

Venezuelan Bird Banding Program

Programa Venezolano de Anillamiento de Aves (PVAA)



The Venezuelan Bird Banding Program (PVAA, for its acronym in Spanish: Programa Venezolano de Anillamiento de Aves) was born in 2018, thanks to the joint work of several Venezuelan groups and persons dedicated to scientific bird research. The program is based on three main ideas: ornithological research, coordination among banders, and training for researchers using bird banding.

The program plans to coordinate, on a voluntary basis, scientific bird banding activities in Venezuela. The main objectives of the PVAA are to:

1. Study the migration, distribution and natural history of resident and migratory birds in Venezuela.
2. Evaluate the importance of Venezuela as a stopover and wintering site for migrants.
3. Facilitate banding training for researchers, ornithologists, and others.
4. Create a public, coordinated database that houses banding information generated from scientific banding, and make this information available to researchers.

By accomplishing these objectives, the effort invested in banding will be shared among a wider group of scientists and the public. The program will host a database of people and groups that work banding birds in Venezuela, their qualifications, banding projects, species studied, number of banded birds, as well as bands used. This will serve as a resource for the wider scientific community.

The PVAA will collaborate with public and private institutions, provide field data, information about banded birds, and advice to researchers that request it. In addition, it will organize and carry out research projects, theoretical and practical training courses in bird banding techniques, following international standards, such as including the use of capture methods, metal bands and auxiliary marks, biometric measurements and bird studies in hand: molt, age and sex determination, etc. Additionally, The PVAA will organize workshops on taxonomy, taxidermy, banding ethics, knowledge of migratory routes, birdwatching, etc.

The PVAA has the initial support of national organizations and researchers: ARA MACAO Scientific Foundation, a Venezuelan non-profit dedicated to ornithological research and environmental education; AveZona, BioRapaz, and Esfera Foundation (Venezuelan groups dedicated to bird research), among others. The PVAA is also a part of the Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network (WHBBN), the MoSI Program (Monitoring of Winter Survival, coordinated by the Institute for Bird Populations, IBP), and the BandedBirds.org online database (shorebirds). PVAA banding office collaborates actively with Bird Banding Lab (BBL, USA), and the Canadian Bird Banding Office (CBBO, Canada).