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2	RRH: BIRD COMMUNITIES IN SECONDARY FOREST
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6	Connectivity with primary forest determines the value of secondary tropical forests for
7	bird conservation
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24 ABSTRACT

25

Species extinctions caused by the destruction and degradation of tropical primary forest may be 26 27 at least partially mitigated by the expansion of regenerating secondary forest. However, the 28 conservation value of secondary forest remains controversial, and potentially underestimated, 29 since most previous studies have focused on young, single-aged, or isolated stands. Here we use 30 point count surveys to compare tropical forest bird communities in 20–120-yr-old secondary 31 forest with primary forest stands in central Panama, with varying connectivity between 32 secondary forest sites and extensive primary forest. We found that species richness and other metrics of ecological diversity, as well as the combined population density of all birds, reached a 33 34 peak in younger (20-yr-old) secondary forests, and appeared to decline in older secondary forest 35 stands. This counter-intuitive result can be explained by the greater connectivity between 36 younger secondary forests and extensive primary forests at our study site, compared with older 37 secondary forests that are either (1) more isolated, or (2) connected to primary forests that are 38 themselves small and isolated. Our results suggest that connectivity with extensive primary 39 forest is a more important determinant of avian species richness and community structure than 40 forest age, and highlight the vital contribution secondary forests can make in conserving tropical 41 bird diversity, so long as extensive primary habitats are adjacent and spatially connected.

42

44 ABSTRACT IN SPANISH

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46 La extinción de especies causada por la destrucción y la degradación del bosque tropical 47 primario puede ser mitigada, en cierta parte, por la expansión del bosque secundario. Sin 48 embargo, la importancia del bosque secundario para la conservación es un tema controversial y 49 potencialmente subestimado ya que la mayoría de los estudios previos se han centrado en 50 bosques muy jóvenes de una sola edad, o aislados de bosques con diferentes edades. En este 51 estudio utilizamos puntos de conteo para comparar las comunidades de aves en bosques 52 secundarios de 20 a 120 años de edad y en bosques primarios en Panamá, y con conectividad 53 variable entre los bosques secundarios y los bosques primarios. Encontramos que la riqueza de 54 especies, y otras métricas de la diversidad ecológica, alcanzaron su máximo en los bosques 55 secundarios más jóvenes (20 años de edad) y parecieron disminuir en los bosques secundarios 56 más antiguos. Este resultado aparentemente contradictorio se puede explicar por la mayor 57 conectividad entre los bosques secundarios más jóvenes y los bosques primarios de gran 58 extensión, y porque los bosques secundarios más antiguos están (1) más aislados o (2) están 59 conectados a bosques primarios aislados y de menor extensión. Nuestros resultados indican que la riqueza de especies y la estructura de la comunidad de aves dependen más de la conectividad 60 61 entre bosques primarios extensos que de la edad del bosque. Así mismo, nuestros resultados 62 resaltan la importancia de los bosques secundarios para la conservación de las aves tropicales, 63 especialmente estos son contiguos y están conectados a bosques primarios extensos.

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- **Key words:** Bird communities; community structure; conservation; landscape management;
- 67 land-use change; tropical extinction crisis; secondary forest; Panama

68 BETWEEN 2010 AND 2015 THERE WAS AN ANNUAL LOSS OF APPROXIMATELY 7.6 MILLION HA OF 69 forest globally, with most of this deforestation occurring in the tropics (FAO 2015). Most of the 70 world's biodiversity is found in the tropics (Dirzo & Raven 2003), and the continued loss and 71 degradation of tropical forests is likely to cause mass species extinctions (Dent & Wright 2009, Wright & Muller-Landau 2006). It has been proposed that primary forest (PF) losses may be 72 73 offset by the planting and natural regeneration of secondary forests (SF) on previously deforested 74 land (Wright 2005). However, the long-term conservation value of SF depends on whether these 75 habitats can maintain similar species composition and ecosystem functions as PF (Chazdon et al. 76 2009, Dent & Wright 2009). 77 Many studies that assess the conservation value of tropical SF have focused on birds, one

of the best studied faunal groups in the tropics (e.g. Barlow *et al.* 2007b, Lees & Peres 2006,
Robinson 1999, Stotz *et al.* 1996, Willis 1974). Birds provide important ecosystem services, such
as pollination and seed dispersal (Sekercioglu 2006, Whelan *et al.* 2008), and their diverse
habitat and dietary requirements often lead to species-specific responses to habitat disturbance
(Hughes *et al.* 2002, Petit & Petit 2003). Birds are also convenient indicators for ecological
assessments because they are relatively easy to identify and survey.

Studies comparing avian species richness and community structure in SF and PF report
inconsistent results. Some studies have found equivalent or higher species richness in SF
compared to PF (Andrade & Rubio-Torgler 1994, Blake & Loiselle 2001, Borges 2007, O'Dea
& Whittaker 2007, Schulze & Waltert 2004), while other studies report reduced species richness
in SF (Barlow *et al.* 2007b, Bowman *et al.* 1990, Gibson *et al.* 2011, Terborgh & Weske 1969,
Tvardíková 2010). These conflicting results may stem from three key factors: the age of SF
studied, the landscape context, and the responses of different avian groups to habitat change.

91	In terms of SF age, most studies examining avian diversity in tropical SF have only
92	included relatively young, and single-aged stands (less than 35 yr; e.g. Barlow et al. 2007b,
93	Blake & Loiselle 2001, Borges 2007, Terborgh & Weske 1969). With increasing forest age, SF
94	typically develops greater structural complexity, resembling PF over time (Guariguata &
95	Ostertag 2001, Pena-Claros 2003). More complex forest structure offers an increased breadth of
96	ecological niches for forest birds (DeWalt et al. 2003, Zahawi et al. 2015). Thus, the structural
97	complexity that develops over SF succession should provide habitats for increasingly diverse and
98	complex bird communities (MacArthur & MacArthur 1961, Casas et al. 2016). Studies focusing
99	on young SF may therefore underestimate the longer-term value of SF for bird conservation.
100	While estimates of avian species richness in young SF are often inflated by non-forest species,
101	species composition in young tropical SF tends to differ from PF (Barlow et al. 2007a, Borges
102	2007, Tvardíková 2010). With increasing time since abandonment both forest structure and bird
103	communities become more similar to those of PF (Andrade & Rubio-Torgler 1994, Borges 2007,
104	Raman 1998). Thus estimates of conservation value need to consider the recovery of forest
105	species composition and abundance rather than richness alone.
106	The landscape context of SF, defined by connectivity to PF source populations and
107	isolation within the countryside matrix, plays a critical role in determining avian community
108	reassembly (Chazdon et al. 2009, Dent & Wright 2009, Wolfe et al. 2015). Many tropical forest
109	birds are highly dispersal limited with poor gap-crossing abilities, and may not be able to
110	colonise SF unless it is contiguous with PF (Van Houtan et al. 2007, Lees & Peres 2009, Moore
111	et al. 2008, Tobias et al. 2013). In addition, bird species occurring in isolated SF embedded
112	within a non-forest matrix may be more sensitive to random population fluctuations and local
113	extinction. Connectivity to PF is an important factor in SF recovery, and the species composition

of bird communities in isolated SF may never fully converge with that of PF (Jones *et al.* 2016,
Wolfe *et al.* 2015).

