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Demographics of Resident and Migratory Bird Species in Central Belize

The Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin Fronteras project has been conducting avifaunal research at three different study sites in Belize since November 1997. Bird banding and censusing were conducted in five distinct habitat types, resulting in over 2,425 birds being banded. The White-collared seedeater and Ochre-bellied flycatcher were the Belize resident species banded in highest numbers, with 175 and 90 individuals banded respectively. Neotropical migrants banded in highest numbers were the Gray catbird (103 individuals) and Magnolia warbler (81 individuals). Reproductive success studies in Pine savanna habitat resulted in 288 nests of 37 species being found and monitored, with nests of the Fork-tailed flycatcher (51) and Yellow-bellied elaenia (33) found in highest numbers. Fixed-radius point counts were conducted along eleven transects representing different habitat types. Detailed vegetation measurements within the study sites served to correlate habitat data with avifaunal research results. Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin Fronteras project research has gathered important information on population size, trends, and demographic parameters of resident and migratory birds; as well as defining vegetation characteristics within specific habitats in Central Belize. We present the preliminary results of this five-year monitoring project.