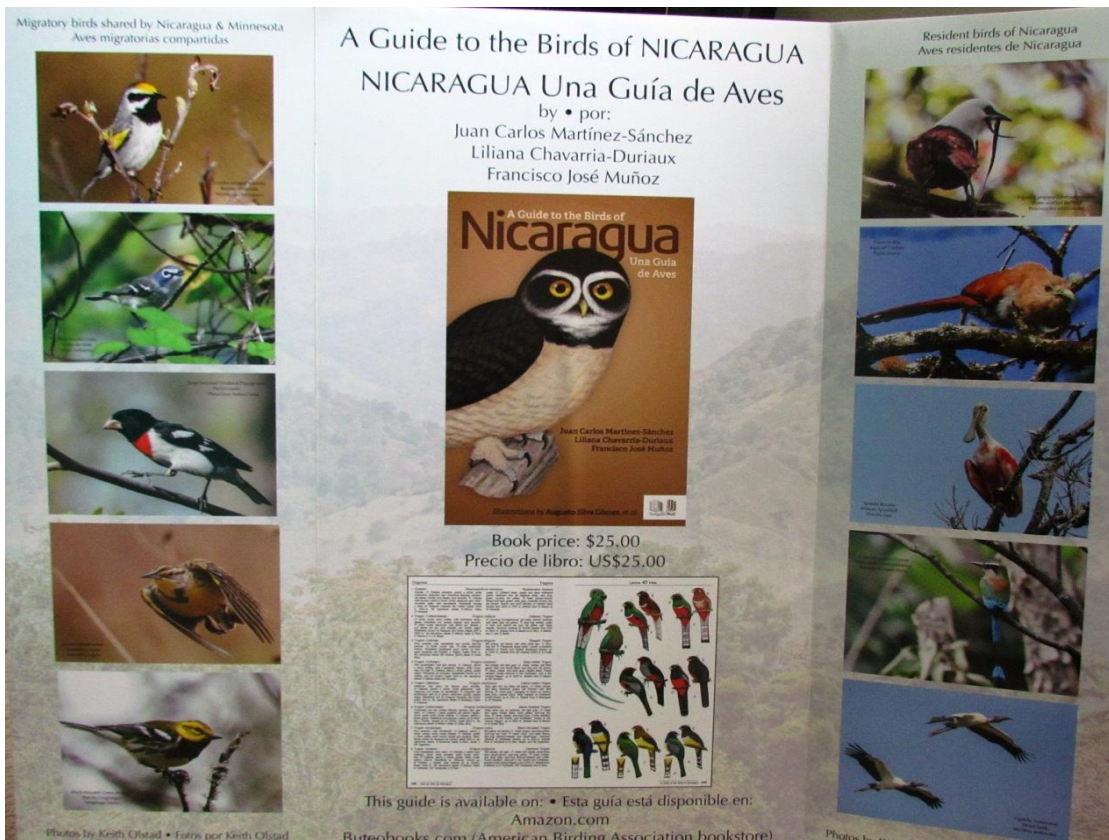
To the interpreters who worked with me in the different sessions: José Tori, Hana Bibliowicz, Lucia Abolafia, Joan and Marcela Estibill.

To Doug and Sheila Grow for inviting us to spend time with them at their cabin in Wisconsin, observing birds.

To Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Savaloja Fund, for granting funds to cover the cost of the interpreters.

To Ken and MaryLou Larson for hosting us at their farm near Salt Lake.

To Jim Gindorff for designing, producing and printing the poster used for the presentations. I should mention that if some member of cabé ALAS and the team of co-authors of the field guide need to promote the guide, it would be good to solicit from Keith Olstad the digital cache of the poster design in order to make changes that are considered necessary. Jim would provide the poster cache. I should mention that the photos are by Keith Olstad and the authorship of the poster and photos should be mentioned on the poster. Jim also printed a half-sized copy of the poster that can be carried to Nicaragua with the larger poster, for use in presentations. Thank you, Jim.



Note: We used the rest of the time to search for birds, for which I am enormously grateful to Keith with whom I traveled around to many sites. Equally, Mike Engh, Mike Troutman, Jim Gindorff y Chet Meyers, who helped me identify 181 bird species of the 314 species that are documented in Minnesota, more or less fifty-seven percent of the bird species of Minnesota. It is interesting to note that in the sessions we spoke often about climate change and its impact on birds, their habitats, their nesting seasons, food, migration, etc. During this same time we observed that birds were arriving in their reproduction territories very late. For two weeks everyone was waiting for the birds' arrival; we were looking for them everywhere. The numbers of individuals and of species were well below normal compared to previous years.

To everyone: many thanks and much, much appreciation...

Francisco José Muñoz

Alianza Para Las Areas Silvestres, (ALAS) Nicaragua

May 16, 2016





Gira de Promoción de la Guía Aves de Nicaragua Minnesota.