116 Finally, the response of bird species to forest succession may be mediated by their degree 117 of ecological specialisation. It has been suggested that generalist, migratory or forest-edge 118 species proliferate in SF as their wider niche breadth makes them better adapted to the conditions 119 found in younger forest (Barlow et al. 2007b, Stotz et al. 1996). By contrast, forest specialists 120 are likely to require foraging and nesting resources only found in more mature forest (Barlow et 121 al. 2007b, DeWalt et al. 2003). Forest isolation has also been shown to adversely affect forest-122 dependent, understorey insectivore species more severely than other functional groups (Bradfer-123 Lawrence et al. 2018, Barlow et al. 2006, Ferraz et al. 2007, Stouffer et al. 2006). Thus, the 124 conservation value of SF for birds is affected by species-specific responses mediated by both site 125 and landscape factors, including habitat age, and level of isolation and connectivity to PF. 126 Here, we examine the species richness and composition of bird communities in central 127 Panama across the longest SF chronosequence studied to date, spanning forest ages from 20 to 128 120 yr, as well as PF controls (see Fig. 1). Across this age gradient, we sampled forests that were 129 either isolated from or connected to extensive PF. This landscape presents an opportunity to 130 examine how bird communities change across both successional and isolation gradients, and to 131 investigate the relative importance of forest age versus isolation in determining the conservation 132 value of SF. Including forest age and landscape context introduces a new level of complexity to 133 classical forest fragmentation studies, which arguably reflects the reality of most human-

134 modified tropical forest landscapes.

In this context, we assessed the relative role of secondary forest age versus connectivity
with primary forest in determining bird diversity – estimated as (1) bird species richness and

137 other diversity metrics, (2) bird population density, and (3) the similarity of avian community

138 composition to PF. In all cases, we examined the extent to which variation in bird communities is

139 mediated by landscape context, such as isolation by water barriers.

140

141 METHODS

142

143 STUDY SITES. – We conducted field surveys in the Panama Canal Watershed, where vegetation is 144 classified as tropical moist forest (Holdridge & Budowski 1956). The climate is seasonal with a 145 distinct dry season, typically from mid-December until early May, and annual rainfall of 1900 – 146 3600mm (Windsor, 1990; Turner et al. 2015). We selected study sites in the Barro Colorado 147 Nature Monument, Soberania National Park and the adjacent Agua Salud Project (Fig. 1). The 148 Barro Colorado Nature Monument (5,600 ha; 9°9' N, 79°51' W) is comprised of five peninsulas 149 and Barro Colorado Island (BCI), all situated in Lake Gatun, which was formed in 1914 by the 150 flooding of the Panama Canal. The Barro Colorado Nature Monument is a mosaic of PF mixed 151 with SF stands of different ages that were used for cattle pasture or fruit production between the 152 1880s and the establishment of the park in 1979 (Leigh et al. 1982). Soberania National Park 153 (22,000 ha; 9°9' N, 79°44' W) was established in 1980 and is a mix of PF and very old SF (Van 154 Bael et al. 2013). The Agua Salud Project research site (664 ha; 9°13' N, 79°47' W) was once 155 predominantly cattle pasture or small-scale shifting cultivation but, after establishment in 2008, 156 the landscape is now predominantly SF of relatively young age (Van Breugel et al. 2013). The 157 difference in annual rainfall between our northernmost and southernmost sites (separated by a 158 latitudinal distance of 9.8 km) is 159 mm pa (Rompre et al. 2007). As this variation is minor

159 compared to a difference of 2100 mm pa across the full rainfall gradient in Central Panama

160 (Rompre *et al.* 2007), we treated the study area as a single climatic band (see Fig. 1).

161

162 SITE SELECTION. – We selected secondary forest sites along a chronosequence of approximately 163 20, 40, 60, 90 and 120 yr since abandonment, with two replicates per forest age. We selected 164 sites within existing research areas having data on long-term vegetation dynamics, tree 165 communities and accurate age estimates compiled from historical records, aerial photographs and 166 interviews with residents; for details see Denslow & Guzman (2000) and van Breugel et al. 167 (2013). The youngest SF in the Barro Colorado Nature Monument is 40-yr-old, while SF in 168 Agua Salud is 10-34 yr old (mean = 19 yr old). For ease of presentation, we refer to Agua Salud 169 sites as 20-yr-old. We selected four PF sites: two in a relatively small patch (c. 800 ha) of 170 isolated PF on Barro Colorado Island (henceforth referred to as isolated PF) and two in an 171 extensive area of mainland PF in Soberania National Park (c. 22,000 ha; henceforth referred to as 172 extensive PF). The PF are at least 500 yr old and there is no indication that they have ever been 173 logged or cultivated (Piperno 1990). There is no ongoing disturbance (such as logging or 174 hunting) in Barro Colorado Nature Monument, whereas in Agua Salud there may be some forest 175 clearance and disturbance in the wider landscape. Across the Barro Colorado Nature Monument 176 chronosequence, average canopy height and structural complexity increases with SF age 177 (DeWalt et al. 2003, Mascaro et al. 2012). Further details of vegetation structure and 178 composition are available in Dent et al. (2013), DeWalt et al. (2003), and Mascaro et al. (2012). 179 Habitat patch size is an important determinant of species' persistence in fragmented 180 landscapes (Bender et al. 1998). However, the importance of patch size relates to the 181 composition of the surrounding matrix. The SF sites in our study are embedded within a mixed-

182 age forest matrix, which buffers the effects of fragment size and limits our ability to accurately 183 calculate areas of single-aged fragments. The three forest areas in which study sites are 184 embedded include Barro Colorado Island (1,560 ha), Gigante peninsulas (2,600 ha), and 185 Soberania National Park and surrounding contiguous forest (22,000 ha; see Fig. 1 for details). 186 The SF and PF sites in this study experience different connectivity. The 20-yr-old Agua Salud SF 187 sites form part of a large forest network connected to extensive PF in Soberania National Park, 188 while both island and peninsula SF sites are smaller, isolated areas of forest surrounded by water. 189 Island SF sites (90-120 yr old) are connected only to isolated PF, and are separated from 190 extensive mainland PF by water. Secondary forest on the Gigante Peninsula is more extensive, 191 and contains older patches (>200 yr old) interspersed with patches of 40–60 yr old SF, but is 192 separated from extensive PF by either water or agriculture. We sampled PF sites on both island 193 and mainland settings to examine the effects of different types and extents of forest isolation, and 194 to provide a baseline for studying the effects of SF age on bird communities. Due to the 195 restrictions of available PF and SF in the study landscape, it was not possible to replicate within 196 categories (e.g., isolation type x isolation extent x forest type), and even where replicates were 197 possible, the sampling design is weakened because some sites are embedded within the same 198 geographical feature (e.g. BCI) and therefore to some extent non-independent. We take these 199 factors into account in our analyses (see below) and emphasise that the study landscape has 200 distinct advantages-not least the comparison across different levels of isolation, and the 201 availability of background data on the history of forest regeneration—which provide a unique 202 opportunity to understand secondary forests in a spatial and temporal context.

203

BIRD SURVEY METHODS. - At each of the 14 sites, we established nine point counts with each point separated by a minimum of 100 m from other points, and by at least 50 m from forest of a different age (Van Bael *et al.* 2013, Robinson *et al.* 2000). Two trained observers surveyed one site per morning, with the first count beginning ten mins before sunrise and the last completed by 10:30 h. All nine stations at a site were sampled once during a survey visit, with a minimum of three days between surveys; no surveys were conducted on days with heavy rain or strong wind because these limit bird activity and detectability.

