



Project: Owls in agroecosystems: how can they help in conserving biodiversity?

**In association with Anahi Formoso,
PhD (IPEEC CONICET)**

by Vitor Zanelatto

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Report 1

The first days of the Darwin200 expedition in Puerto Madryn were intense and full of discoveries in the midst of the city's coastal ecosystem. The anthropogenic activities inherent to the city and the port share space with sea lions, birds, crabs, jellyfish and various species of algae, showing significant biodiversity and, at the same time, the resilience and vulnerability of the species when living in an area with many disturbances and sources of pollution.

In addition to visiting strategic points in the city to analyze the species and the environment where I will work with the research project specialist, I dedicated time to study the project's bibliographic references and articles, dedicated to understanding the importance of owls to ecosystems. As top predators, these birds have the potential to contribute to the control of native and exotic species that reproduce on an alarming scale in anthropized environments, especially rodents. One owl family can remove about 3,466 rodents in a year.

In this way, the interest of the research project "Owls in agroecosystems: how can they help in conserving biodiversity?" is to understand which species of owl live in the region, the conditions of the habitat and the ecological niche, the role played through food capture and the challenges for the stability of populations in anthropized environments.

The work was carried out in partnership with Dr. Anahi Formoso, a researcher at the Patagonian Institute for the Study of Continental Ecosystems (IPEEC CONICET), who helped design an action plan: field observation activities were carried out in Puerto Madryn and Trelew (Chubut Province, Patagonia, Argentina), analysis of pellets collected in the terrestrial mammal laboratory of the IPEEC CONICET.



References

JOHNSON, Matthew D.; GEORGE, Dane St.. Estimating the Number of Rodents Removed by Barn Owls Nesting in Boxes on Winegrape Vineyards. Proceedings Of The Vertebrate Pest Conference, [s. l], v. 29, p. 1-8, 2020. UC Agriculture & Natural Resources. Disponível em: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4jj7r78x>. Access in: 13 dez. 2023.

FORMOSO, Anahi. Owls in agroecosystems: how can they help in conserving biodiversity? Puerto Madryn: 2023. Not published.

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