Objetivo: Este proyecto de educación multi-cultural y de apreciación de aves trata de aumentar habladores de inglés y español aprender más sobre migración de aves entre Centro America. En lo mismo momento ofrece información sobre los esfuerzos ayudar comunidades centroamericanas aprender apreciar y conservar seres silvestres miéntras desarrollando vidas sostenibles.

Fecha: Del 23 de Abril al 16 de Mayo del 2016.



1.- Introducción:

Considerando el planteamiento del Señor Keith Olstad de la necesidad de promover el aviturismo en Nicaragua y la venta del libro Guía de Aves y con el apoyo en la gestión de fondos del Proyecto Minnesota/León decidí aceptar su invitación de visitar Minnesota con ese objetivo teniendo en

cuenta además que varios miembros de los grupos que visitaron Nicaragua al inicio del proyecto aportaron pagando ochenta dibujos para la guía.

Así el señor Olstad organizó y coordinó actividades con grupos de observadores de aves de diferentes sitios de Minnesota. Para hacer la promoción elaboré una presentación en Power Point sobre las aves de Nicaragua la cual incluye: ave nacional, mapa de la guía con la zonificación y principales reservas de Nicaragua, un cuadro que muestra los datos históricos de la primera lista patrón de aves de Nicaragua, segunda lista patrón y la guía de aves, un cuadro de distribución de las especies en Nicaragua, residentes, migratorias y un detalle de las especies relacionadas entre Nicaragua y Minnesota, una lámina de problemas generales, esfuerzos en estudio de aves, especies en peligro en Nicaragua, conservación, sitios para observar aves y láminas de promoción de la guía y otros libros. (Adjunto PP)

Además de la guía de aves, contamos con un poster elaborado con fotos de Keith Olstad con el diseño de Jim Gindorff quien amablemente nos lo proporcionó para utilizarlo en todas las presentaciones.



Resultados:

1.- Se vendieron un total de 36 libros en las 5 primeras presentaciones.

2.- Se realizaron 6 presentaciones distribuidas como aparecen el cuadro siguiente:

No	Fecha	Organización	Participantes
1	28/4/2016	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	38
2	30/4/2016	Conversatorio Publico con Carrol Henderson	80
3	3/5/2016	Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	31
4	6/5/2016	Audubon Chapter of Saint Paul	92
5	11/5/2016	Hawk Ridge program at Hartley Nature Center, Duluth	10
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Total			276

3.- Se realizaron tres caminatas con observadores de aves de habla hispana del Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge con el fin de promover la observación de aves entre los hispanos.

4.- Como resultado de esta promoción el Proyecto Minnesota/León está organizando un grupo de miembros y observadores de aves que tienen interés en visitar Nicaragua para conocer experiencias de proyectos sociales desarrollados en León y para ir a observar aves a diferentes sitios de Nicaragua.



5.- Reunión con 4 miembros de Parques Nacionales de Península de Osa, Costa Rica, quienes están en Wisconsin por un convenio o hermanamiento entre parques de Costa Rica y parques de Estados Unidos. Interesante lo que están haciendo para promover conservación trabajando con niños y organizando concursos de dibujos de aves y festivales locales.



6.-Otros:

a).- El 30 de Abril participamos en una feria en Anoka-Ramsey Community College con Robert Walz de Tropical Wings que trabaja con Eastern Bluebird y que estuvo en Miraflores y El Jaguar observando aves donde fui su guía por 5 días y quien se expresó muy bien de nuestra guía, de manera que tenemos un buen vocero en él.

b).- Diálogo con Carroll Henderson, escritor de cuatro libros sobre aves, biodiversidad, insectos y mamíferos de Costa Rica, ha sido Director del Non-game Wildlife Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources por 43 años, una hombre muy conocido en el entorno conservacionista de Minnesota. Tuvimos una conversación pública donde participaban 80 personas entre observadores de aves y miembros del Proyecto Minnesota/León, una conversación de 1 hora sobre aves, cambio climático y ecoturismo relacionado a Costa Rica, Nicaragua y Minnesota que incluía preguntas del público al final.



7.- Agradecimientos:

A Keith y Libby Olstad por hospedarme en su casa durante toda la estadía, cubriendo los gastos de alimentación y otros requerimientos, por su amabilidad y el trabajo de organizar el programa para todo el tiempo en Minnesota muchas gracias.

A Kara Beckman, presidente de la junta del Proyecto Minnesota/León, por contribuir en la gestión de fondos para cubrir los costos de la gira.

A los amigos Gary y Claire Nelson, Janeen y Mike McAllister, Mike y Sue Engh, Mike Troutman y Amy Blumenshine, Chet y Miriam Meyers, Peter Thiel y Maryellen Skan, Steve y Lois Parker, Jim y Sonya Gindorff, Doug y Sheila Grow quienes contribuyeron con fondos y donaciones.

A los Interpretes con quienes trabajamos en las diferentes sesiones: José Tori, Hana Bibliowicz, Lucia Abolafia, Joan y Marcela Estibill.

