ANNUAL REPORT 2025

INICIATIVA CARDENALITO REDSISKIN INITIATIVE



Photo by: Jhoanell Angulo



Photo by: Samuel Beomon

2025: Ten Years of the Red Siskin Initiative

Ten years ago, a dream was born: to secure the future of the red siskin, the most threatened bird in Venezuela. This is how the initiative began, a collective effort that today celebrates a decade of commitment, science, and hope.

Some wondered: *Why? Out of all the endangered species in Venezuela, why work with the red siskin?* Miguel Arvelo, a Red Siskin Initiative co-founder and its first coordinator, explained at the time: *"There is a very good chance it could become a successful conservation story. It is critically endangered, but Venezuelans share a deep cultural connection with the red siskin."*

With that motivation, in 2015, a group of organizations, researchers, and communities joined forces to address the primary threats to this bird: unsustainable trapping and habitat loss. The goal: to protect and restore the red siskin and its natural habitat. Ever since then, the Red Siskin Initiative has used a multi-dimensional approach, including research, community participation, and conservation actions to save this beloved bird, following our action plan.

In 2016, we created the "Birds and Coffee" project, aimed at preserving northern Venezuela's critically endangered tropical dry forests, home to the red siskin and hundreds of other native and migratory bird species. The project promotes shade-grown agroforestry systems such as coffee, plantains, chocolate, and other crops. We combine community revival of deep cultural shade-farming traditions with the latest science and business skill-building support.

To date, we have completed four project phases across eleven sites, impacting more than 1,000 hectares, and have planted over 23,000 native trees. In these nine years, we have worked with more than 200 farmers, 27 of whom have been certified as organic, and 8 as bird-friendly. Many are now members of ACAFLO, a grower's association of shade agroforestry producers.

In 2019, we took the historic step of creating Venezuela's first Red Siskin Conservation Center, in collaboration with Leslie Pantin Zoo. Since then, we have rehabilitated 40 red siskins rescued from illegal trafficking and have successfully hatched 75 chicks. We have also established a nursery of native and naturalized plants to promote self-sufficiency in feeding our birds and to enrich their lives with wild foods.

At the same time, we have worked to reduce unsustainable demand for wild-caught siskins. In 2019, we created The Red Siskin Specialists and Aviculturists Network (ReSSAN). Through collaboration and research, we have gained insight into breeder motivations and practices, and, in 2023–2024, we started testing a behavior change campaign called "Nesting Futures."

This campaign focused on promoting responsible sourcing among red siskin enthusiasts. We also published 4 toolkits in Spanish and English, on how to design, implement and evaluate behavior change campaigns, adapted to the Latin American context.

More recently, we have begun field research to better understand the red siskin's feeding and reproductive behavior, as well as its habitat needs. Most excitingly, we are in the midst of assessing potential reintroduction sites in central-western Venezuela, analyzing local opportunities and threats, and exploring the willingness of nearby communities to engage in protecting the red siskin.

Time truly flies—swift as a red siskin. Ten years later, we celebrate not only the milestones achieved but also our hope for the future. We will keep working to ensure that the song of the red siskin echoes once again in the wild for all Venezuelans to hear.

Sincerely,
The Red Siskin Initiative Team.



Photo by: Jhonathan Miranda

The Red Siskin is officially an AZA SAFE species!

In October 2024, the Red Siskin was officially approved as the 48th species within the AZA SAFE (the US-based Association of Zoos and Aquariums Saving Animals From Extinction) program. This international recognition marks a milestone for the conservation efforts that have been carried out in Venezuela and opens new opportunities for collaboration with zoos, conservation institutions, and strategic partners in AZA.

The “SAFE Red Siskin” program creates an opportunity to connect millions of zoo visitors with the story of red siskin conservation. As visitors learn about the red siskin’s challenges and progress, global commitment and support will grow, laying the groundwork for long-term species recovery.

Just a few weeks ago, the inaugural 2026–2028 SAFE Red Siskin Program Plan was approved and published on the AZA website on the SAFE species page. This plan outlines our strategic objectives and reinforces the international partnerships that will further support red siskin conservation.



Photo by Julie Wittrock at Tracy Aviary



Photo by: Samuel Beomon

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The Red Siskin Initiative uses a multi-dimensional approach, including research, education, and conservation actions to save the endangered red siskin, following our action plan.

Here are our full achievements for the year 2025, by strategic area. Enjoy!

01 Understanding the Red Siskin

Collaborating scientists use fieldwork, labwork, and in-depth analyses to better understand the ecology and genetics of this species.