211 Point counts were 10 mins in duration, and all birds seen or heard within a 50 m-radius 212 were identified, following previous studies (De Bonilla et al. 2012, Martin & Blackburn 2014, 213 O'Dea & Whittaker 2007, Raman & Sukumar 2002). Limiting counts to a 50 m radius can help 214 to reduce the differences in detectability of birds among habitat types due to vegetation structure, 215 and minimises biases and errors in species identification and distance estimates (Petit *et al.* 216 1995). For each bird seen or heard, observers used a laser rangefinder to estimate the Euclidean 217 distance from the centre of the point count to the bird (Buckland et al. 2008). Distance estimates 218 to birds detected only by ear are likely to be less consistent than estimates based on visual 219 detections, but in most cases the location of calling birds can be judged reasonably accurately. 220 Birds flying above the canopy were excluded from the survey. Along with the point count data, 221 we kept a list of additional species encountered as we walked between the point count stations 222 during a survey. We conducted surveys over three years: July to October 2014 (wet season), 223 January 2015 and January to March 2016 (dry season). Each site was surveyed a total of ten 224 times over the three years; five times in the wet season and five times in the dry, giving a total of 225 1,260 point counts.

Observers had considerable ornithological field experience, including in tropical forest
habitats. Two observers were Panamanian, with many years' experience identifying local
avifauna. All observers received training before data collection began, including detection tests
to check for any bias in identification ability and for consistency in estimations of distance.
Recordings of calls and songs were used intensively to improve identification skills and check
identifications based on vocalisations.

232

233 DATA ANALYSIS. - Prior to analysis, we removed unidentified birds from the dataset (1.8% of 234 total number of detections). We conducted all analyses both on the remaining bird species 235 (henceforth, all birds), and on a dataset restricted to birds with a higher dependency on forest 236 habitats (henceforth, forest specialists). We defined forest specialists as species characteristic of 237 the interior of undisturbed forest, breeding almost invariably within forests, occurring less often 238 away from forest interior and rarely seen in non-forest habitats, even though they may persist in 239 secondary forest and forest patches if their particular ecological requirements are met (BirdLife 240 International 2018, Buchanan et al. 2011). We note that classification of forest dependency in 241 birds is potentially subjective, partly because species vary in their habitat selection 242 geographically. We used the most recent classification of forest specialism (BirdLife International 2018) because it is global in focus, comprehensive and widely accessible. We 243 244 found results to be very similar when we used alternative, geographically restricted 245 classifications of forest dependency, including published descriptions by Ridgely & Gwynne 246 (1989), habitat codes of Stotz et al. (1996), and habitat scores of Tobias et al. (2016). 247 We calculated rarefaction curves to compare rates of species accumulation among forest 248 age classes for all birds and forest specialists. When scaled by the number of samples, curves

249 reached or approached the asymptote for all forest ages and species sets, suggesting survey effort 250 was adequate (Fig. S1 and S2). However, curves did not reach asymptotes for some forest ages 251 and species sets when scaled by individuals, suggesting some sites were under-sampled (Fig. S1 252 and S2). To identify species that were missing from the extensive PF dataset, we compared our 253 dataset to the species list reported in a previous survey of the same extensive PF forest (Robinson 254 et al. 2000). This long-term study used intensive survey methods to describe the species 255 composition of the extensive PF site and so provides a complete picture of the species present at 256 this locality.

We calculated species richness and the percentage of PF species present in SF by combining both the point count data and the additional species encounters. All other analyses used data from point counts only. We conducted analyses using R (Version 3.4.1, R Core Team 2017).

261

SPECIES RICHNESS, DIVERSITY AND DOMINANCE. - We compared species richness, ShannonWeiner diversity indices and dominance across forest ages using data from all surveys combined.
We calculated dominance as the percentage of individual birds represented by the five most
common species in each site.

266

BIRD POPULATION DENSITY. - We used the R package 'Distance' (Laake *et al.* 2015) to estimate
bird community population density among forest ages pooled over the 1,260 point counts,
following methods described in Buckland *et al.* (2015). We pooled visual and audial detections,
and stratified analyses by forest age to allow for differences in detectability among habitats.
Using the function 'ds' ('Distance' R package; Laake *et al.* (2015), we fitted 36 detection

272 functions with various combinations of covariates (year, season, detection method and observer) 273 per forest age and used AIC model selection to choose the best-fit models (Burnham et al. 2011). 274 The detection functions provided an estimation of bird population density (number of individuals 275 per hectare) in each of the forest ages. The function 'ds' requires a minimum of 80 observations 276 within a category to give reliable estimates per species, thus we did not calculate detection 277 functions for individual species, since only 4–9 bird species in each forest age category had more 278 than 80 detections. Our results should be interpreted with caution since pooling community 279 detectability data assumes that each species is equally detectable across each of the 14 sites. 280

SPECIES COMPOSITION AND SIMILARITY TO PRIMARY FOREST. – We calculated the percentage of
bird species detected in PF that were also detected in SF separately for isolated PF and extensive
PF sites by pooling data for each forest age category.

284 We used the Morisita-Horn abundance-based similarity index (S_{MH}) to compare species 285 composition between pairs of assemblages. The S_{MH} is robust to uneven and insufficient 286 sampling and thus suited to determine if reassembly of PF communities occurs in SF in terms of 287 relative abundance (Chao et al. 2006). We examined whether species composition of SF 288 converged with either isolated PF or extensive PF over time by comparing the similarity in 289 composition (S_{MH}) of each SF forest site to each of the PF sites. We examined similarity to 290 isolated and extensive PF sites separately because isolation-related extirpations have altered the 291 island bird communities (Robinson 1999). Similarity values were produced using the function 292 'vegdist' ('vegan' R package; Oksanen et al., 2016).

293 To determine if forest age or geographic location explained patterns in species
294 composition across sites, we performed Mantel tests on three matrices of pair-wise distances

295	among sites: Euclidean geographic distance, difference in forest age, and dissimilarity in species
296	composition $(1 - S_{MH})$. We assigned PF sites a nominal age of 500 yr to include these sites in the
297	distance matrix for forest age. Mantel tests were performed using the function 'mantel' ('vegan'
298	R package; Oksanen et al., 2016).
299	We explored qualitative similarities in species composition among sites with non-metric
300	multidimensional scaling (NMDS; Anderson et al. 2011). This approach uses rank order, rather
301	than absolute abundances of species, to represent the original position of communities in
302	multidimensional space as accurately as possible using a reduced number of dimensions. We
303	used similarity matrices generated from both the S_{MH} abundance-based and Jaccard incidence-
304	based similarity values (S _J). We included the S _J similarity values to investigate whether PF
305	species were present in SF, even if patterns of relative abundance were different from those in
306	PF. Ordinations were performed using the function 'metaMDS' ('vegan' R package; Oksanen et
307	al., 2016).

308 To assess the significance of observed differences in species composition as related to SF 309 age, isolation level (isolated or connected), forest type (SF or PF) and distance to extensive PF, 310 we conducted a series of permutational MANOVAs, an analysis of variance using distance 311 matrices. This analysis uses pseudo-F values to compare among-group to within-group similarity 312 and assesses significance by permutation. We also investigated the effect of season (wet or dry) 313 on species composition by conducting a permutational MANOVA at survey level. Permutational 314 MANOVAs were produced using the function 'adonis' ('vegan' R package; Oksanen et al., 315 2016).