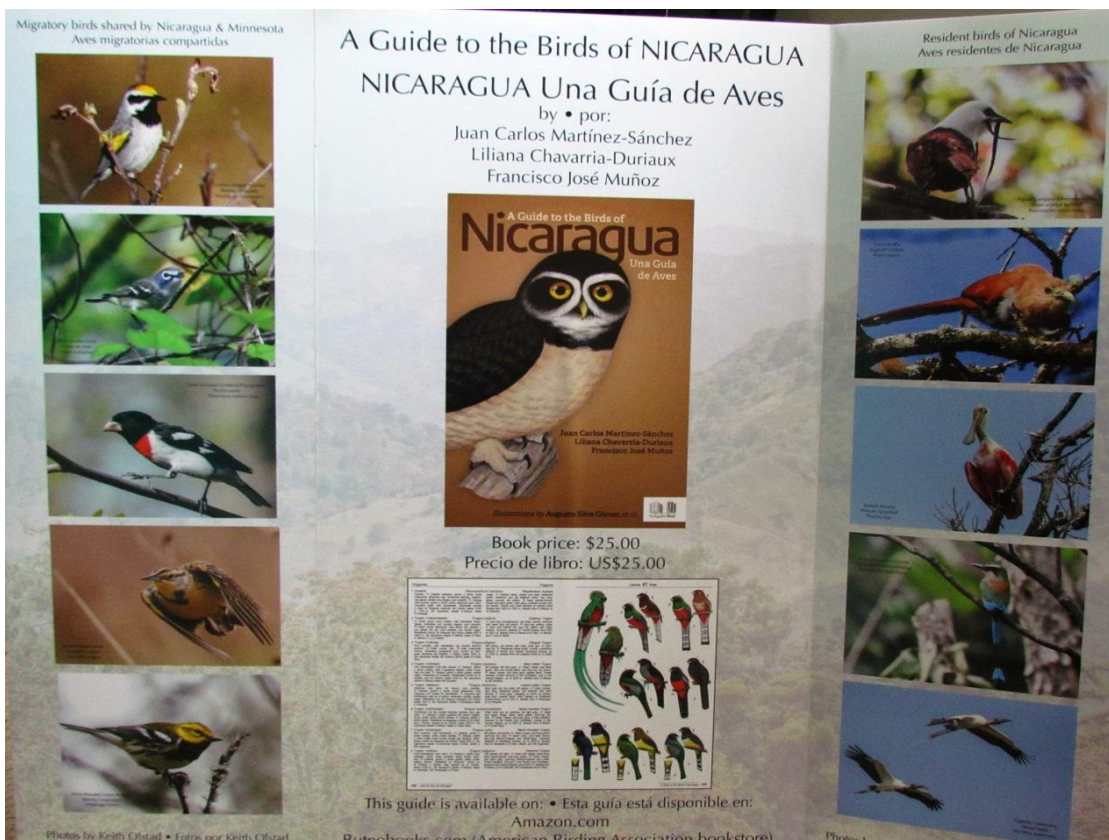
A Doug y Sheila Grow por invitarnos a compartir tiempo observando aves en su cabaña en Wisconsin.

A Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Savaloja Fund, por proporcionarnos los fondos para traducción.

A Ken Larson por alojarnos en su finca en Salt Lake.

A Jim Gindorf por diseñar, elaborar e imprimir el poster usado para las presentaciones, cabe mencionar que si alguno de los miembros de ALAS y del equipo de co-autores de la guía necesita promover la guía, bien puede solicitar a través de Keith Olstad el archivo digital del diseño del poster para hacer los cambios que considere necesario y Jim nos proporcionara el archivo. Debo mencionar que las fotos son de Keith Olstad y se deberá mantener el derecho de autor de las mismas en el poster. (Foto del poster), Jim además imprimió una copia de la mitad del tamaño para traerla a Nicaragua junto con la poster para las presentaciones, Gracias Jim

Nota: El resto del tiempo lo usamos para buscar aves, lo cual agradezco enormemente a Keith con quien recorrimos tantos sitios, igual Mike Engh, Mike Troutman, Jim Gindorf y Chet Meyers, que me ayudaron a registrar un total de 181 sp de las 314 que hay registradas en Minnesota mas o menos 57 por ciento de las aves de Minnesota. Algo interesante es que hablamos mucho de cambio climático en las sesiones y su impacto en las aves, en sus hábitos, periodos de anidamientos, alimentación, su migración, etc y coincidentemente observamos que las aves están llegando muy tarde a su territorio de reproducción, todos están esperando desde hace dos semanas la llegada, hemos buscado por todos lados y los números de individuos y especies son reducidos comparados con años anteriores.



A todos muchísimas gracias, muy agradecido, muy agradecido.....

Francisco José Muñoz

Alianza Para Las Areas Silvestres, (ALAS) Nicaragua

16 de Mayo del 2016

