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Report to BIRDS ON THE BRINK:

Enhancing the nest box program for Bearded Screech-Owl (*Megascops barbarus*) in the Yalijux Important Bird Area, Guatemala, 2021–2022

With the help of a BIRDS ON THE BRINK grant of GBP 893.00 received in May 2021 we were able to expand our nest box program engaging 10 new landowners with a total of 27 new boxes in the IBA Yalijux, Guatemala. Two more landowners are interested in joining the initiative. Boxes there will be installed at the beginning of 2023.

In 2021/22 we marked four new pairs with leg rings. In two more territories newly covered with boxes, boxes were visited by owls, but not yet used for nesting.

BIRDS ON THE BRINK'S support propelled our conservation and research initiative towards covering a larger area, providing more nest sites and enhancing the efficiency of our research effort.



Gray morph nestling of Bearded Screech-Owl at the entrance of one of our nest boxes in the IBA Yalijux, nesting season 2022.

Some photographs from our owl nest box program 2021/22



Some of the newly made boxes supported by BIRDS ON THE BRINK.



Brown morph female Bearded Screech-Owl at the entrance of a nest box.



Setting up nest boxes in private lands of local farmers in the IBA Yalijux.



Rufous morph female Bearded Screech-Owl at the entrance of a nest box.



Pair of a gray morph female and a brown morph male Bearded Screech-Owl.



Re-sighting of a ringed brown morph male Bearded Screech-Owl.



Re-sighting of a ringed rufous morph male Bearded Screech-Owl.

Funds used in our nest box program in 2021/22 supported by BIRDS ON THE BRINK

The following table shows details on BIRDS ON THE BRINK funds used in 2021/22.

	Funds per year (in local currency GTQ)			Funds per year (in GBP)		
	2021	2022	Total	2021	2022	Total
Incentive for boxes	2,100.00	2,300.00	4,400.00	197.40	216.20	413.60
Material for boxes	776.00	240.00	1,016.00	72.94	22.56	95.50
Monitoring and building nest boxes	4,300.00	7,790.00	12,090.00	404.20	732.26	1,136.46
Total	7,176.00	10,330.00	17,506.00	674.54	971.02	1,645.56

One of the land properties participating in our nest box program is a private protected area registered in the list of Guatemalan nature reserves, which does not receive incentives for the nest boxes. Only local farmers receive incentives. See appendix for copies of receipts signed by the participants. The difference of GBP 752.56 between the total used (GBP 1,645.56) and the BIRDS ON THE BRINK fund (GBP 893.00) was covered privately.

The boxes near our solar power station were not used for nesting by Bearded Screech-Owl in 2021/22, hence no video could be recorded in these seasons and no data were to be stored. Therefore we did not use BIRDS ON THE BRINK funds for purchasing hard drives for data storage as mentioned in the proposal. We used these funds for the incentive for landowners and for monitoring instead.