We calculated the mean number of migratory bird detections in different forest agecategories based on count data with no distance corrections. This gives a relative abundance of

migratory birds in habitats for those species with similar detection probabilities. We also used
the point count data to list the five most abundant species per forest age, and classified these
species using diet and habitat information from Ridgely & Gwynne (1989) and Wilman *et al.*(2014).

322

323 **RESULTS**

324

Our surveys recorded a total of 183 bird species from 42 families, of which 55 species from 24 families were forest specialists (Table S1). We detected 13,894 individual birds in fixed radius point counts, of which 5,256 were forest specialists (BirdLife International 2018).

328

329 PATTERNS OF SPECIES RICHNESS, DIVERSITY, AND DOMINANCE. - No clear relationship was found 330 between species richness and forest age (Table 1). The youngest SF (20-yr-old) had higher 331 species richness than all other sites, and a species richness of forest specialists similar to 332 extensive PF (Table 1). The oldest SF (120-yr-old) had the lowest species richness for all birds 333 and forest specialists. These counter-intuitive patterns of species richness appear to be influenced 334 by differences in connectivity among sites, with higher species richness found in sites that were 335 connected to extensive PF (Fig. 2). Compared with extensive mainland PF sites, the isolated PF 336 sites had lower species richness for both datasets. Species diversity (Shannon-Weiner index) 337 showed similar patterns across sites, while dominance values were highest in isolated sites and 338 lowest in connected sites (Table 1).

BIRD POPULATION DENSITY. - There was no clear pattern in bird community population density
estimates across the different forest ages or levels of isolation. For all birds, the 20-yr-old SF had
the greatest density of birds, estimated at 29 individual birds/ha (95% CI: 26, 31; Fig. 3). This
compares with the lowest density estimate of 17 individual birds/ha (95% CI: 16, 19) in the 120yr-old SF. Qualitatively similar patterns were found for forest specialists.

345

346 SIMILARITY TO PRIMARY FOREST. – Focusing on all birds, we found no clear relationship between 347 SF age and the percentage of PF bird species detected in SF sites (as estimated by our surveys), 348 but there was a relationship between isolation and percentage of PF species present in SF. 349 Percentage of PF species present was consistently highest in connected sites, and lower in 350 isolated sites. When comparing SF ages, we found that the highest percentage of PF species 351 occurred in the 20-yr-old connected SF (86% when compared with extensive PF sites as 352 estimated by our surveys; Fig. 4). Surprisingly, the 120-yr-old isolated SF had the lowest 353 percentage of PF species present, with only 72 percent in common with isolated PF and 57% in 354 common with extensive PF. This is likely due to shifts in species richness driven by isolation 355 effects in the island PF, where we detected just 62% of the species that we found in extensive 356 mainland PF.

For all birds, compositional similarity to isolated (but not extensive) PF increased with forest age (Fig. 5). The highest similarity in species composition between PF and SF was recorded on BCI where the community composition of the oldest isolated SF (120-yr-old; n = 2sites) was very similar to isolated PF (n = 2 sites; similarity index [S_{MH}]: 0.87 ± 0.03). By contrast, the lowest similarity was between the 20-yr-old SF and the isolated PF (0.58 ± 0.03); these sites span the widest range in both isolation level (mainland vs. island) and age (20-yr vs.

PF). Similarity was higher between extensive PF sites and 20-yr-old SF (0.69 ± 0.03) than between extensive PF sites and the older, isolated 120-yr-old SF (0.61 ± 0.04). Mantel tests indicated that geographic distance among sites ($R^2 = 0.74$, P = < 0.001) explained a greater proportion of variation in species composition than forest age ($R^2 = 0.30$, P = < 0.05). Similar patterns were found for forest specialist species, except forest age was not a significant predictor of species composition (geographic distance: $R^2 = 0.66$, P = < 0.01; forest age: $R^2 = 0.21$, P =0.06).

The NMDS of abundance-based species composition (S_{MH}) across all bird species showed a separation of sites in relation to both forest age and isolation level (Fig. 6). Sites displayed a clear split along Axis 1 that related to site location (connected or isolated), while the age of forest sites tended to increase along Axis 2. The NMDS comparisons for forest specialists showed very similar patterns as those seen for all birds, as did the NMDS results for both datasets using S_J, although the effect of forest age became less apparent when restricting analyses to species presence/absence data (Fig. 6).

377 The permutational MANOVA using S_{MH} indicated that forest isolation level explained a 378 greater portion of the variation in community composition of all bird species than forest age or 379 forest type (SF vs PF; Table 2). Distance to extensive PF was not a significant predictor of 380 community composition. The permutational MANOVA using S_J for all birds showed very 381 similar results (Table 2). Season had a significant effect on community composition, but it did 382 not change the patterns observed for forest isolation, forest age or forest type, although distance 383 to extensive PF became significant (Table 2). Community composition of forest dependent 384 species (using S_{MH} or S_J) was largely dictated by forest connectivity. The same patterns were 385 found for forest specialists as the all-bird dataset when season was taken in to account (Table 2).

387	COMPOSITIONAL CHANGES The composition of the five most abundant bird species differed
388	across forest ages (Table S2). Only one species, Black-crowned Antshrike (Thamnophilus
389	atrinucha), was consistently abundant across all sites. Southern Bentbill (Oncostoma olivaceum)
390	was among the top five most abundant species in the youngest forest sites (20, 40 and 60-yr-old
391	SF), while Red-lored Amazon (Amazona autumnalis) appeared in the top five for both the
392	isolated and extensive PF, as well as the 90-yr-old SF. The five most abundant species in the
393	isolated and extensive PF, and the 90-yr-old SF exhibited a greater diversity of feeding guilds
394	and foraging strata than those found in the younger SF sites (Table S2).
395	We detected 15 species in isolated PF that we did not see in extensive PF, including
396	species such as Crested Guan (Penelope purpurascens) that are susceptible to hunting and
397	therefore extirpated from most mainland localities. By contrast, 44 species were detected in
398	extensive PF that were not seen in isolated PF. These were predominantly understorey,
399	insectivorous species, many of which have become extinct on BCI since its isolation (Robinson
400	1999, Willis 1974).
401	The number of migratory birds detected per point count was highest in the 20-yr-old SF
402	(0.533 ± 0.091) and declined with increasing SF age to only 0.078 ± 0.032 migrants detected per
403	point count in the 120-yr-old SF (Fig. S3). The number of migrants detected in PF sites was
404	about half the number detected in the 20-yr-old SF (island PF: 0.27 \pm 0.07; mainland PF: 0.29 \pm
405	0.06).
406	

DISCUSSION

410 Our survey data, sampled across tropical SF of varying ages and isolation levels revealed that 411 variation in avian species richness was best explained by connectivity to extensive PF, rather 412 than forest age. We found the highest species richness in the youngest SF sites, which were 413 adjacent to extensive PF. Similarly, connectivity, rather than the forest age, was the strongest 414 predictor of community composition. Finally, the highest bird population density was also found 415 in younger SF, although broader patterns in density did not appear to be driven by either forest 416 age or connectivity.

