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Handbook of Field Methods for Monitoring Landbirds

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This handbook is a compilation of methods that can be used to assay population size, demographics, and status of many species of birds occurring in a wide variety of habitats. The handbook will prove useful to field biologists, managers, and scientists anywhere in the New World from the arctic through the tropics. The methods include four types of censuses for determining population size and trends, mist-netting and nest searches to determine demographic parameters, and other methods that will be useful in operating a monitoring station, including habitat and weather observations, and suggestions for training personnel and possibilities for detailed studies. Suggestions of specific methods and data forms are included.

Retrieval Terms: bird populations, census, mist-nets, monitoring, nesting birds

Acknowledgments:

The late L. Richard Mewaldt was the first among equals in setting high standards and maintenance of accurate records. His contributions are detailed by Ralph (1992). We take great pleasure in dedicating this handbook to him.

This handbook is a direct outgrowth of the landbird program started more than 25 years ago at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory to monitor landbird populations in coastal California, and much of this handbook is the result of the methods developed and adapted there. Over this period, many people contributed to the development of this landbird monitoring program.

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