

20,000 birds, online!

Using solar-powered Axis cameras, Ubiavis, an environmental preservation organization, offers live online video of wild birds in Northern Chile.



Organization:

Ubiavis

Location:

Arica, Chile

Industry segment:

Other

Application:

Bird monitoring and wetlands security

Mission

There are 475 bird species in Chile, which makes the country the perfect destination for ornithology enthusiasts. In the Lluta River Wetlands alone, about 35% of the nation's bird species are known to nest.

The goal of Ubiavis has been to give the user a new tool for bird watching from the comfort of home, and it has overcome several challenges in order to offer comprehensive, high-quality imagery online.

Solution

The company chose to install AXIS Q6045-E MKII Network Cameras with a remote access system that allows for the observation of the diverse species that visit the Lluta River Wetlands, and it created an interactive website where ornithologists from all over the world can connect with each another.

This next-generation PTZ dome camera – specifically designed for outdoor use and harsh environments – provides a wide-area view 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in 1080p HD quality with 32x optical zoom capability.

Result

The main benefits for bird lovers are the ability to observe live online video featuring some of the 140 species of the Lluta River Wetlands Sanctuary – from wherever on earth they are located – and to be able to fully control the camera view from their computer, zoom in and out, capture photos and create a totally personalized experience. All that any bird lover needs to do is register at www.ubiavis.com, where users can pay a one-dollar fee to gain control of the camera for 15 minutes.

“The municipality of Arica views us as potential strategic partners and if this results in better care and protection of wild birds in the sanctuary, we’re more than happy to collaborate. Our plan is to add more cameras so we don’t need to have a waiting list and so that more bird lovers are able to enjoy this experience.”

Julio Silva, Entrepreneur & Founder of Ubiavis.

The Birds of Land's End

Chile is among the Latin American countries with a huge bird population; according to the Chilean Union of Ornithologists, the country has over 460 species representing “almost 5% of known species worldwide.” And although the birds have sufficient mobility, there are some species that have lived solely in this country, classifying them as native.

In the north near Arica you will find the Lluta River Wetlands, with over 370,000 square feet protected as a nature sanctuary. This natural reserve is home to over 20,000 birds – with 1.4% of the population being white shorebirds and 1.8% curlews that winter in this area. It also hosts two native South American shorebird species: the Bighead Plover and Royal Lapwing.

Prior to it becoming popular with millions of bird enthusiasts worldwide, Julio Silva, manager of Ubiavis, was simply seeking a way to “visit” the Lluta River Wetlands without having to actually travel there. With years of prior experience in the fishing industry, Silva was already familiar with Axis cameras and their associated video surveillance solutions.

After contacting Axis, and in conjunction with Axis' local team, they found a way to provide care for the wetlands. For the task, they chose AXIS Q6045-E MKII cameras, a next-generation PTZ dome style designed for large outdoor areas. The cameras also deliver 1080 HD quality and 32x optical zoom capability that allows for image magnification while maintaining a high level of detail.

The cameras are also protected from dust, rain and snow, and can operate in temperatures ranging from -58°F to 122°F, achieving “Arctic” temperature control that guarantees reliability in extreme temperatures.

Implementation was launched with the support of CORFO, a government agency that supports entrepreneurship and innovation in order to improve productivity in Chile, and it has enabled people from countries such as Russia, Poland and Israel to virtually visit the wetlands. The camera installation is powered by solar panels that were situated away from sensitive areas for minimal environmental impact.

With these Axis cameras it's possible to monitor in the wild and view online some 20,000 shorebirds living in the area. This attention contributes to the preservation of the wetlands, while the approximately 60 million fans of bird watching estimated globally can enjoy remote visiting access that doesn't cause any disturbance to wildlife.

The project is highly important considering the vast amount of wetlands on the planet. As a result of the Ramsar Convention, a treaty that promotes the conservation and environmentally-friendly use of wetlands, there are now more than 2,200 Ramsar protected sites worldwide. Wetlands serve as hotbeds of biodiversity, sources of water and sustenance that numerous plant and animal species depend on for survival.

In the future, Mr. Silva, founder of Ubiavis, hopes that a greater number of people can enjoy wildlife no matter where on the planet they are located, via streaming video, and work has already begun in conjunction with Axis to find the best way to achieve this.

Additional benefits of the system have come about in conversation with municipal authorities – who are interested in taking advantage of this installation to support municipal security in the wetlands – such as reducing the impact of fishing or something as simple as taking a photograph in the area.