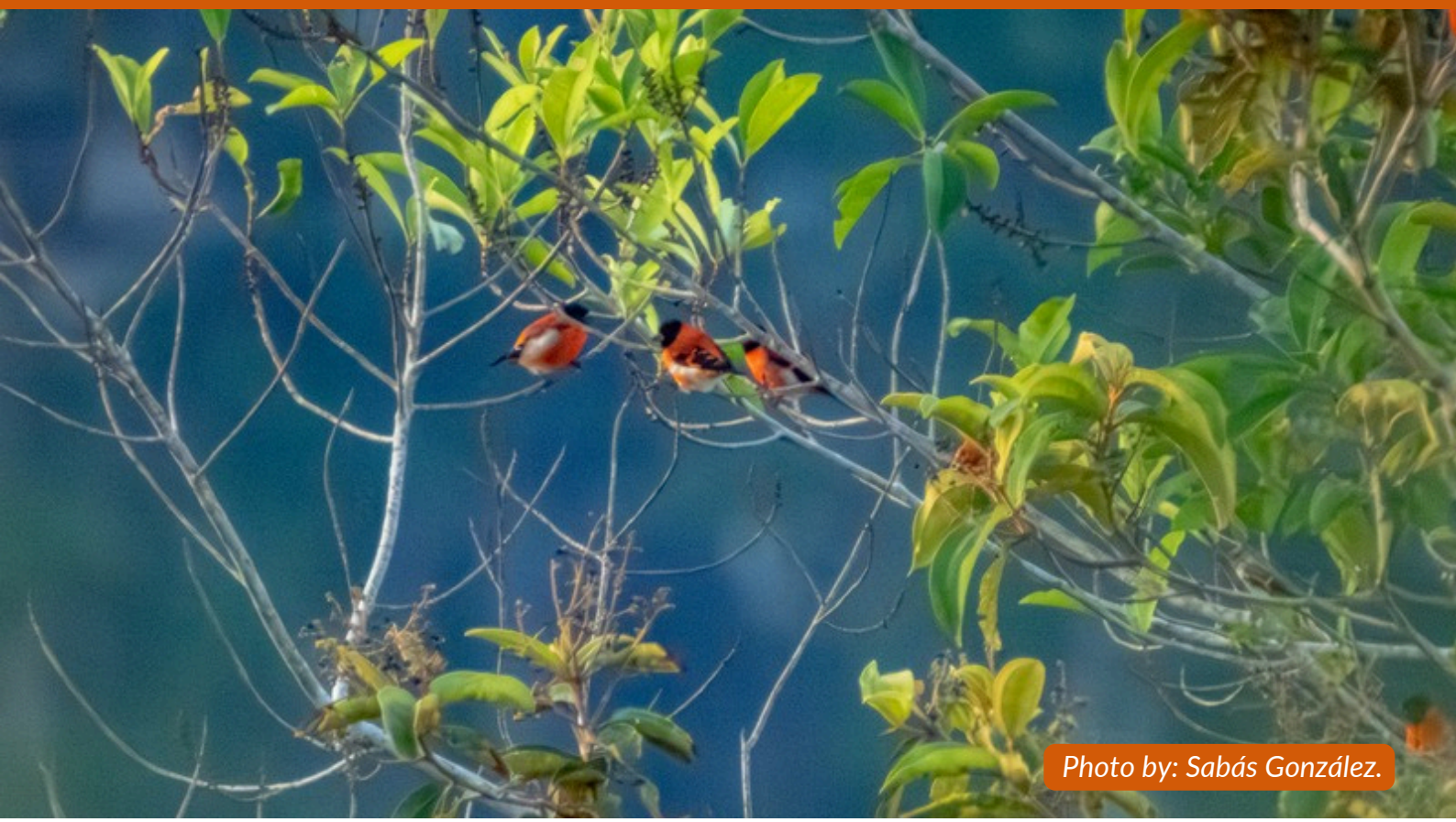


Photo by: Sabás González.

2025 Achievements

Steady steps toward self-sustaining populations of red siskins:

Every year since 2021, we have successfully bred red siskins for conservation purposes at our Conservation Center. This year, we took the next big step: starting evaluation of potential sites for future reintroductions. Ideal sites will have high-quality breeding and foraging habitat combined with low threat levels and communities interested in getting involved in red siskin protection—with native plant nurseries, spaces for pre-adaptation, and monitoring.

Thanks to support from our partners at Zoo New England, in 2025 we concluded evaluation of the first set of potential reintroduction areas. While the results suggest that these areas may not be as suitable as initially hoped—given that wildlife trafficking and habitat loss persist at levels that may not be as cost-effective to mitigate as initially estimated —the process yielded valuable insights. As a result, we have refined our approach and identified a new set of priority areas for evaluation in 2026.



Illustration by: Mio Yamanaka
@ji030ii



Strengthening knowledge of the red siskin: New fieldwork and research advances

We began fieldwork in the mountains of western Venezuela in 2024 with valuable support from the Association of Field Ornithologists. Now, thanks to new support from the Explorers Club, our undergraduate thesis student and communications analyst, Bárbara Santana, went on another field trip to enrich the dataset for her biology honors thesis.