417

418 SPECIES RICHNESS, DIVERSITY AND DOMINANCE. - High species richness and abundance of birds 419 in SF or successional areas has been documented in many studies (Blake & Loiselle 2001, Johns 420 1991, Karr 1976, Petit & Petit 2003), supporting the hypothesis that intermediate levels of 421 disturbance may lead to high species richness (Connell 1978). In general, species richness in 422 younger SF is boosted by an influx of non-forest, open habitat and generalist species, although it 423 also may contain an important component of forest species (Barlow et al. 2007b, Dunn & 424 Romdal 2005). Most studies report that species richness and community structure of tropical 425 secondary forests progressively approaches that of PF over time, and tends to track the 426 increasing structural complexity of secondary forests (Raman 1998, Dent & Wright 2009). In our 427 study, however, species richness and abundance did not increase with forest age, and were 428 instead highest in the youngest SF even when non-forest bird species were removed. We also 429 found that species richness and abundance both increased with greater connectivity to extensive 430 PF, suggesting that high species richness in the 20-yr-old SF is driven by proximity to extensive 431 PF in adjacent Soberania National Park.

432 Proximity to undisturbed habitats has been shown to increase the diversity of bird 433 communities in degraded sites (Johns 1991, Terborgh & Weske 1969, Waltert et al. 2004). In La 434 Selva, Costa Rica, PF was the primary habitat and source population for many of the bird species 435 found in SF (Blake & Loiselle 2001). This pattern is supported by our findings, in which a 436 greater number of forest specialists were found in well-connected 20-yr-old SF, than in isolated 437 PF. In a landscape of mixed ages of SF and varying connectivity among forest patches, our 438 findings suggest that the key factor determining avian diversity is connectivity to extensive PF, 439 rather than forest age. Extinction and colonisation dynamics shape the avifaunas of forests within 440 this landscape, with potentially lower colonization rates in isolated forest sites, and greater 441 colonisation rates in regenerating forests that are sufficiently well connected to PF (Robinson 442 1999, Bradfer-Lawrence et al. 2018).

443

444 BIRD POPULATION DENSITY. - The density of birds in SF and PF varied across sites, with the 445 highest density estimates in the youngest SF, matching patterns previously reported for the 446 Neotropics (Blake & Loiselle 2001, Johns 1991, Karr 1976, Petit & Petit 2003). Earlier studies in 447 Soberania National Park have reported densities 2–3 times higher than our PF estimates (Van 448 Bael et al. 2013, Robinson et al. 2000). The disparity in figures may result from differing 449 methodologies, particularly the spot mapping and smaller point count radius used by previous 450 studies. By contrast, previous population density estimates for young SF (5–6-yr-old) from Agua 451 Salud were about 45 percent lower than estimated population densities from our surveys (20-yr-452 old), but comparable with our estimates from older SF (Van Bael et al. 2013). Higher population 453 density in younger forest may in part reflect increased detectability of some species, particularly 454 those associated with the forest canopy, which is harder to survey in PF (Robinson et al. 2018).

455 Our results may also reflect the increased resource availability of both fruit and insects often
456 found in younger SF (Blake & Loiselle 1991, Levey 1988, Martin 1985), which may encourage
457 birds from PF to use adjacent SF for foraging.

458

459 SIMILARITY TO PRIMARY FOREST. - Most studies comparing the similarity of avian species 460 composition between SF and PF report increasing similarity to PF with SF age (Borges 2007, 461 Dent & Wright 2009, Raman 1998). All our SF sites had high levels of compositional similarity 462 to PF, and upper figures were within the range of similarity found in extensive PF. In line with 463 our hypothesis, SF community composition became increasingly similar to that of isolated PF 464 across the chronosequence. However, SF community composition did not converge on that of 465 extensive mainland PF sites with increasing SF age. Similarly, there was no relationship between 466 SF age and the percentage of PF species detected: the highest percentage of PF species was 467 found in the youngest SF that, critically, was also the least isolated and most well-connected to 468 extensive PF.

469 Based on our findings, isolation plays a greater role than forest age in determining the 470 reassembly of bird communities in SF. Despite the persistence of high-stature PF forest on BCI, 471 many species have disappeared from the local community since it was isolated by the inundation of Lake Gatun (Robinson 1999, Willis 1974). While habitat size effects and isolation by water 472 473 have influenced patterns local extinction, they do not appear to drive our results since peninsula 474 sites have similar bird communities to the island PF, with relatively low species richness. By 475 contrast, bird communities in extensive mainland PF sites include forest specialists that have 476 been lost from both BCI and peninsula sites, and are unlikely to recolonise SF unless it is 477 contiguous with PF that harbours these species. In summary, SF avian communities are at least

478 partially dependent on contiguous PF source populations. If connected PF populations have low 479 species richness then SF will likely never develop the bird communities associated with 480 extensive PF forest stands (Ferraz et al. 2007, Jones et al. 2016, Stouffer et al. 2006). However, 481 if SF sites are adjacent to extensive PF, forest specialists may recolonise relatively rapidly. For 482 example, understorey insectivores increased in abundance just 10 yr after SF was abandoned 483 adjacent to PF in Amazonia (Andrade and Rubio-Torgler, 1994). Our findings highlight that 484 connectivity is critical for reassembly of avian communities in regenerating tropical forests 485 (Barlow et al. 2006, Lees & Peres 2009).

486

487 COMPOSITIONAL CHANGES. - Despite the key role of connectivity in determining avian 488 composition, forest age may still influence bird community reassembly, as demonstrated by the 489 increasing similarity of communities in older isolated SF to that of isolated PF. However, six 490 forest species present in isolated PF on BCI were missing from the adjacent 120-yr-old SF, 491 including the forest specialists Long-billed Gnatwren (Ramphocaenus melanurus), Rufous 492 Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*), Scaly-throated Leaftosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*), 493 Semiplumbeous Hawk (Leucopternis semiplumbeus), Spot-crowned Antvireo (Dysithamnus 494 puncticeps), and Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina). Conversely there were no forest 495 specialists detected in the 120-yr-old SF that were not also present in the isolated PF. Although 496 several studies report a high representation of PF species present in SF (> 70% of PF species), 497 SF communities often lack rare species, or those with highly specialised dietary or habitat 498 requirements (Chazdon et al. 2009, Dent & Wright 2009). 499 The loss of forest species from isolated sites across this landscape is striking, and is

500 especially evident when comparing isolated PF with extensive PF. BCI is a relatively large forest

501 fragment (1560 ha), but it has been isolated for > 100 yr and during this time numerous avian 502 extinctions have been documented (Chapman 1938, Eisenmann 1952, Karr 1990, 1982, 503 Robinson 1999, Willis & Eisenmann 1979); 65 species have been lost from the island, including 504 30 forest species and 35 edge species (Robinson 1999). Many of the forest species missing from 505 the PF sites on BCI are understorey insectivores such as Dusky Antbird (Cercomacroides 506 tyrannina), Ocellated Antbird (Phaenostictus mcleannani) and Black-faced Antthrush 507 (Formicarius analis). In addition, we only detected two of the ten species identified by Robinson 508 (1999) as forest birds that are close to extirpation on BCI: Black-tailed Trogon (Trogon 509 *melanurus*) and Rufous Piha (*Lipaugus unirufus*). The isolation of BCI within a large waterbody 510 makes recolonization by many forest species unlikely as they are poorly adapted to sustained 511 flight, and unwilling or incapable of dispersing across open water (Moore et al. 2008, Tobias et 512 al. 2013).

