

## **Banding Office Newsletters**

### **MEMORANDUM TO BANDERS**

**Number 81**

**Fall 2003**

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#### **Bird Banding Office Staff**

The Bird Banding Office welcomes Lesley Howes as the new Bird Banding Biologist. Lesley comes to us from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Head Office where she worked for two years as the National Wildlife Issues Coordinator. Previously, Lesley conducted field research in many areas, including the impact of the Newfoundland fishery on gull and tern populations, and the captive breeding and reintroduction of Pink Pigeons in Mauritius. Lesley can be reached by:

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With the addition of Lesley to the Bird Banding Office, Bev McBride has returned full time to her position as Bird Surveys Technician. Thanks, Bev, for your tremendous efforts in keeping the Bird Banding Office operational over the last two years.

The Bird Banding Office has hired temporary help to assist in processing the backlog of work that accumulated while Louise was alone at the banding office. In the near future, we will be hiring a permanent employee to assist Louise in keeping the office running efficiently.

#### **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 of non-game species may submit schedules once yearly along with their year-end reports.

#### **Band Supply**

The Bird Banding Office now has all band sizes in stock.

We now have a new band type available for Northern Saw-whet Owls; it's a short butt-end size 4. As noticed by some banders, the size 4 regular butt-end are too tall for the short tarsus of NSWO. The short butt-end should now be used when the bird requires this size. Size 3A is still the recommended size for smaller birds.

## North American Banding Council update

The [North American Banding Council](#) (NABC) met September 26 - 28, 2003, at Delta Marsh, Manitoba. The meeting was well attended by representatives of member organizations, the Bird Banding Office and the [USGS Bird Banding Laboratory](#). NABC promotes sound and ethical banding principles and techniques through the development of bander educational resources and bander certification. These objectives were advanced at the meeting.

The next NABC meeting will be held at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology April 24 and 25, 2004, in association with the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists annual meetings and conference April 22 – 25, 2004. NABC certified trainers are invited to attend the meeting and participate on committees.

A bird skins specimen collection is being compiled as an educational tool to assist novice as well as more experienced banders better recognize moult patterns and plumage characteristics of North American birds. This collection can be made available to those holding banding workshops. Contact Lesley Howes for more information.

NABC has published a series of banding manuals and has a few more in the works. Available manuals can be obtained upon request from the Bird Banding Office on CD or hardcopy.

Title	English	French	Spanish
North American Banders' Study Guide	Available	Available	Available
Instructors' Guide to Training Bird Banders in North America	Available	Available	Available
Guide to the Banding of North American Passerines	Available	Available	Available
Guide to the Banding of North American Raptors	Available		
Guide to the Banding of North American Hummingbirds	Available		
Guide to the Banding of North American Shorebirds	Draft only		
Guide to the Banding of North American Seabirds	Draft only		
Guide to the Banding of North American Waterfowl	Draft only		

A bander certification session was held following the NABC meetings, with two banders receiving certification. The Bird Banding Office highly recommends that interested banders work towards certification. The Bird Banding Office accepts NABC certification in place of the two testimonial letters needed for permit applicants, by recognizing that accredited banders are competent and experienced. Visit [NABC's website](#) for a list of upcoming evaluation sessions or to contact a trainer in your area as well as lots of other interesting and useful information and links for bird banders.

## Canadian Migration Monitoring Network

The fourth national meeting of the [Canadian Migration Monitoring Network](#) (CMMN) was held on the weekend of 3-5 October 2003 at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary, Alberta. Forty people from across Canada attended the meeting. Representatives from nine of the 15 CMMN member organizations, five pilot migration monitoring stations, [Bird Studies Canada](#) (Prairie Region and National Headquarters) and Canadian Wildlife Service (British Columbia and Saskatchewan) participated. The meeting was hosted by the Calgary Bird Banding Society (CBBS), which operates both a migration monitoring and a MAPS banding station at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary site.

In addition to station reports and updates from the Bird Banding Office and North American Banding Council, participants presented reports on a variety of topics including over site fidelity by transient fall migrants at Inglewood, results of moult studies at Lesser Slave Lake, community outreach and youth education programs at [Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory](#), habitat monitoring protocols, and a CBBS pilot banding project that is catching large numbers of Swainson's Thrush during spring migration at a site in Costa Rica.

