

## Project Update: June 2011

During April and May 2011, the training activities that form a key component of 'Crossing the Caribbean' began in earnest with a month long internship and a week-long training course for four participants. These activities were a great success and contributed to our continuing efforts to increase the capacity for monitoring and conserving migratory birds in Colombia. During the training course, four participants received intensive training from two highly experienced bird ringing trainers in techniques for capturing, marking and taking data on birds while ensuring the health and safety of birds captured. Through a series of talks, participants also learnt how ringing data can be analysed and how through basic observations they can contribute to international efforts to understand the needs of migratory birds. For more information on the course and the project visit [www.avesmigratoriascolombia.wordpress.com](http://www.avesmigratoriascolombia.wordpress.com)

### May 2011

Research activities in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta during spring migration were extremely successful this year. During two months in the field we ringed 1,701 migratory birds and recorded a further 1,859 individuals. Building on our results from 2010, we collected key data on how two species are using the region to store sufficient energy reserves to launch themselves across the Caribbean Sea and fly non-stop to North America without the need to stop to refuel. These data are difficult to obtain but are crucial to build the case for the protection of stopover sites such as the Sierra Nevada and will form the basis of future conservation actions in the region.



### April 2011

As part of our research and monitoring activities, we completed our first spring migration in the Darién, working in the Tacarcuna Nature Reserve, Sapzurro, Chocó. During 2 months of fieldwork, we observed 14,625 individuals and captured 129 individuals belonging to 37

migratory species. Most remarkable was the enormous migration of swallows and vultures recorded by our researchers, with more than 13,900 individuals of the former and 1,500 of the latter streaming north. Also, of great interest was the recapture of an alder flycatcher that was first banded in 2009 in Canada's Yukon Territory, 7,300 km to the north! This remarkable record represents the longest movement ever confirmed for this species. Finally, the Darién team carried out a three-day bird observation and identification workshop in San Francisco, Chocó with members of a local community organization (ECORISANTRI) who are developing an ecotourism initiative that will help protect the region's forests.

