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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

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Presenter Information

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Poster Presentation P44

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

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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.