



*The Western Bird Banding Association and The Institute for Bird Populations
invite you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:*

The Bird Genoscape Project in Latin America: Where Are We, and Where Are We Going?

August 30, 2021 4:00 PM Mountain Daylight Time

It is estimated that more than 50% of North American migratory bird species are declining and, without coordinated conservation efforts, many species face extinction. For migratory birds, knowledge of the connections between breeding, wintering, and migratory stopover areas is essential for the development of effective conservation strategies, but such information has historically been difficult to obtain. The goal of the [Bird Genoscape Project](#) is to harness the power of genomic sequencing to provide comprehensive visual maps of migratory connections that can be used to link critical habitats across geographic boundaries. Combined with other data from their life history, this detailed information allows conservation efforts to focus on the places in the annual cycle where they are most needed. The construction of each map involves three steps: 1) assembling a reference genome, 2) genome scans to delineate different populations in the breeding range (i.e. creating the “genoscape”), and 3) assigning individuals that they migrate and overwinter breeding populations. We are currently constructing population maps for twelve species and developing projects with Mexican graduate students. This project will fill critical sampling gaps through strategically coordinated fieldwork, complete the first maps, and lay the foundation for future mapping and conservation efforts.

Rafael Rueda Hernández is a Mexican ornithologist who has collaborated with IBP, operating [MoSI](#) and [MAPS](#) stations since 2004. He has focused his studies on the community ecology of Mexican forest species and the population ecology of Nearctic-Migratory species. Currently, he coordinates the Bird Genoscape Project in Mexico in a very fruitful partnership with Colorado State University and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

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