513 Species richness and relative abundance of migratory birds was highest in younger SF, 514 with numbers decreasing with increasing SF forest age. Similarly, Van Bael et al. (2013) found 515 more migrant species in SF (5–6-yr-old) than PF sites in central Panama (0.5 and 0.2 birds/point 516 count for SF and PF respectively). Migrant birds may occupy degraded and open habitats 517 because they are excluded from optimal habitats by resident species, or because they are better 518 able to adapt to the resources offered by SF (Greenberg et al. 1994, Willis 1980, Wunderle & 519 Latta 1996). Our results add to a growing body of evidence confirming that secondary and 520 degraded tropical forests are important habitats for migrant bird species (Van Bael et al. 2007, 521 Greenberg et al. 1994, 1997, Wunderle & Latta 1996).

It is possible that other aspects of community structure, such as functional and
phylogenetic composition, may be affected by forest age and connectivity (Bregman *et al.* 2016,

524 Pigot et al. 2016). For example, if SF provides a simplified range of structural and dietary 525 resources for roosting and foraging birds then young forests may not be able to support as many 526 closely related or functionally similar species, resulting in functional and phylogenetic over-527 dispersion (Bregman et al. 2016). In addition, isolation may increase functional and phylogenetic 528 clustering as certain groups are selected against due to their inability to cross gaps between forest 529 fragments (Bregman et al. 2016). Further studies are needed to clarify how forest successional 530 status and connectivity across the wider landscape interact to shape bird community 531 composition.

532

533 CAVEATS. – Our study design is limited by the historical and geographical features of the study 534 landscape, making it impossible to establish a fully replicated study within the different levels of 535 isolation and forest age (Denslow & Guzman 2000). Thus, some of the patterns detected may be 536 specific to the local context of water barriers associated with the Panama Canal. Nonetheless, 537 while further studies are now required to assess how far our conclusions can be generalised to 538 other tropical landscapes, we argue that the water barriers and detailed history of forest 539 regeneration in central Panama provide a valuable setting for testing the relative effects of 540 isolation and forest age on the conservation value of SF.

Effectively surveying birds across differing habitats remains a methodological challenge for studies such as ours (Buckland *et al.* 2008). We standardised survey effort at all sites at the risk of generating spurious differences in bird communities due to variation in detectability (Bregman *et al.* 2016, Robinson *et al.* 2018). For example, it is possible that estimates of species richness and population density in younger SF are inflated because (1) individual birds tend to be more detectable at forest edges and in lower-stature forests (Barlow *et al.* 2007b, Buckland *et al.*

547 2008, Ruiz-Gutiérrez et al. 2010) and (2) PF bird species may have been missed by our surveys 548 because they are relatively quiet, inactive, inconspicuous or occur at low population densities 549 (Terborgh et al. 1990, Robinson et al. 2018). To explore how detectability may have affected our 550 results, we compared our species counts to a dataset from a previous study surveying the same 551 extensive PF site with more intensive survey methods (including mist-netting), over a far longer 552 survey period, and across an expanded set of species (Robinson et al. 2000). Overall, Robinson 553 et al. (2000) reported an additional 132 species in the community. However, the majority (65%) 554 of these were either unavoidably or deliberately excluded from our study because they fall into 555 one of three categories: 1) nocturnal, vagrant or migratory species which are not core 556 components of the diurnal communities we studied (45%), 2) aerial species (e.g. swifts and 557 raptors) (15%), and 3) birds associated with aquatic landscape features (5%). Because of our 558 study aims, we did not survey species in the second and third categories, and indeed discounted all individual birds detected on waterbodies or in flight passing over the forest. Excluding these 559 560 species, 46 species from Robinson et al. (2000) were not observed, most of which are rare or 561 difficult to detect. While the absence of these 46 species from our censuses may underestimate 562 the importance of PF for conservation in our analysis, we note that this is a relatively minor 563 component of overall biodiversity and represents a small number of individual birds. Moreover, 564 increased surveying and mist-netting of our SF sites would no doubt also increase species 565 richness in SF by an unknown amount, thus we do not believe our main conclusions would be 566 altered by further surveying.

A separate issue relates to the breeding status or viability of populations of forest birds in younger SF. It has been hypothesised that populations of many PF bird species in SF may be non-viable, and therefore less important to conservation, because they are largely made up of (1)

transient individuals or (2) temporary territories with infrequent breeding and low breeding
success (Tobias *et al.* 2013). We cannot rule out this possibility based on our results, and more
research is needed to clarify population demography and viability in SF. However, the relatively
high population density of primary forest bird species in younger SF suggests that, at a
minimum, SF can greatly increase the population carrying capacity of adjacent PF, thus
increasing its importance for conservation.

576

577 CONCLUSIONS. - Our results suggest that the link between tropical bird communities and 578 successional trajectories differs between isolated and non-isolated SF sites; in isolated sites, bird 579 communities converge with isolated PF over time, whereas highly-connected SF sites converge 580 rapidly with extensive PF. In addition, we find evidence that SF, even when relatively young, 581 can support dense populations of PF species, so long as forests are connected to extensive PF. 582 Crucially, even if these populations are transitory, SF may theoretically increase the population 583 carrying capacity of PF, reducing the risk of local extinction. The importance of habitat 584 connectivity highlighted by our results is specifically relevant to tropical forests as species at 585 higher latitudes are often better adapted for survival in SFs or dispersal between patches of PF 586 (Stratford & Robinson 2005). These findings emphasise the importance of reforesting and 587 maintaining existing SF at the borders of extensive tropical forest, and highlight the need for 588 improved protection of SF in protected area buffer zones throughout the tropics.

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846 TABLES

- 848 TABLE 1. Approximate forest age, level of isolation, species richness, Shannon-Weiner
- 849 diversity index and dominance statistics for bird communities of ten secondary forest and four
- 850 primary forest sites in central Panama, for both forest specialists and all bird species.

				All Birds		Forest Specialists ^a					
Site	Age (yr)	Level of Isolation	Species richness	Shannon–Wiener index	Dominance (%)	Species richness	Shannon-Wiener index	Dominance (%)			
1	20	Connected	117	3.97	29.86	40	3.07	46.19			
2	20	Connected	113	4.03	27.65	37	3.01	49.22			
3	40	Isolated	84	3.63	36.75	26	2.72	54.55			
4	40	Isolated	90	3.73	38.01	25	2.75	53.67			
5	60	Isolated	76	3.61	37.16	25	2.83	50.00			
6	60	Isolated	89	3.73	34.35	30	2.93	45.21			
7	90	Connected	95	4.04	22.32	34	3.19	40.05			
8	90	Isolated	83	3.77	32.12	26	2.77	54.25			
9	120	Isolated	63	3.27	48.37	22	2.45	66.57			
10	120	Isolated	62	3.37	46.42	23	2.49	63.84			
11	Primary	Isolated	74	3.63	36.89	27	2.78	54.77			
12	Primary	Isolated	75	3.64	35.94	28	2.79	54.17			

13	Primary	Extensive	99	4.11	21.02	39	3.41	28.74
14	Primary	Extensive	96	3.95	25.13	38	3.20	39.87

852 ^a Forest Specialists: species that are scored as having high forest-dependence (BirdLife

853 International 2018).

855	TABLE 2. Permutational MANOVA results assessing species composition using community
856	similarity matrices generated with both Morisita-Horn abundance-based similarity index (S_{MH})
857	and Jaccard incidence-based similarity index (S _J). We tested observed differences between forest
858	age, isolation level (isolated or connected), forest type (SF or PF) and geographic distance to
859	extensive mainland PF. We also investigated the effect of season (wet or dry) on species

860 composition by conducting a perMANOVA at survey level.

