Statement of Qualification

**Katherine Lauck**

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I was employed as a field assistant for the Golondrinas de las Americas project, an international effort to understand the evolutionary biology and migration ecology of swallows, with a focus on Tree Swallows. I worked for two summers as a nestling and adult bander in which my primary responsibilities were to measure, band, and sample blood from nestlings, and to capture, measure, band, and sample blood from adults. After my first year as a field assistant, I enrolled as a student in a banding course taught by master bander David Bonter at Cornell University. During this course, I practiced extracting birds from mist nets and improved my ageing and sexing skills. Before and after this banding course I traveled to Malaysia as part of an expedition to gather natural history data on Old World suboscines. As part of this expedition, I set up and managed mist nets in primary tropical forest. I extracted and banded about a third of the birds that we captured, honed my bleeding skills, learned how to sample feathers, and handed an eclectic variety of lowland tropical passerines, Old World suboscines (including pittas), woodpeckers, and barbets. Finally, this past summer I banded and measured Tree Swallow and Western Bluebird nestlings.

1. **Golondrinas de las Americas:** May-June 2013-2014

Ithaca, NY, USA

**Capture techniques**

Mist net: captured ~20 Tree Swallow

Wigwag: captured ~50 Tree Swallow

Flap trap: captured ~20 Tree Swallow

**Birds handled**

TRES adult: ~70 handled and banded

TRES nestling: ~300 handled and 200 banded

**Sampling techniques**

Standard morphometrics: Tarsus, culmen, wing, tail, skull, adult fat

Estimate fat and skull ossification of nestlings

Sample blood of adults via ulnar vein puncture

Sample blood of nestling via medial metatarsal vein puncture

**Master bander: David Winkler**

1. **Course: Bird Banding:** Jan-May 2014

Ithaca, NY, USA

**Instructor:** **David Bonter**

This course covered the basics of running a banding station. We practiced setting up and taking down mist nets, extracting birds from mist nets, handling, measuring, and banding birds, detecting distress in handled birds and treating stress, ageing and sexing using the Pyle Guide, recording and managing data, and using playback to target specific species.

**Capture techniques:** Mist net, pressure plate trap, and funnel cage trap

**Birds handled:** ~10 assorted passerines and woodpeckers, most frequently Downy Woodpecker and Black-capped Chickadee. ~15 passerines extracted from mist net, most frequently Black-capped Chickadee.

1. **Ivy Expeditions to Malaysia:** Feb–May 2013 and June–July 2014

Tawau, Sabah, Malaysia, and Serinsim, Sabah, Malaysia

**Capture techniques**

Mist net: captured ~200 lowland forest passerines, woodpeckers, and barbets

Canopy net: captured ~20 Old World suboscines and canopy-dwelling passerines

**Birds handled**

Lowland forest passerines, woodpeckers, and barbets: ~75 handled and banded

Old World suboscines and canopy-dwelling passerines: ~5 handled and banded

**Sampling techniques**

Standard morphometrics: Tarsus, culmen, wing, tail, skull

Estimate fat and skull ossification for all birds

Sample blood of adults via ulnar vein puncture

Sample whole feathers

Molt limit identification

Some ageing, but no guide for Malaysian birds exists to allow definitive ageing.

**Master bander: David Winkler**

1. **University of California, Davis:** April-July 2021

Davis, CA, USA

**Capture techniques**

Hand capture in nestboxes

**Birds handled**

Tree swallow: ~200 nestlings banded and/or measured

Western Bluebird: ~100 nestlings banded and/or measured

Ash-throated Flycatcher: 4 nestlings banded and measured

**Sampling techniques**

Standard morphometrics: Tarsus, bill, wing chord, tail, skull length, mass

Estimate fat for all birds

**Master bander: Andrew Engilis**