Barbara's main goal is to better understand red siskin habitat needs and potential food sources. This field trip complements the botanical surveys she conducted in 2024, bringing to 152 the total plant samples collected for herbarium identification. In addition, she conducted presence/absence surveys of red siskins in study areas, and will use these data to deepen our understanding of the species' ecology.

Barbara's work will strengthen our scientific knowledge while building the next generation of professionals committed to red siskin conservation. Go, Barbara!



Photo by: Lisandro Moran.



Photo by: Genesis Cardozo.

2025 Achievements

Celebrating 55 Years of the IVIC Ecology Center:

The Ecology Center of the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, IVIC) celebrated its 55th anniversary with a scientific conference held from September 15 to 19. The event highlighted the Center's key contributions to the study and conservation of Venezuelan biodiversity, through both theoretical and applied ecological research, and the training of new generations of environmental researchers.

The Red Siskin Initiative had the privilege of featuring in a keynote lecture titled *"Ex situ management as a tool to support the conservation of threatened species,"* which included two case studies: the veragua stubfoot toad (*Atelopus cruciger*) and the red siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*). The lecture by Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez and Dr. Margarita Lampo demonstrated how ex situ conservation serves as a strategic tool for Venezuela, complementing in situ efforts and directly supporting the recovery of endangered species.



Illustration by: Svetlana Murphy
@smurphyself

Red siskin art section on social media

We often say that the red siskin has been a source of inspiration for songs, poems, and paintings throughout Venezuela's history — but did you know it still is today? In recent years, many people have found inspiration in the red siskin to draw, paint, and illustrate. Venezuelan artists, as well as others from around the world, have shared their artwork on social media and with us, allowing us to feature it on our platforms.

So far, more than 30 artists have granted us permission to showcase their creations, highlighting how the red siskin remains deeply present in our culture and in the imagination of those who find beauty in birds from across the globe.

If you'd like to enjoy these unique works and continue celebrating the inspiration the red siskin brings, follow us on Instagram and Facebook. Here are some of the works by artists we have shared on our social media:







nepeteaa
Bird Warde (they/them)
77,4 mil seguidores
•
1054 publicaciones



pakitatata
PAKITA | ILUSTRACIÓN | DISEÑO GRÁFICO
2485 seguidores
•
76 publicaciones



kimbis_bio_illustrations
Kimberlyn Fonseca-Pérez
1145 seguidores
•
213 publicaciones



plasticata
Plastilina Artística by Cata García
10,2 mil seguidores
•
2355 publicaciones



genesiscardonzo
Génesis Cardozo
1150 seguidores
•
187 publicaciones



l.atelier.d.i.m
Isabelle Mary - Peinture réaliste
1008 seguidores
•
476 publicaciones



Social media participation: Social media participation: This year we reached more than 2,800+ followers on Instagram (an increase of 33% over 2025) and more than 6,200+ followers on Facebook (an annual increase of 96%!). We also interacted with our followers via more than 110 social media posts, and we received approximately 800 comments on each social network.

RSI website interest: Since September 2024 to date, more than 5600+ unique users from over ten countries have visited our website. Of these, the majority come from Venezuela, the United States, and Spain. Welcome, visitors!

2025 Newsletters: We reached 700+ subscribers with four newsletters, in both English and Spanish. These included in December 2024 our Giving Tuesday Bulletin and Happy Holidays Message, in February 2025 a presentation of the 2024 Annual Report, and finally in December 2025 a our Giving Tuesday Bulletin.



36 coffee producers are currently committed to using best practices in organic and BirdFriendly agroforestry for their coffee, fruits, plantains, and other crops, as members of ACAFLO, the Asociación de Caficultores de Piedra de Cachimbo y La Florida.

Interviews:

- Historias repetibles – Radio interview with Enrique Azuaje. "Red Siskin Conservation Center". April 2, 2025.
- La Mochila – Radio interview with Roxibell Pelayo. "The Red Siskin Initiative." April 14, 2025.
- La parada Radial – Radio interview with Jeshua Nieves. "The Red Siskin Conservation Center." June 11, 2025.
- La Mochila - Radio interview with Roxibell Pelayo. "International Migratory Bird Day." October 31, 2025.
- Fe y Alegría - Radio interview with Roxibell Pelayo. "The Red Siskin Initiative." December 11, 2025.

Publications:

Beomon, S., Azuaje, E., Cardozo - Urdaneta, C. 2023. Manejo de viveros de plantas para la cría ex-situ del Cardenalito de Venezuela. Provita. Caracas. DOI: https://doi.org/10.69096/xmx7-1123.

Sánchez-Mercado, A., Moran, L., Cardozo-Urdaneta, A., Bethelmy, L. 2025. The role of socialization network to understand the adoption of demand-reduction behaviors: The red siskin's breeders community case study. Conservation Science and Practice. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.70086

Iranzo, M. 2025. Alcances e implicaciones de una postura en pro de la sustentabilidad. Sociología: Una disciplina en expansión. UCAB. Caracas. Coming soon on Amazon.