			All E	Birds		Forest Specialists ^a						
		R^2	F	df	Р	R^2	F	df	Р			
	Forest isolation	0.15	9.12	1	< 0.01	0.18	6.28	1	< 0.05			
Shu	Forest age	0.13	7.80	1	< 0.01	0.02	0.84	1	ns			
ЗМН	Forest type (SF vs PF)	0.08	5.10	1	< 0.01	0.01	0.51	1	ns			
	Distance to extensive PF	0.02	1.35	1	ns	0.04	1.31	1	ns			
	Forest isolation	0.10	2.19	1	< 0.05	0.11	2.18	1	< 0.05			
S.	Forest age	0.11	2.42	1	< 0.05	0.07	1.37	1	ns			
IJ	Forest type (SF vs PF)	0.09	1.93	1	< 0.05	0.06	1.14	1	ns			
	Distance to extensive PF	0.06	1.29	1	ns	0.06	1.17	1	ns			
	Season (wet v. dry)	0.05	11.69	1	< 0.01	0.04	8.84	1	< 0.01			
	Forest isolation	0.03	7.45	1	< 0.01	0.05	9.38	1	< 0.01			
$S_{MH}{}^{b}$	Forest age	0.05 10.29 1 < 0.01 0.04 7.1		7.15	1	< 0.01						
	Forest type (SF vs PF)	0.03	6.30	1	< 0.01	0.02	5.35	1	< 0.01			
	Distance to extensive PF	0.03	5.69	1	< 0.01	0.02	3.56	1	< 0.05			

861 ^a Forest Specialists: species that are scored as having high forest-dependence (BirdLife

862 International 2018).

^bData analysed at survey level, with season included.

864 FIGURE LEGENDS

866	FIGURE 1. Map of the 14 study sites in central Panama. Sites are colour-coded by forest age (PF
867	= primary forest; SF = secondary forest). This area of central Panama is composed of a mosaic of
868	contiguous forest stands of different age interspersed among a matrix of water and agricultural
869	land. The main areas in which forest stands are embedded among other patches of forest (and
870	therefore difficult to discretely identify) are the Barro Colorado National Monument (BCNM),
871	including Barro Colorado Island (1,560 ha) and Gigante peninsulas (2,600 ha), Soberania
872	National Park (SNP) and surrounding contiguous forest (22,000 ha), including the Agua Salud
873	Project (ASP).
874	
875	FIGURE 2. Bird species richness by forest age, forest type, and degree of isolation from
876	extensive PF. "Forest Specialists" are species that are scored as having high forest-dependence
877	(BirdLife International 2018).
878	
879	FIGURE 3. Population density estimates and 95% confidence intervals for all bird species
880	(number of birds per hectare) using distance corrections. Species data has been pooled for the
881	two sites in each of seven forest age categories.
882	
883	FIGURE 4. Percentage of bird species detected in primary forest (PF) that were also detected in
884	secondary forest (SF) in five SF age categories for isolated PF sites and extensive PF sites.
885	Species data has been pooled for the two sites in each of seven forest age categories.
886	

FIGURE 5. Similarity (Morisita-Horn) between secondary forest sites (SF) and both isolated and extensive primary forest (PF). Each bar represents the mean similarity index (\pm 1 SE) between the two SF sites in each age category (20, 40, 60, 90 and 120 yr old) and the PF sites. Calculated using the all bird dataset.

891

FIGURE 6. Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) plots of bird communities in two
forest sites in each of five secondary forest (SF) age categories (20, 40, 60, 90, 120-yr-old), and
isolated primary forest (PF) and extensive PF. NMDS were generated using the Morisita-Horn
index (all birds stress = 0.07; forest specialists stress = 0.08) and Jaccard index (all birds stress =
0.07; forest specialists stress = 0.06). Isolation levels are represented by different symbols.
"Forest Specialists" are species that are scored as having high forest-dependence (BirdLife
International 2018).

899

FIGURE S1: Species accumulation curves scaled by (A) sample and (B) by number of individual
birds detected for bird communities in each of five secondary forest (SF) age categories: 20, 40,

902 60, 90, 120-yr-old, and isolated primary forest (PF) and extensive PF for all birds.

903

904 FIGURE S2: Species accumulation curves scaled by (A) sample and (B) by number of individual

birds detected for bird communities in each of five secondary forest (SF) age categories: 20, 40,

906 60, 90, 120-yr-old, and isolated primary forest (PF) and extensive PF for forest specialists.

907 "Forest Specialists" are species that are scored as having high forest-dependence (BirdLife908 International 2018).

- 910 FIGURE S3. Mean number of migratory birds detected per point count (±1 SE), from 126
- 911 locations.

912 FIGURES



913

914 FIGURE 1.















931 FIGURE 6.

932 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

- 934 TABLE S1: Bird species list from our surveys in central Panama, with ecological classifications
- 935 used in analyses and species presence/absence in sites.

	ies	ist ^b	Site °													
Scientific Name	Migrant Spec	Forest Special	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Tinamus major	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crypturellus soui	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penelope purpurascens	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Ortalis cinereiceps	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Odontophorus gujanensis ^a	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Patagioenas speciosa	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Patagioenas cayennensis	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Patagioenas nigrirostris	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Geotrygon montana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Leptotila verreauxi	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leptotila cassinii	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Columbina talpacoti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Claravis pretiosa	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyctibius griseus ^a	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chordeiles minor ^a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Nyctidromus albicollis	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Antrostomus rufus	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florisuga mellivora	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Phaethornis striigularis	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Phaethornis longirostris	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Heliothryx barroti	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thalurania colombica	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Amazilia tzacatl	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amazilia amabilis	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lepidopyga coeruleogularis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juliamyia julie	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dromococcyx phasianellus	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piaya cayana	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Aramides cajaneus	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulsatrix perspicillata	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Leptodon cayanensis	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elanoides forficatus	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harpagus bidentatus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Buteogallus anthracinus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buteogallus urubitinga	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pseudastur albicollis	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leucopternis semiplumbeus	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Buteo nitidus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Buteo platypterus	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buteo albonotatus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Trogon massena	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Trogon melanurus	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Trogon chionurus	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Trogon caligatus	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Trogon rufus	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Momotus subrufescens	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baryphthengus martii	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electron platyrhynchum	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Notharchus hyperrhynchus	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Notharchus pectoralis	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malacoptila panamensis	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ramphastos ambiguus	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ramphastos sulfuratus	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pteroglossus torquatus	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Campephilus melanoleucos	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Celeus loricatus	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hylatomus lineatus	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Melanerpes pucherani	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Melanerpes rubricapillus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Micrastur mirandollei	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Micrastur semitorquatus	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1

