

**244 • Breeding season bird banding in pine savanna habitats in Belize.** VICTORIA D. PLASKOWSKI, Zool. Soc. Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, OMAR A. FIGUEROA, WILBER MARTINEZ and MARIO TEUL, Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., Belize.

To learn more about the breeding biology of Neotropical bird species, we conducted bird banding based on the methods of Baillie (1990, *Ibis* 132: 151-156), Peach et al. (1996, *Bird Study* 43: 142-156) and Burton & DeSante (1998, **MAPS manual**. Inst. Bird Pop., Point Reyes Station., CA.) in pine savanna habitat at 2 sites in central Belize from Apr–Aug 1999–2002. Banding was conducted for 2 seasons at Site One and for 3 seasons at Site Two. Nets were operated for 2.5 to 4.2 hr each banding day. Numbers of birds banded and species composition varied between years at each site. At Site One, 174 birds of 46 species (18.8 birds/100-net-hr) were banded; the species banded in highest numbers were the *Myiarchus tyrannulus*, *Elaenia flavogaster* and *Sporophila torqueola*. At Site Two, 351 birds of 46 species (29.8 birds/100-net-hr) were banded; the species banded in highest numbers were the *Sporophila torqueola*, *Elaenia flavogaster* and *Volatinia jacarina*. 41 birds (24%) of 20 species banded at Site One and 49 birds (14%) of 20 species banded at Site Two were in breeding condition when banded as evidenced by the presence of a brood patch (Brewer et al. 1991, *Atlas of breeding birds of Michigan*, Michigan State Univ. Press). At both sites, hatch year birds comprised <14% of the birds banded. These findings will aid in describing the breeding biology of some of the avian species utilizing Belize's pine savanna habitats.

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