

Western Bird Banding Association Grants for 2009

The Western Bird Banding Association offers two \$1,000 grants each year, one for research and the other for monitoring, for individuals and/or organizations engaged in projects in the New World using marked birds. Eight research and three monitoring proposals were received for consideration in 2009 for projects across the US and in Mexico, South America, and the Caribbean. The proposals receiving the grant awards are listed in the next column.

Monitoring

Award Recipient: Adam Hannuksela,
Alamos Wildlands Alliance

Title of Proposal: Wintering Passerine Bird
Community Distribution and Species Richness in
Southern Sonora Mexico

Project summary: Migratory bird populations have shown declines in recent decades. In southwestern Sonora, Mexico, a rare habitat known as el Pitayal is a wintering area for migratory birds of western North America. This habitat is relatively understudied and faces numerous threats. Since 2007, The Alamos Wildlands Alliance has been developing an assessment and monitoring program designed to help fill gaps in knowledge concerning wintering bird communities and to identify species and habitats in need of conservation. Specific objectives are: 1) Measure and describe the plant communities in three different habitat types, 2) determine survival rates of resident and migratory bird species, and 3) ascertain the relationships of bird communities to vegetation structure within coastal thornscrub. Outreach to school children and local people are also a part of the monitoring effort. A Mexican national is employed as a biologist to assist with monitoring. Continued monitoring in this ecosystem will provide valuable information concerning the avifauna of a rare habitat.

Research

Award Recipient: Leo R. Douglas, American
Museum of Natural history

Title of Proposal: Studying the Effect of Parrot-
Citrus Frugivory on Citrus Frugivory and Habitat

Quality of Bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*) on the
Island of Dominica, and Training for Local
Researchers in Mist Netting and Banding Techniques

Project Summary: Species that are involved
in wildlife-agriculture conflicts can have a profound
influence on ecological community structure and
function. On the island of Dominica, *Amazona*
parrots are important causes of crop losses for farmers
of citrus. In some areas parrot frugivory produces
large quantities of partially opened/eaten citrus fruits
that provide a readily available food resource for
passerine birds. The current study aims to determine
whether and how parrot frugivory of citrus fruits
influences habitat quality and reproductive condition
of passerines within citrus agriculture landscapes on
the island. Additionally, this project will provide
targeted training in the methods of bird monitoring
for a graduate of the Dominica State College, the
island's only state managed institution of higher
learning, and members of the Division of Forestry,
Wildlife, and Parks, of the Ministry of Agriculture
and institutionalizing the research methods necessary
for avian-agriculture conflict research within these
institutions.

Klamath Bird Observatory Banding in 2009

Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) continued its
comprehensive, long-term bird monitoring program
in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of northern
California and southern Oregon in 2009 in pursuit of
our mission to advance bird and habitat conservation
through science, education, and partnerships. This
report provides a brief summary of 2009 banding
efforts which included tissue sampling, nocturnal
bioacoustical monitoring, technical training, and
banding-associated outreach and education efforts.

KBO operated 15 banding stations and a single one-
day banding public demonstration. We continued
efforts at 11 stations that have been operated for 10 or
more years and four sites operated three or fewer
years. Combined capture totals from 293 banding
efforts at the 16 locations totaled 11,018 birds of 101
species captured during 14,510 net hours.

The ten most numerous captured species were Dark-