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Long-term banding data from a RAMSAR site in southern Brazil

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In Brazil, one of the most important areas for migratory bird species is the Lagoa do Peixe National Park, a protected area officially created in 1986, because of its relevance to these birds, demonstrated by the study developed at that time by the Wild Birds National Conservation and Research Center - CEMAVE, a governmental institution, linked to the Ministry of Environment / ICMBio, which controls ringing data activities in this country. This protected area, located in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, includes coastal habitats like salty and freshwater lagoons, associated wetlands, dunes, beaches and sea. Such habitat diversity associated with the high productivity of the lagoon is very attractive to both resident and migratory bird species, whose come for this area in search of temporary better food supply conditions compared to the north winter. For this reason, this area became a RAMSAR site in 1993. In this study, we analyzed banding data registered in this site by the CEMAVE staff through 21 years, not sequenced, since 1984 to 2008, totalizing 24 expeditions, 21 of them carried during the Brazilian autumn (march/june). In each field mission it was used at least 30 mist-nets, opened from dusk to dawn, during 10 nights. Every captured bird had the morphometrical parameters registered, were banded and released. A total of 10,677 birds were captured, comprising 50 species from 18 families grouped in 8 orders, being the richest one the Charadriiformes, with 33 species. The most captured species were the common tern *Sterna hirundo* (3,264) and the red-knot *Calidris canutus* (2,675). During the study a total of 535 rings were recovered, being 381 from North America. These results points out to the great importance of this site and to the importance on continuing this long term-studies.