

Birds Field Research Protocol

Overview

Mujeres Con Alas is a community science group that has been monitoring bird populations for over six years. The group consists of nine women who work in pairs and make three trips a month to three locations (La Gringa, Punta Arena, and El Rincon) to monitor the bird populations. They do their monitoring in the mornings (~6:30am) and/or the evenings (~4-5pm). The women walk a line along the shore and record the number and type of birds they find, as well as the GPS locations and behaviors they see the birds engaging in (i.e., eating, diving, resting, etc.).

Research Protocol

*Mentors will work with a small group of students and one of the Mujeres con Alas to complete the below.

Data Collection:

- Walk a transect and collect and record data.
 - o All four groups will walk half of the 2m transect, starting closer to the parking lot and meeting at the sandy point near the end of the spit.
 - Half the groups will walk Transect 1
 - Half the groups will walk Transect 2
- Data collection will include:
 - o Species identification
 - Encourage students to use binoculars, Bird ID Card, and Bird ID books to identify bird species.
 - o Bird behavior
 - i.e., resting, swimming, feeding, flying, etc.



Potential questions to ask students throughout the data collection process:

- Why do you think Mujeres Con Alas collects this data?
- Do you think the bird populations in Bahía de los Angeles healthy? Why or why not?
- Do you think the bird populations stay the same over the course of the year? (Migration vs. those that live here full time, etc.)
- Based on what you see here, what other kind of data would you want to collect about the birds?