The Canadian Migration Monitoring Network is a cooperative venture of Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service and the independent member stations. CMMN stations monitor Canada's landbird populations as they migrate between their breeding grounds in northern Canada and their wintering areas in South America, Central America or the United States. Standardized mist netting and banding is a major component of the field protocol at migration monitoring stations. Migration monitoring is the only means of gathering information on population trends for the large number of northern-nesting Neotropical migrants that are largely inaccessible for monitoring both in the breeding and wintering seasons. Population trend information for all species is essential for conservation planning, management and evaluation. For more information on the CMMN visit <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cmmn.html> or contact Audrey Heagy, CMMN Development Coordinator, Bird Studies Canada ([ahagy@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:ahagy@bsc-eoc.org), 1-888-448-2473).

### **New Website**

The National Wildlife Research Centre has launched their new website recently. Information for the banding site has been updated somewhat, but it requires further attention. Revision to the website is a priority with the Bird Banding Office. If there is particular information or links you would like to see on the website, please contact Lesley Howes. Also, we would like to have more pictures of people banding birds, birds in nets or traps, birds being processed, etc. If you have any pictures you would like to see on the website please send them to Lesley Howes along with a note clearly indicating who took the pictures, and giving permission to put them up on the web.

### **Health and Safety Issues**

As you may know, there are a few confirmed cases of Canadian banders with West Nile virus. Mosquito bites were the likely mode of infection. It is important to remember that banders are often exposed to mosquitoes in the field and must protect themselves. It is also important to remember that live virus can be found in the feces and blood of infected birds and there is potential for infection through skin abrasions. Many banders are now successfully using surgical gloves (Nightrill) when banding and removing birds from nets. The use of gloves and increased hygiene (specifically use of alcohol hand cleansers) will reduce potential exposure. We encourage you to familiarize yourselves and your fellow banders with the symptoms of West Nile virus and the precautions you should take. Currently there is no specific treatment, medication, or cure for West Nile virus nor is there an approved vaccine for human use.

The following information is paraphrased from Health Canada's website on West Nile virus.

Many infected people have no symptoms and do not get sick or have only mild symptoms. When infection does cause illness, symptoms will usually appear within two to 15 days. In mild cases, there may be flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache and body aches. Some people may also develop a mild rash, or swollen lymph glands.

Individuals with weaker immune systems are at greater risk of developing symptoms and health effects that are more serious, including meningitis and encephalitis. These conditions can be fatal.

In such cases, symptoms could include the rapid onset of severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, nausea, difficulty swallowing, vomiting, drowsiness, confusion, loss of consciousness, lack of coordination, muscle weakness and paralysis. During 2002, several other symptoms of West Nile virus were identified including movement disorders, parkinsonism, poliomyelitis-like syndrome and muscle degeneration. Anyone who has a sudden onset of these symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.

Visit [Health Canada's website](#) for more information and the latest updates.

Other than West Nile virus, birds may suffer from other diseases that can be transmitted to humans. All field workers should be immunized against polio, tetanus and tuberculosis especially if you work with birds near garbage dumps, sewage plants or potentially polluted water. Banders contracting curious complaints should inform their doctors of their contact with wild birds. For more information review The [North American Banding Council Banders' Study Guide](#), Section 14: Preventing Bander Injury and Diseases.

### **Join Your Local Banding Association**

An excellent way to keep informed of recent ornithological banding research and the latest capture and banding techniques is to belong to your local banding association. By keeping up to date on what other banders and researchers in North America are doing, banders are better able to contribute to the North American Banding Program as a whole. Your local banding association invites you to become a member and continue to develop your banding skills and knowledge.

Members of Eastern, Inland and Western Bird Banding Associations receive *North American Bird Bander*, a jointly published quarterly publication that includes articles and information of interest to banders. Members of the Ontario Bird Banding Association receive an annual journal, *Ontario Bird Banding*, and three newsletters a year.

All organizations host annual meetings that include presentations on research involving banding and banding techniques. Members are encouraged to attend.

Visit the website of your local banding association for membership details:

[Eastern Bird Banding Association](#)

[Inland Bird Banding Association](#)

[Ontario Bird Banding Association](#)

[Western Bird Banding Association](#)

FROM THE BIRD BANDING STAFF