



THE INSTITUTE FOR BIRD POPULATIONS

P.O. Box 1346

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956-1346

(415) 663-1436

FAX (415) 663-9482

The ALAS Project to Obtain Open-wing Images from Resident Neotropical Birds

The Institute for Bird Populations would like to help facilitate the collection and archiving of open-wing images from birds captured at stations in the Neotropics. These images will be housed on a web site and accessible by all researchers to study molt and ageing criteria for resident Neotropical species. We request that, time permitting, banders operating MoSI and other stations in the Neotropics obtain digital images from the species they capture. We are also interested in images of migrant species from the Nearctic but the emphasis of the ALAS project will be on Neotropical species.

Examples of holds for images taken by one person (left) or two (right) are shown below. In each case note that all or most of the secondary coverts (including all greater coverts), and all secondaries, primary coverts, and primaries (including the tips to the outer primaries) are visible for analysis. Best images are obtained with bright but even lighting conditions (direct sun can produce glare on the feathers) and with a "neutral" or even background lighting. Avoid contrasting lighting (both sun and shade) on the wing or in the background. Experienced photographers may find alternate ways to obtain clear and sharp images.

Files should be named as follows:

<6-letter alpha code>_<age>_<sex>_<date>_<location>_<band-number>_<other info>.jpg

If age or sex is uncertain, square brackets can be used to designate uncertainty. Examples:

PASCIR_SY_M_Apr062006_SVIM_232014678_eccentric molt.jpg

LIMSWA_ASY_U_May122006_BRAG_236094576.jpg

HABRUB_[SY]_M_Feb282006_TUX1_143166754.jpg

For more information, please contact Peter Pyle at ppyle@birdpop.org

