Hi All

It was good to meet you on Friday and I hope that it left you feeling enthusiastic about the project and not daunted at the prospect. As I said in the meeting, it would be great to have a system in place to trial, even if it doesn’t cover everything at this stage. Whatever you are able to achieve in the allotted time. Once you guys have gotten going we can discuss data output formats – the bare minimum that we would hope to have and the “pie in the sky” level. Hopefully you guys could get somewhere in the middle.

I've attached some (not brilliant) pictures that should hopefully give you a better idea of distance and scale of the hoppers and their positions in the clearing. As mentioned, the echos use both the plastic j-shape hoppers designed for them and the metal pigeon hoppers at both sites.

BO is Bel Ombre, the southern site. The field station is heavily shaded, with little to no power and is situated down a steep hill about 100m away from the echo aviaries. There are no external echo hoppers at this site, food is only provisioned in the aviary.

CA is Camp, the northern site. There is a large clearing with echo and pigeon aviaries and hoppers clustered in it, along with a well-equipped, solar powered field station. They were also trialling an internet connection from here but I'm not sure where they are with that.

Both sites have a weather station box that resembles a beehive. This could be used as a weatherproof area to house a receiver if required. This may be more helpful in the south. A manual download is absolutely fine if transmission to  central repository isn’t possible. Battery charging is fine as an option. Solar is good too. All parts need to be robust enough to either be dumped in a barrel of liquid for disinfection, or easily removed from the hoppers so that they can avoid submersion.

Other useful info - The echos weigh about 150 - 170g but the pigeons are about 350g. If a camera system is also installed to snap a picture of an individual as it lands on a feeding station then it's probably best to make the supporting arm for the camera able to support the pigeon weight. They are a bit thick and will land on anything, whether it can support them or not. They will do this repeatedly.

It would be ideal if we could have a system that is easily repaired by people who are not computer scientists. We would really appreciate the production of a basic user manual with a dummies guide to troubleshooting.

Thanks and give me a shout if you have any other questions. If I have gotten any of the email addresses wrong then please can you pass this on to the person/people that have been left out and cc me in so that I get it right for next time.

Cheers,

Debbie