Illustration by: The Boord Potter @branther



Pelayo, R., K. M. Rodriguez-Clark, E. Royer, B. Crane. 2025. SAFE Red Siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*) Program Plan 2026-2029. Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Silver Spring, MD, USA. 35 pp.

Rodriguez-Clark, K. M., E. Royer. 2025. Red siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*) interim breeding & transfer recommendations for the AZA SAFE managed population in Venezuela. Population Management Center of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Chicago IL, USA. 7pp.

Newspaper Articles:

Anonymous. November 2024. Provita anunció el nacimiento de 47 pichones de cardenalitos. El Nacional. URL: https://www.elnacional.com/2024/11/provita-anuncio-el-nacimiento-de-47-pichones-de-cardenalitos/

Anonymous. December 2024. Dar nuevas alas al cardenalito de Venezuela para sobrevolar la extinción. El Estimulo. URL: https://elestimulo.com/medio-ambiente/2024-12-06/cardenalito-venezuela/

Uzcátegui, A. December 2024. Conservacionistas tratan de salvar el acervo genético del cardenalito. URL:https://laprensadelara.com/nacionales/conservacionistas-tratan-de-salvar-el-acervo-genetico-del-cardenalito/

Arellano, A. February 2025. Cardenalito pa' rato: la batalla de expertos en Venezuela para salvar a un ave en peligro. Mongabay Latam. URL: https://es.mongabay.com/2025/02/cardenalito-batalla-venezuela-salvar-ave-en-peligro/

De Freitas, J. February 2025. Se sienta a escuchar el canto de esos pájaros. La vida de Nos. URL: https://lavidadenos.com/se-sienta-a-escuchar-el-canto-de-esos-pajaros

Zahler, P. April 2025. Tiny Red Bird Recovery. Zoo New England. URL: https://blog.zoonewengland.org/2025/04/tiny-red-bird-recovery/

Press releases:

Santana, B. March 2025. Study of a wild population of red siskin completed. Red Siskin Initiative. URL: https://www.redsiskin.org/study-of-a-wild-population-of-red-siskin-in-the-western-part-of-the-country-completed/

Santana, B. June 2025. New Technical Manual for Horticultural Management of Dietary Plants. Red Siskin Initiative. URL: https://www.redsiskin.org/technical-manual-for-horticultural-management-of-dietary-plants-for-the-rs/

Presentations:

- Arrieta, L. 2024. “Café: Un paraguas agroforestal que alberga otros rubros y biodiversidad.” Jardines Ecológicos Topotepuy, October 6, Miranda, Venezuela.

- Arrieta, L. 2024. “Café Orgánico de Especialidad: Un medio de vida sostenible.” Hacienda La Trinidad, November 2, Miranda, Venezuela.

- Pelayo, R. 2024. “Iniciativa Cardenalito.” XXIV Encuentro con la Física, Química, Matemática y Biología. Universidad de Los Andes, November 27–29, Mérida, Venezuela.

- Rodriguez-Clark, K. M., and E. Royer. 2025. “US and Venezuelan populations in human care for the AZA Red Siskin SAFE.” Annual Meeting of the AZA Red Siskin SAFE, January 28 Washington, DC, USA.

- Rodriguez-Clark, K. M. 2025. “The Red Siskin SAFE: operational status and needs for in situ efforts in 2025.” Annual Meeting of the AZA Red Siskin SAFE, January 28 Washington, DC, USA.

- Beomon, S. 2025. “Iniciativa Cardenalito y el Centro de Conservación del Cardenalito de Venezuela.” Capacitación personal EPA en el marco de la subvención "Ayudar es Sencillo". January 30 and February 6, Maracay, Aragua, Venezuela.

- Beomon, S. 2025. “Iniciativa Cardenalito: éxitos pasados, acciones actuales y próximos pasos.” Charlas sobre conservación en Venezuela. Instituto Universitario de Tecnología Antonio Ricaurte. February 3, Maracay, Aragua, Venezuela.



- Pelayo, R. 2025. “SAFE Program Plan: Draft objectives and actions.” Association of Zoos and Aquariums 2025 Midyear Conference, SAFE Red Siskin Development Meeting, February, Memphis TN, USA.

- Rodriguez-Clark, K. M. and E. Royer. 2025. “Overview of the US and Venezuelan populations of red siskins in human care.” Association of Zoos and Aquariums 2025 Midyear Conference, Midyear Meeting of the Red Siskin SAFE, March 26, Palm Springs CA, USA.

- Rodriguez-Clark, K. M. and R. Pelayo. 2025. “Building an inaugural SAFE plan: Draft objectives and actions for the Red Siskin SAFE 2026-2028.” Association of Zoos and Aquariums 2025 Midyear Conference, Red Siskin SAFE Meeting, March 26, Palm Springs CA, USA.