Falco rufigularis	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brotogeris jugularis	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pyrilia haematotis	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pionus menstruus	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Amazona autumnalis	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Amazona farinosa	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Microrhopias quixensis	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Epinecrophylla fulviventris	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Myrmotherula ignota	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Myrmotherula axillaris	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysithamnus puncticeps	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Cymbilaimus lineatus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Taraba major	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thamnophilus atrinucha	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cercomacroides tyrannina	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Phaenostictus mcleannani	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Gymnopithys bicolor	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Hylophylax naevioides	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poliocrania exsul	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Myrmeciza longipes	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hylopezus perspicillatus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Formicarius analis	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sclerurus mexicanus	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sclerurus guatemalensis	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Deconychura typica	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sittasomus griseus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dendrocincla fuliginosa	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Glyphorynchus spirurus	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Xiphorhynchus susurrans	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lepidocolaptes souleyetii	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Xenops genibarbis	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Automolus ochrolaemus	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Manacus vitellinus	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ceratopipra mentalis	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lepidothrix coronata	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Querula purpurata	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lipaugus unirufus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Onychorhynchus coronatus	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terenotriccus erythrurus	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tityra semifasciata	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Pachyramphus polychopterus ^a	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schiffornis veraepacis	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Platyrinchus coronatus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mionectes oleagineus	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Cnipodectes subbrunneus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rhynchocyclus aequinoctialis	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tolmomyias sulphurescens	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tolmomyias assimilis	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Myiornis atricapillus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Oncostoma olivaceum	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Todirostrum nigriceps	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zimmerius vilissimus	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ornithion brunneicapillus	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Camptostoma obsoletum	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyrannulus elatus	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Myiopagis gaimardii	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Myiopagis viridicata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Attila spadiceus	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Legatus leucophaius	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pitangus sulphuratus	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Megarynchus pitangua	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Myiodynastes maculatus	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Myiozetetes cayanensis	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Myiozetetes similis	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tyrannus melancholicus	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rhytipterna holerythra	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Myiarchus tuberculifer	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Myiarchus crinitus	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Empidonax virescens	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Contopus cooperi	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contopus virens	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Vireolanius pulchellus	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tunchiornis ochraceiceps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Pachysylvia decurtata	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pachysylvia aurantiifrons	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vireo olivaceus	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Microbates cinereiventris	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ramphocaenus melanurus	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Polioptila plumbea	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Microcerculus marginatus	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pheugopedius fasciatoventris	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Thryophilus rufalbus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cantorchilus leucotis ^a	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cantorchilus nigricapillus	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henicorhina leucosticta	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hylocichla mustelina	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Turdus grayi	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euphonia luteicapilla	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euphonia laniirostris	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Euphonia fulvicrissa	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Euphonia minuta	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhodinocichla rosea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Arremonops conirostris	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arremon aurantiirostris	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amblycercus holosericeus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Psarocolius wagleri	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Cacicus microrhynchus	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cacicus cela	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Icterus chrysater	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parkesia noveboracensis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mniotilta varia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Leiothlypis peregrina	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Setophaga ruticilla	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Setophaga castanea	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Setophaga pensylvanica	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Cyanoloxia cyanoides	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Habia fuscicauda	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Habia carmioli ^a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Piranga rubra	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Chlorophanes spiza	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cyanerpes cyaneus	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Cyanerpes lucidus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Dacnis cayana	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Saltator grossus	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Eucometis penicillata	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Islerothraupis luctuosa	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chrysocorypha delatrii	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tangara palmarum	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tangara inornata	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0

^aSpecies detected only in encounters, and not in fixed radius point counts.

938 ^b Forest Specialists: species that are scored as having high forest-dependence (BirdLife

939 International 2018).

^o Site details: 1 and 2 = mainland 20-yr-old SF; 3 and 4 = peninsula 40-yr-old SF; 5 and 6 =

941 peninsula 60-yr-old SF; 7 = mainland 90-yr-old SF; 8 = island 90-yr-old SF; 9 and 10 = island

942 120-yr-old SF; 11 and 12 = island PF; 13 and 14 = mainland PF.

943	TABLE S2	. Most abundant	bird species	s in each f	orest age cat	egory in (Central Panama	and their
			1		<u> </u>	<u> </u>		

⁹⁴⁴ primary foraging substrate, recurring guild and forest specialist statu	944	primary foraging	substrate,	feeding	guild and	forest specialist state	ıs.
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Forest age	Scientific name	No. individuals	% of all observations	Foraging Height ^a	Feeding Guild ^b	Forest Specialist ^c
	Oncostoma olivaceum	155	5.9	L	Ι	0
20	Thamnophilus atrinucha	154	5.8	L	Ι	0
(n = 2640)	Cercomacroides tyrannina	140	5.3	L	Ι	0
individuals)	Ramphocaenus melanurus	104	3.9	L	Ι	1
	Poliocrania exsul	99	3.8	L	Ι	1
	Thamnophilus atrinucha	248	11.1	L	Ι	0
40	Pachysylvia decurtata	183	8.2	M/U	Ι	0
(n = 2239	Xiphorhynchus susurrans	121	5.4	L	Ι	0
individuals)	Oncostoma olivaceum	115	5.1	L	Ι	0
	Tyrannulus elatus	107	4.8	L/M	Ι	0
	Thamnophilus atrinucha	264	11.9	L	Ι	0
60	Pachysylvia decurtata	169	7.6	M/U	Ι	0
(n = 2223	Xiphorhynchus susurrans	108	4.9	L	Ι	0
individuals)	Poliocrania exsul	101	4.5	L	Ι	1
	Oncostoma olivaceum	93	4.2	L	Ι	0
90	Pachysylvia decurtata	161	6.4	M/U	Ι	0

(n = 2534)	Poliocrania exsul	151	6	L	Ι	1
individuals)	Amazona autumnalis	133	5.2	U	F	0
	Thamnophilus atrinucha	115	4.5	L	Ι	0
	Xiphorhynchus susurrans	100	3.9	L	Ι	0
	Thamnophilus atrinucha	299	13.9	L	Ι	0
120	Poliocrania exsul	203	9.4	L	Ι	1
(n = 2149	Pachysylvia decurtata	162	7.5	M/U	Ι	0
individuals)	Xiphorhynchus susurrans	149	6.9	L	Ι	0
	Hylophylax naevioides	134	6.2	L	Ι	1
	Amazona autumnalis	272	9.3	U	F	0
PF (isolated)	Thamnophilus atrinucha	243	8.3	L	Ι	0
(n = 2922	Poliocrania exsul	237	8.1	L	Ι	1
individuals)	Pachysylvia decurtata	221	7.6	M/U	Ι	0
	Hylophylax naevioides	135	4.6	L	Ι	1
	Amazona autumnalis	159	6.6	U	F	0
PF (extensive)	Thamnophilus atrinucha	129	5.4	L	Ι	0
(n = 2391	Pachysylvia decurtata	119	5	M/U	Ι	0
individuals)	Microrhopias quixensis	91	3.8	L/M	Ι	1
	Zimmerius vilissimus	72	3	С	0	0

945	^a Foraging height, classified using information in Ridgely & Gwynne (1989): L = "lower levels"
946	(from ground to about 10 feet above the ground); $M =$ "middle levels" (from about 10 to 30 feet

947 above the ground); U = "upper levels" (everything above 30 feet including the canopy); C =

- 948 "only canopy" (the very top layer of the forest, within about 10ft of the upper level of leaves
- 949 only).
- 950 ^bFeeding Guild, classified using information in Wilman *et al.* (2014): F = frugivore; I =
- 951 insectivore; O = omnivore.
- 952 ^c Forest Specialist: species that are scored as having high forest-dependence (BirdLife
- 953 International 2018).
- 954









963 FIGURE S3.