

Birds Without Borders – *Aves Sin Fronteras*[®] Update (September 24, 2007)

Thank you for your interest in the Birds Without Borders – *Aves Sin Fronteras*[®] (BWB-ASF) project of the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. (FWC) and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). I would like to update you on the status of the project.

We are very excited about all that we've achieved since our last update. Here are some highlights of our 2006-2007 accomplishments.

1. We have completed the Belize Landowner Recommendations manual (*The Birds Without Borders – Aves Sin Fronteras*[®] *Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds (Belize and Mesoamerica edition)*). It was posted on the ZSM Web site as a free downloadable PDF in January 2007 and printed in Belize in February 2007. We are very proud of this beautiful, 106-page manual summarizing the results of seven years of BWB-ASF research in Belize and listing many tips on how landowners and land managers can help birds. The BWB-ASF Belize staff is distributing the manual throughout Belize to landowners, schools, conservation organizations, farmers and tour guides. To view or download the manual please go to <http://www.zoosociety.org/bzlandowner>. We have a limited number of copies of the Belize manual to distribute in the U.S. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Project Assistant Kari Williams at (414) 276-0339 or kariw@zoosociety.org.

We announced the manual's availability online on the listserv for Neotropical ornithologists (NEOORN-L) and a number of ornithology newsletters. Response has been very positive, and we sent copies to ten other countries: Canada, Great Britain, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

The National Coordinator for U.S. Partners in Flight contacted us regarding the Belize landowner recommendations manual. He asked if our manual could be used as a model and adapted by the Partners in Flight Mesoamerican Working Group for use in other Latin American countries. We were honored and, of course, agreed. Discussions on this continue.

2. In order to reach a wider audience in Belize (and Mesoamerica) with the message of bird conservation, we summarized a portion of the manual in a brochure. The brochure, titled "Saving Birds Helps Us All," briefly describes our project and lists 10 ways birds help you and 10 ways you can help birds. The brochure is also posted online as a free download at: <http://www.zoosociety.org/bzlandowner>.

3. We had two additional papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, making a total of seven papers published to date on our Belize research. (We've also published one paper based on our Wisconsin bird banding methods.) You can view the list and download our publications and the abstracts of our presentations at <http://www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/list.php>.

4. In March 2007, I evaluated our Belize staff in bird banding and identification of birds by sight and sound. The staff received certificates of proficiency. We then turned over to them the majority of the ornithological work in Belize. We were very pleased, as one of our original goals was to train the Belize staff so that they could design and conduct further research independently and implement local conservation strategies.

5. We submitted our Belize data to the Biodiversity and Environmental Resource Data System of Belize and the Institute for Bird Populations to share with other researchers. We submitted some of our Pewaukee data to the Wisconsin DNR so that it could be tested in a new database.

6. We worked with Geographic Information Systems students from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to compile information on land use, habitats and population mapping for our three Wisconsin study sites (Pewaukee, Rosendale and Land O' Lakes).

Due to the popularity of the Belize landowner manual, we have decided to focus our efforts on completing the Wisconsin landowner manual. We are currently analyzing our research results and writing the manual. Our goal is to have it ready for distribution, both as a print copy and as a free download, on our Web site by fall 2008.

Again, thank you for your interest in the Birds Without Borders – *Aves Sin Fronteras*[®] project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (414) 276-0339 or by e-mail at vickip@zoosociety.org. To view some of the Belize and Wisconsin data on our Web site, please visit www.zoosociety.org and click on Conservation.

Vicki Piaskowski
International Coordinator
Birds Without Borders – *Aves Sin Fronteras*[®]