- Cardozo, G. 2025. “Aves y Café: Un modelo de desarrollo sostenible para agricultores de áreas priorizadas para la conservación.” Simposio: Construyendo Comunidades Sostenibles para las Aves, Universidad Central de Venezuela. May 16, Caracas, Venezuela.

- Rodriguez-Clark, K. M. and R. Pelayo. 2025. “The Red Siskin Initiative & SAFE on the verge of our first Action Plan.” Annual Meetings of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Red Siskin SAFE Meeting, September 14, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Tampa FL, USA.

- Lampo, M and Paul, J. 2025. “Manejo ex situ como una herramienta en apoyo de la conservación de especies amenazadas”. LV Aniversario del Centro de Ecología del IVIC. September 16, Miranda, Venezuela.
- Sucre, B. 2025. “II Foro para la Conservación de la fauna”. Iniciativa Cardenalito. November 29, Caracas, Venezuela.



03 Rescuing, raising, and reintroducing more Red Siskins

Confiscated birds are rescued from the illegal trade, rehabilitated, and raised to support conservation efforts, such as possible future reintroductions.



Photo by: Gustavo Aleman

2025 Achievements

We successfully concluded our fourth breeding season:

In 2025, we hatched 21 chicks at the Red Siskin Conservation Center (RSCC) of Venezuela, almost exactly meeting our goal of 22 hatches. Thanks to the pairing matrix (MateRx) developed in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, we were able to establish strategic pairings that produced healthy, vigorous chicks with the low inbreeding and high genetic diversity needed to ensure the species' long-term viability.

This year, we also celebrated the outstanding performance of several first-time pairs, which cared for and fed their chicks with exemplary dedication. Today, these young red siskins are growing well in our aviaries, symbolizing the collaborative effort between the RSCC team and our international partners. Each chick represents a renewed hope for the species.



Renovated spaces to continue rescuing and rehabilitating red siskins.

Thanks to the support of the "Ayudar es Sencillo" (Helping is Easy) program of EPA, a Venezuelan hardware store chain, we made significant improvements at the Red Siskin Conservation Center in 2025. EPA's solidarity enabled the following repair, maintenance, and remodeling activities for three key spaces:

- Maintenance of aviary walls, ensuring a clean and safe environment for the birds.
- Improvements to the internal drainage system, allowing for better humidity control and optimal sanitary conditions.
- Repairs to the facade and office area, improving working conditions for the team as well as the institutional image for our visitors.

These improvements have strengthened the RSCC's functionality and appearance, creating a better environment for our staff, guests, and—most importantly—the red siskins in our care.

Managing plant nurseries for red siskin ex-situ conservation: a technical manual

In 2025, we celebrated the third year of operation of the native and naturalized plant nursery at the Red Siskin Conservation Center. This nursery has become a vital pillar of our conservation program, ensuring a reliable source of food and environmental enrichment for our precious birds.

Since its creation, the nursery has become home to hundreds of thousands of seeds we have collected, as well as a wide variety of cultivated plants, selected for their nutritional value and adaptability. We select and offer the organically produced plants to our red siskins, strengthening their health, encouraging natural behaviors, protecting our budget against import price shocks, and improving our ex-situ management practices.

We have now gathered our experiences into a publication that we hope will be helpful to others: "Managing plant nurseries for red siskin ex-situ conservation: a technical manual."

This resource is designed for teams working in plant nurseries linked to bird conservation and offers practical guidance on cultivating plant species that support the diet and enrichment of red siskins in human care, as well as potentially other granivorous and omnivorous birds.

We hope it will prove useful to other conservation efforts worldwide!

04 Ensuring Bird-Friendly habitats

More Bird-Friendly farms mean more Red Siskins



Photo by: Génesis Cardozo

2025 Achievements

In 2025, we concluded the fourth phase of the Birds and Coffee Project, funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Over nine years of continuous work, this project has saved and restored vital siskin habitat, and strengthened the link between conservation and sustainable production in the Venezuelan Coastal Range.

In this phase, we expanded areas under agroforestry management and reinforced the integration of conservation into local communities. We also consolidated a work model that not only met but exceeded the goals initially set, generating a tangible impact on both the landscape and farmers' capacities.

Here are the main achievements reached:



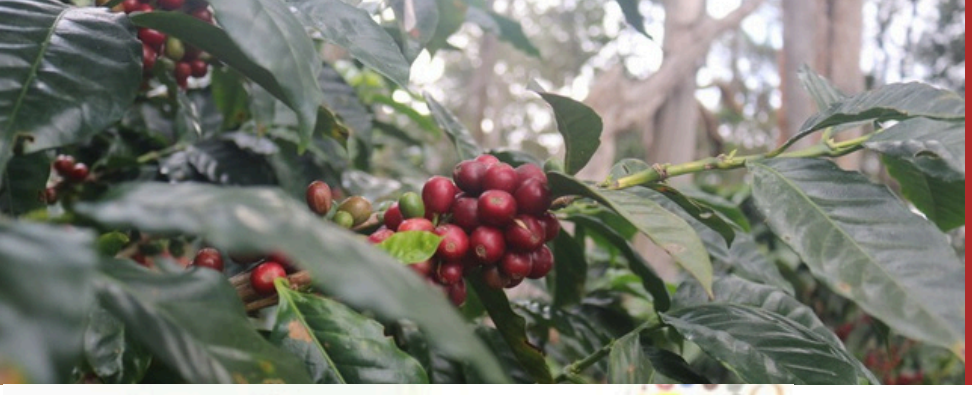
Making production in the Venezuelan Coastal Range greener and more sustainable:

This year, we added 283 new hectares to the project! We achieved this through two complementary paths: first, by creating “multiplier farms”—demonstration farms where local farmers can learn and apply innovative agroforestry practices—and second, through direct support from our technical team. A special milestone was the recovery of 30.5 hectares of abandoned cacao, which now form part of a sustainable shade production system.

We also exceeded our reforestation goal: more than 101 hectares restored with the over 23,000 native trees planted. These new shaded areas now benefit more than 167,000 coffee plants, 5,000 native dry forest species, and 10,000 cacao, citrus, and banana plants. In total, more than 206,000 plants were incorporated—an effort that strengthens biodiversity and brings participating farmers closer to achieving Bird-Friendly certification standards.

Achieving organic and Bird Friendly certification is a long, multi-year process, but with every step, we reaffirm our commitment to uniting agriculture with conservation to ensure a sustainable future for both communities and the landscape.







Connecting Through Knowledge and Conservation

Our participation in the longstanding Smithsonian program, "Bridging the Americas" continues to sow awareness and commitment in younger generations in our project areas. This year, we reached 75 children from two schools: 43 from "Gloria Vargas" Elementary School and 32 from "4 de Febrero" Elementary School, both in La Peñita. Connecting kids in our project area to kids in US classrooms strengthens understanding on both ends of the neotropical bird migration route of the importance of conservation and the role kids can play in caring for birds and their habitats.

Training and Community Strengthening:

Strengthening farmer business capacity through the "Agroforestry Producers Piedra e' Cachimbo – La Florida" (ACAFLO) has been key to advancing the sustainability of the Birds and Coffee Project. This year, we celebrated a major milestone: completing a cycle of 8 organizational development workshops, which helped the association gain greater autonomy and management capacity. Thanks to this process, ACAFLO is already making strides toward financial independence: in 2025, it covered 70% of its certification costs—an achievement that reflects its strong and growing capacity for self-management.

Farmer training also exceeded our expectations. A total of **157 new farmers joined**—far surpassing the initial goal of 60. This brings the number of producers currently receiving technical support to 160, and the total ever supported to 292. New participants received **training via 15 agronomic workshops**, which also reached two new communities, el Jarillo y la Laguneta, where farmers learned about conservation and community organization, with the expectation of formally joining ACAFLO very soon.

With every workshop and every new farmer, we reaffirm our **commitment to strengthening autonomy and community organization**—pillars for building sustainable livelihoods and creating safe habitats for birds.

05 Supporting only sustainable use of red siskins

We are connecting aviculturalists around the world to work together to reduce the demand for wild Red Siskins and other species.



Photo by: Samuel Beomon

2025 Achievements

New study: Understanding red siskin demand

The Flying Together Initiative published a study showing how social and cultural dynamics strongly influence the demand for red siskins.

By analyzing cases in Venezuela, Spain, Portugal, and Brazil, the research revealed that information flows and social interactions play a key role in consumer decisions. For example, we found that behavior change campaigns that indiscriminately increase engagement and visibility across all actor types could be counterproductive. This is because by amplifying the connectivity of those who are advice-seeking but have low intention to adopt conservation-favoring behaviors, we risk fostering echo chambers that reinforce existing beliefs, rather than encouraging interactions with advice-providers who have high intentions to adopt conservation-friendly behaviors.

Another important finding is that incorporating social network metrics (such as information flow and connectivity) is as important as analyzing the psychosocial factors that explain the intention to adopt sustainable behaviors, because network metrics improve the ability to explain and predict the intention to adopt change, beyond what attitudes, norms, and perceived control alone explain.

This new perspective, which integrates science and social behavior, is essential for designing more effective behavior change campaigns, offering hope for the conservation of the red siskin and other songbirds, and promoting a more sustainable and responsible future.

Read the full article here:
https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/csp2.70086



Photo by: Sabas González

2025 Fundraising Efforts

ABC, US$ 15,000
R. Pelayo.
Project: “Birds and Coffee” (Submitted December 2024, Approved).

Club300, US$ 5,000
R. Pelayo.
Project: “Monitoring a hotspot for conservation of several threatened bird species”. (Submitted July 31, 2025, Awaiting decision).

Conservation Connect, US$ 20,000
L. Arrieta, S. Barreto, B. Sucre.
Project: “Community-led agroforestry to protect a Conservation Imperatives site in Cordillera de la Costa, Venezuela”. (Submitted July 17, 2025, Awaiting decision).

