

COSTA RICA Bird Banding Scheme

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Background

- The history of Costa Rica banding began on 70's with F. G. Stiles who conduct banding projects for 20 years.
- In 1994 a long term monitoring started with the Tortuguero Integrated Bird Monitoring Program.
- Our principal objective is to avoid data loss from any banding and census efforts across the country and make the data available for research and decision making.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE BIRD BANDING NETWORK

Red de Anillamiento de Aves del Hemisferio Occidental

The Purpose

To implement a fully interactive Costa Rican Bird Monitoring Network, emphasizing constant-effort mist-netting through the organization Red de Anilladores de Aves de Costa Rica. This goal is ambitious and exciting, but quite doable, with the players in place, the quality training well underway, and the materials being made available.

Objectives we adopted in 2007:

- Hold one meeting of the Network by September 2008
- Arrange free bands for resident birds by July 2008
- Have a North American Banding Council certification session by November 2008
- Recruit at least 20 Network members trained in following a standardized constant-effort protocol
- Arrange bands at no cost for resident birds by April 2009
- By April 2009 have a minimum of 10 stations contributing data to LaMNA (Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas)
- Have a home location through a NGO with good infrastructure in Costa Rica for distribution of bands.

Establishment of the CR Banding Network



Projects to date

- Nine banding stations established, 30+ netting sites.
- Lack of banding stations in the north side of the country.
- 10.000 Resident bands have been distributed
- ~15.000 banded birds (residents and migrants) per year
- ~250-300 bird species per year.

Partnerships

- We have established an agreement between US Forest Service, Klamath Bird Observatory and the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio). INBio, located in San Jose, has agreed to serve as host for the Costa Rican banding scheme. INBio is a center for the research and management of the biodiversity, established in 1989.
- The Network members not only include organizations with

monitoring projects, it also includes conservation initiatives as: INBio, US Forest Service, Klamath Bird Observatory, CATIE, San Vito Bird Club, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Asociacion Ornitologica de Costa Rica, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Partners in Flight, National Aviary, Kekoldi, Stanford University, among others.

Bands

- With the support of Porzana and The Wetland Trust who donated 40.000 bands, the Costa Rica Banding System was able to freely distribute bands across the country.
- Resident bands (7 sizes, 2.0-5.25 mm), plus hummingbird bands. The bands has the inscription: www.avescr.org with the size letter and the unique number.
- Migrants are banded mostly with USGS bands

Communications

- Website. www.avescr.org includes information on how to obtain research permits and bands, various protocols (such as the North American Banding Council manuals), as well as various articles, etc.
- Using a List-Serv, we have established communication between members.
- Established a web Forum on a webpage to broadly communicate.

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Capacity building

- In 2008 representatives for many monitoring projects in Costa Rica met in the highlands at Madre Selva in the Cerro de la Muerte to begin the discussions towards more coordinated long-term monitoring initiatives in the country.

We have established three training facilities (at Tortuguero, INBio and Madre Selva) where people continuously receive banding training throughout the year.

Data management

- A band administration database developed by the US Forest Service's Redwood Sciences Laboratory and PRBO Conservation Science that easily allows management of permits, band inventory and contacts.
- The banding data are submitted to the Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMNA)

Permits

- The Costa Rica Bird Banding Network does not issue permits, we only give bands to projects that have a research permit from the government that has a bird banding component.

Challenges ahead

- Data reporting: is complicated and remain as a challenge as banders are slow in reporting banding
- Funding: We can use increased funding to build capacity through banding courses and to promote the Network.
- The quality of data and safety of the birds is a principal component of the our banding scheme.
- Increased communication for the integration of different projects and initiatives throughout the country.