

Banding Office Newsletters

MEMORANDUM TO BANDERS

Number 80

Winter 2003

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West Nile Virus

Please inform participants at you banding operation

While available literature indicates that the odds are low, it is possible that anyone handling birds and banding equipment could contract West Nile Virus (WNV) or other infectious diseases. **The bird banding office reminds banders and assistants to take precautions to avoid coming into contact with bird blood, excrement and other body fluids.** Avoid ingesting, inhaling or getting these in open cuts and scratches.

Along with precautions to protect yourselves, **please consider ways to reduce transmission of WNV and other infectious diseases from one bird to another.** Avoid bringing captured birds into contact with other birds' blood or excretions. We know neither the impact the disease will have on wild bird populations, nor the impact that banding operations could have on disease transmission. **While populations of abundant species could recover after being reduced by the disease, those of rare or endangered species might not.**

We now know that:

- in laboratory experiments birds can contract WNV by being in close contact with infected birds ¹
- birds infected with WNV can carry the virus in their blood, oral fluids, excrement and organ tissues ¹
- birds can contract WNV through eating infected animals ¹
- a few laboratory workers have become ill with WNV after cutting themselves while working with infected birds ²

¹ Komar N, Langevin S, Hinten S, Nemeth N, Edwards E, Hettler D, Davis B, Bowen R, Bunning M. Experimental Infection of North American Birds with the New York 1999 Strain of West Nile Virus. Emerg Infect Dis [serial online] 2003 Mar, vol 9, no 8. URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol9no3/02-0628.htm>

² <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5150a2.htm>
http://wildlife1.usask.ca/ccwhc2003/west_nile_virus/about_wnv.php
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/diseases-maladies/wnv-vno_e.html
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Band Manager and Questionnaire

The Bird Banding Office requests your feedback on future Band Manager development. We would appreciate it very much if users would take the time to reply to the attached questionnaire. We enclose a postage-paid envelope for your convenience.

We have recently contracted Bird Studies Canada to upgrade Band Manager. This update should ensure that the program will work with Windows versions up to XP and should incorporate improved Help features. Please contact Louise at the Banding Office if you require assistance with Band Manager.

The Bird Banding Office has moved

The Bird Banding Office, along with the National Wildlife Research Centre of the Canadian Wildlife Service, has moved from Hull to the Carleton University campus in Ottawa. We are in a new building physically joined to the biology building. The move was in part meant to develop more partnerships with the academic community. The new building also provides much-needed modern laboratory space.

Staff email addresses remain the same. We have the following new phone and fax numbers:

Fax: (613) 998-0458
Louise Laurin phone: (613) 998-0524
Bev McBride phone: (613) 998-0492

Mailing address:

National Wildlife Research Centre
Canadian Wildlife Service
Carleton University
1125 Colonel By Dr. (Raven Road)
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3 (post) K1S 5B6 (courier)

Reminder - Submit your banding data!

Master permit holders (both station and personal) must submit their banding data on schedule. Please see the timetable in section 4 of the North American Bird Banding Manual. Banders of small numbers non-game species may submit schedules once-yearly along with their year-end reports. The Bird Banding Office can refuse to issue new bands or renew expired permits when schedules are not submitted within a reasonable time.

Band Supply

As spring approaches we anticipate another season of constrained band supply. We still have problems keeping a consistent and readily available inventory of most small band sizes. The United States Bird Banding Laboratory continues to search for ways to make this easier for us all. While we will do our best to fill all band orders we will likely not be able to give you all the bands you are requesting at one time. As bands are received they will be doled out as fairly as possible among those who have ordered them. If your band inventory shows many unscheduled bands we will assume that you have bands in stock.

North American Banding Council update

The [North American Banding Council](#) (NABC) met in September, 2002 in New Orleans, Louisiana in conjunction with the North American Ornithological Congress. The next meeting is scheduled for September, 2003 at Delta Marsh, Manitoba.

NABC's education committee has projects underway to compile a digital photo archive of plumage and other characteristics of North American species that can complement the Identification Guide to North American Birds vol. 1, to collect actual spread-wing bird specimens, and to prepare a web page with links to resources to banders. (The NABC's "[Learning Tools](#)" page contains some links already.

Bander certification sessions continue to take place while the NABC continues to fine tune the process. While certification is not required in order to have a banding permit, it will indicate that one has achieved a standard level of skill. The Bird Banding Office will accept NABC certification in place of the two testimonials needed for permit applicants.

The table below shows the status of the various NABC banding guides. Copies of the published guides are available from the banding office.

Title	English	French	Spanish
North American Banders' Study Guide	published	near completion	in progress
Instructors' Guide to Training Bird Banders in North America	published	near completion	in progress
Guide to the Banding of North American Passerines	published	near completion	in progress
Guide to the Banding of North American Raptors	published		
Guide to the Banding of North American Hummingbirds	published		
Shorebird guide	near completion		
Waterfowl guide	in progress		
Searbird guide	in progress		

Banding Office capacity

The Bird Banding Office has been operating with reduced staff since March of 2002. Since July we have been down to just over one-third of our normal capacity. Louise Laurin is your contact for band orders, permit and data administration including Band Manager support. You can contact Bev McBride for matters for which you would normally call the Bird Banding Biologist.

Our reduced capacity means we are taking much longer than usual to process band encounter reports, data requests and some other requests. This will be especially apparent in the first part of the year as we are processing the bulk of year-end reports and banding schedule submissions. We appreciate your patience.

FROM THE BIRD BANDING STAFF