Join us for Tropilunch!!

Preaching Conservation to the Andean Pentecostals

Talk by Oscar González
Doctoral Candidate
SNRE

February 3
12:45-1:45pm
Grinter 376

Biography:
Oscar Gonzalez is a PhD candidate in SNRE, under the supervision of Dr. Bette Loiselle. He was born in Peru and has been doing research in bird Ecology on the Andes for several years. He is a founding member of the Union Nacional de Ornitologos of Peru and the former president of the Peruvian NGO ‘Grupo Aves’. He earned a B.Sc. in Biology at the Universidad Agraria La Molina and holds a M.Sc. in Zoology from the Universidad Mayor de San Marcos in Lima and a M.Sc. in Tropical Biodiversity Management from the Universidad San Pablo CEU in Spain. Oscar has also taught Ecology at Universidad de Huanuco’s School of Environmental Engineering in Peru. He has experience managing NGOs and promoting conservation awareness for the general public. While doing his doctoral field research in the Peruvian Andes, he did the Tropical Conservation and Development Practicum Course studying the attitudes towards conservation of the Christian churches in Huanuco.

Content:
In the montane forest of the Andes and the Amazon, a religious revolution is happening. Protestant churches are growing exponentially and the most common of them is the Pentecostal Movement. There are some areas where the Pentecostals are the majority and have important influence on politics. Furthermore, these religious communities live next to areas with important conservation value. It is necessary to interact with them and gain them as allies in conservation. However, that would not be possible if we do not understand what their core values towards Nature are. It is possible to approach Pentecostals and any Evangelical church using the principle of Creation Care, which mediates between Theology and Ecology. Oscar will explain how he was able to “infiltrate” one of the most influential Pentecostal churches in the Peruvian Andes and “preach” conservation to them; getting positive outcomes.

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Students are provided with an opportunity to present and discuss their research projects with peers and faculty. In addition, discussion sessions on issues of current interest are also held. Visiting scholars and conservation practitioners also participate when available. It is held every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.