Conservation Food and Health, US$ 63,780
R. Pelayo, L. Arrieta, G. Cardozo, R. Bron, S. Barreto.
Project: “Bird-friendly cocoa for biodiversity conservation and human life in La Guaira, Venezuela”. (Submitted June 13,2025, Rejected).

Conservation Nation, US$ 5,000
G. Cardozo, S. Barreto.
Project: “Towards a Viable Reintroduction: Assessing Habitat Suitability for Red Siskins in the Central Coastal Range in Venezuela”. (Submitted July 12, 2025, Rejected).

EDGE Fellowship, US$ 10,000
L. Arrieta, S. Barreto, B. Sucre.
Project: “EDGE tree species in Venezuelan Coastal Range ”. (Submitted July 26, 2025, Rejected).

EPA Ayudar es Sencillo, US$ 1,500
R. Pelayo, S. Barreto, E. Azuaje, I. Zager.
Project: “Implements and materials to equip the RSCC and make some repairs or improvements.” (Submitted, Approved).

G20 Global Landscape Initiative, US$ 17,000
L. Arrieta, S. Barreto, B. Sucre.
Project: “Community-led agroforestry to restore a biodiversity hotspot in Cordillera de la Costa, Venezuela” (Submitted September 26, 2025, Rejected).

Happy Hollow Zoo and Park, US$ 23,250
R. Pelayo, R. Bron, I. Zager.
Project: “Understanding the plant foraging behavior of Red Siskin in aviaries and wild conditions”. (Submitted February 1, 2025, Awaiting decision).

IWT Challenge Fund, £ 266,714
M.D. Pineda, R. Pelayo, L. Moran, S. Barreto, A. Díaz.
Project: “Changing illegal bird trade behaviours, building Latin American capabilities”. (Submitted March 31, 2025, Rejected).

Jonas Philanthropies, US$ 20,000
L. Arrieta, S. Barreto, B. Sucre.
Project: “Women-led agroforestry to conserve a biodiversity hotspot in Venezuela”. (Submitted July 17, 2025, Awaiting decision).

Lady Freethinker, US$ 10,000
R. Pelayo, B. Sucre, S. Barreto.
Project: “Provide a safe shelter and a second chance for illegally traded red siskins”. (Submitted August 7, 2025, Rejected).

La Mochila - La mega 96.4, US$ 755,25
R. Pelayo, B. Sucre, E. Azuaje, S. Beomon, J. Nieves.
Project: Apoyo al Centro de Conservación del Cardenalito de Venezuela.
(Submitted December 2024, Approved).

Milwaukee County Zoo, US$ 2,000.
R. Pelayo
Project: “Red Siskin Conservation Center”
(Submitted 15 December 2025, Approved).

Neotropical Birding and Conservation, US$ 3,000.
B. Santana, R. Pelayo, S. Barreto.
Project: "Study of foraging, behavior and habitat characterization of the Red Siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*) in a recently discovered population in northwestern Venezuela" (Submitted December 30, 2024, Awaiting decision).

Next World Now, US$ 10,000
R. Pelayo, S. Barreto, R. Bron.
Project: “Promoting agroforestry in coffee-growing areas of the Venezuelan coastal mountain range”. (Submitted February 28, 2025, Awaiting decision).

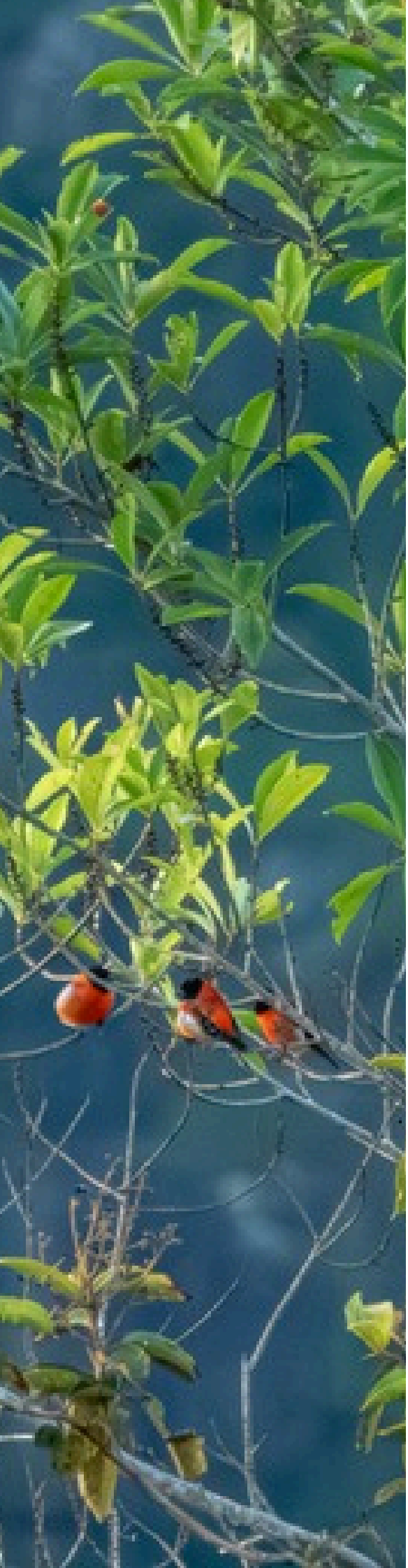
Reverse the Red Pledge Award, US$ 15,000
R. Pelayo, S. Barreto, B. Sucre, K. Rodriguez-Clark.
Project: “Red Siskin Conservation Center”. (Submitted April 25, 2025, Rejected).

