

## REPORT OF THE “SECOND WESTERN HEMISPHERE BIRD BANDING NETWORK WORKSHOP”

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THE SECOND WORKSHOP of the Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network was a pre-activity of the 16th meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) and was held at the Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico.

### ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE FIRST WORKSHOP

Achievements since the first workshop in October 2006 in Veracruz, Mexico (NAOC meeting) include:

1. Established commitment to support a network of communication, coordination, and collaboration across the Western Hemisphere.
2. First banding program managers joined the network, from Canada, Colombia, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United States.
3. Designated a chair for the network: Maria Isabel Moreno of PROAVES-Colombia.
4. Determined a name: Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network.
5. Committed to having follow up workshops in 2007 (Neotropical Ornithological Congress or SCSCB) and in 2008 (International Partners in Flight).
6. Put results of Workshop #1 on a website.

### GOALS

The goals of the second workshop were to:

1. Identify additional contact persons across the Caribbean.
2. Add more program managers to the network.
3. Identify what information to put onto the web site.
4. Understand the status of banding programs and banding program communication collaboration and coordination in the Caribbean.

### RESULTS

The results of the second workshop include:

1. Engaged more individuals, mostly from the Caribbean: Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Bermuda, Spain, Colombia, Puerto Rico, “Optics for

the Tropics” (Florida), and Guadeloupe.

2. Added one more program manager to the network: Anthony Levesque from Guadeloupe.

3. When asked “what are the important Caribbean regional issues for which banding can help answer questions?,” responses included: seabirds; longevity of island species; climate change; and survival and productivity (constant effort).

4. Learned that most of the requested needs are about establishing banding program capabilities.

5. Learned that there are few banding programs in the Caribbean and very little communication between banding programs.

The six topics covered in workshop #1 were covered during workshop #2, and in so doing, added a seventh, and incorporated one of the original topics (bander training) under a larger issue (capacity building):

1. Capacity building became a new topic incorporating bander training, organizational support, and partnerships.
2. Permit issues.
3. Bander ethics and bird safety.
4. Band and marking issues.
5. Encounter/recovery reporting.
6. Data management and sharing.
7. Mechanisms for communication.

After extensive discussion, we developed some action items for each of the seven topics.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Create a list of resources available for training (materials) and a list of individuals with the capacity to train people. This information can be posted on the WHBBN webpage.
2. Need to designate a person to create the list.

### PERMIT ISSUES

1. Create a list of country-specific contacts for permitting issues (scientific research purposes); Ellen Paul is a great contact. This information can be posted on the WHBBN webpage.
2. Need to designate a person to create the list.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND SHARING

1. Talk to Cornell folks regarding capacity for data sharing and data management.
2. List of all program databases and software they use, along with links to databases if on-line.
3. Need to designate a person to create list.

BANDER ETHICS AND BIRD SAFETY

1. We need to take the different codes of ethics and merge them, then put them on the webpage or circulate them so that people can peruse them before hand.
2. Person responsible: Jill Deppe by November 2007.
3. Need to designate a person to create the list of contacts for reporting.

ENCOUNTER / RECOVERY REPORTING

1. On the webpage, list all potential contacts for reporting data. This would be a short-term solution to what to do with recovery information; a long-term solution might be to establish an international website.
2. U. S. Geological Survey–Bird Banding Labora-

tory (USGS-BBL) can generate this list of contacts by February 2008.

BAND AND MARKING ISSUES

1. Develop an inventory of band series already in use.
2. Need a person to develop the band inventory already in use.

MECHANISMS FOR COMMUNICATION

1. Recommend “RAAHO” as the acronym (WHBBN in Spanish = RAAHO). Send a note out to everybody and ask if they are happy with RAAHO; if not, they should suggest another name. RAAHO.net, RAAHO.org, and RAAHO.com are available according to godaddy.com.
2. Set up list-serve.
3. Responsible: Maria Isabel (PROAVES).
5. Two main needs for RAAHO web site: to establish a list serve, and to establish a stand-alone RAAHO home page.
5. Need to plan now for Workshop #3 on 13 February 2008 in McAllen, Texas.