

Abstract

The size and the stability of avian territories are at first sight quite different in the tropics if compared to the temperate zone. Territories of tropical birds are relatively more stable in time and space. Their owners defend territories year-round, between years and the boundaries of territories remain unchanged. Tropical territories are also many times larger in size. These specific properties are conditioned by many interconnected factors. The size of the owner and food availability have a significant influence. The size of the territory increases with the size of the owner. And the owner reduces territory size with a higher food supply. It is food availability, which is closely related to the quality of the environment. Generally, the density of individuals is lower in lower quality areas. Thus, owners adapt their territories – increase size. This is especially interesting in the tropics, considering that there is much higher species richness and lower population density than in the temperate area. Differences in territory can also occur due to different altitudes – there are larger territories in tropical montane cloud forest. Also, the location in the area and potential barriers have influence, but rather in position than in a size. Studying these factors explains the differences in tropical territories and can reveal interesting findings that are not yet known due to the much prevalent work in temperate areas.

Keywords: territory, territory size, home range, tropics, birds, seasonality