Taronga Zoo, AUD$ 20,000
L. Morán, R. Pelayo.
Project: “Characterization of the habitat of the Red Siskin in a population of western Venezuela” (Submitted June 21, 2024, Awaiting decision).

The Finch Society of Australia, UAD$ 1,300
B. Santana.
Project: “Support to the Red Siskin Initiative and the Red Siskin Conservation Center” (Submitted November 28, 2025, Approved)

Tracy Aviary, US$ 1,200
R. Pelayo, K. Rodriguez - Clark
Project: “Red Siskin Conservation Center”
(Submitted December 15, 2025, Approved)

USFWS, US$ 249,467
L. Arrieta, B. Sucre, G. Cardozo, K. Rodriguez-Clark.
Project: “Birds and Coffee” (Submitted October 31, 2024, Awaiting decision).



The Explorers Club, Rolex Grant, US$ 1,500
B. Santana, R. Pelayo, S. Barreto.
Project: "Studying the foraging behavior of the Critically Endangered Red Siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*) in western Venezuela" (Submitted September 6, 2024, Approved).

The White Feather Foundation, US$ 15,000
R. Pelayo, S. Barreto, L. Arrieta.
Project: "Catalyzing agroforestry and Bird Friendly practices to empower small farmers and recover fragmented forests in a Venezuelan biodiversity hotspot". (Submitted June 13, 2025, Rejected).

Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition Foundation, US$ 5,000
K. Rodríguez-Clark, R.Pelayo.
Project: "Training Captive Red Siskins to Forage for Successful Reintroduction". (Submitted July 24, 2025, Awaiting decision).

Zoo Miami US $20,000
K. Rodriguez-Clark
Project: "Core support for the Red siskin Initiative"
(Approved January 31, 2025)

Zoo New England, US$ 5,000
K. Rodríguez-Clark, R. Pelayo, B. Sucre.
Project: "Understanding the Red Siskin"
(Submitted October 9, 2024, Approved).

Van TienHoven Foundation, €20.000
R. Pelayo, S. Barreto.
Project: "Exploring localities and conservation opportunities for the Critically Endangered Red Siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*) in western Venezuela." (Submitted June 06, 2025, Approved).

In summary, a total of twenty-seven funding applications were submitted by the end of 2024 and throughout 2025, amounting to US$913,228.25. Ten of these applications were approved, representing a 37.03% success rate, for a total of US$71,629.25 received. **During 2025 alone,** we submitted twenty applications for a total of US$ 49,374 dollars, and had a 30% funding success rate.

Acknowledgements:

Lead partners:

PROVITA

Smithsonian Institution

Implementation partners:

IVIC
INSTITUTO VENEZOLANO DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

ZOOLOGICO LESLIE PANTIN
reserva de flora y fauna de Venezuela

Funding partners:

Gold (20k>)

ABC

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ZOO MIAMI

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CHALLENGE FUND

BRITISH EMBASSY

Silver (5k - 20k)

ZOO NEW ENGLAND
Franklin Park Zoo • Stone Zoo

TRACY AVIARY and BOTANICAL GARDEN

Milwaukee County Zoo

Bronze (500k - 5k)

AFO
ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
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THE FINCH SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA Inc

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Core partner participants:

(Photos in order of appearance on the following pages)

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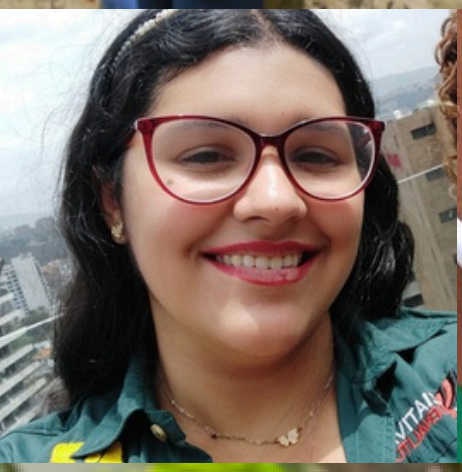
















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Photo by: Bárbara Santana

PRO VITA

INICIATIVA CARDENALITO REDSISKIN INITIATIVE

Smithsonian Institution

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