

Banding Office Newsletters

MEMORANDUM TO BANDERS

Number 90

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Band Transfers

Banders may transfer bands to another bander only with the prior approval of the Bird Banding Office. Please contact [Louise Laurin](#) to request this approval by sending both permittee names and numbers and the range of bands to be transferred. Band sizes 0 through 3A can be transferred only in multiples of 100, sizes 4 and above in multiples of 5. Both banders involved in a transfer will receive confirmation of the transfer from the Bird Banding Office. This is necessary to allow us to maintain accurate band inventory and ensure there are no errors on banding schedules.

Bandit: The New Program for Managing Banding Data

The new program for managing banding data that will eventually replace Band Manager has been named "Bandit." The name was selected from a variety of suggestions sent in by banders. Thank you to all those who submitted suggestions! The Bird Banding Laboratory in the United States and the Bird Banding Office, along with selected banders, are currently testing the new program.

Bandit's release to all banders is expected on 31 October 2006. You will be able to download demonstration videos to help you become acquainted with Bandit's features. Visit the Bird Banding Office website in early November for more information and links to Bandit. The Bird Banding Office will continue to accept banding data from Band Manager, and Louise will continue to offer Band Manager support.

Band Manager: Remarks vs. Notes

When you want to provide the Bird Banding Office with additional information about a particular banding record, be sure to use the "remarks" field. Information in the remarks field will be included on your schedules. Be aware that anything written in the "notes" field is for your own information only and is not submitted on your schedules.

Year-end Reports

Starting this year, Year-end Reports will be sent to master permittees whose permit expires in 2006. If changes or modifications are required for the next banding season, you may contact our office at any time even if your permit is still valid.

Northern Hawk Owl Banding Study

The North American Banding Program recently developed a 7A short butt-end band to accommodate the very short tarsometatarsal bones of Northern Hawk Owls. However, there is recent concern that these shorter bands are still too tall for the short tarsi of some hawk owls.

The Owl Foundation in Vineland, Ontario, the Bird Banding Office, and the Bird Banding Laboratory have begun evaluating the appropriateness of the current height of 7A shorts for hawk owls. We would like to invite hawk owl banders to participate in this study. Please contact Lesley Howes at the Bird Banding Office for more details. Banders who recapture Northern Hawk Owls are asked to carefully examine the ankle joints for chafing or other sign of band-related injury and to report all findings to Lesley at the Bird Banding Office.

Bander Skills and Training Resources

There are a wide variety of bird capture, handling, banding, and other practical skills that all banders should possess before applying for a permit. These skills include handling birds using a variety of grips, safely opening the mouth of a bird, knowing how and when to correct an improperly applied band, and how to remove a band safely. Banders must know how to identify target species and how to age and sex species of interest using a variety of methods and appropriate aging and sexing guides. Banders must be able to take accurate morphometric measurements and record data clearly and accurately. In addition to these practical skills, banders must understand the ethics of banding and understand how banding fits into scientific studies. Many of these skills are covered in the North American Banders' Study Guide published by the [North American Banding Council](#) (NABC). Appendix A of the guide is a "bander's report card" and provides a detailed checklist of skills banders should possess before applying for a banding permit. Other NABC bander study guides for passerines and near passerines, raptors, shorebirds, and hummingbirds as well as an instructor training guide are available. These manuals are available free of charge from the Bird Banding Office.

Pan American Shorebird Program

The coordination of the [Pan American Shorebird Program](#) (PASP) has recently been transferred from Cheri Gratto-Trevor and Gholam Alaie of the Canadian Wildlife Service to the Canadian Bird Banding Office (BBO). We would like to thank Cheri and Gholam for their many years of hard work managing this program.

A PASP listserv has been established to help coordinators link encounters with banders. Shorebird banders who use auxiliary markers have been added to the listserv automatically. You can send marked shorebird sightings to the PASP listserv at pasp@lists.ec.gc.ca. When posting encounter information please include the species in the subject line.

It is the bander's responsibility to review messages on the listserv. If an encountered bird is part of your study and can be individually identified and linked to a federal band number, please contact Louise Laurin with the banding information so that we may keep the banding database current and ensure that the observer receives a certificate of appreciation.

If you are marking shorebirds with auxiliary markers and have not received an email from the banding office

regarding the transfer of PASP, if you would like to join the PASP listserv, or if you would like additional information on this program, please contact Lesley Howes or Louise. To assist PASP coordinators in managing PASP, please include "PASP" and your permit number in the subject line for all correspondence related to this program.

Shorebird Bands

For a few species of shorebirds, the band sizes recommended by the North American Banders' Manual for Banding Shorebirds (published by the North American Banding Council) differ from the band sizes recommended by the North American Bird Banding Manual and the North American Bird Banding Program. We would like to hear from shorebird banders regarding your experience with the recommended band sizes for these and other species. If necessary, we will follow up with changes to the recommended size. The following table highlights differences between what the NABC Shorebird manual recommends and what the banding program recommends:

Species	Scientific name	Band size recommended by:	
		Banding program manual	NABC Shorebird manual
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantus mexicanus</i>	4-3A	4
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	2	2-3
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1A-1B	1A
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1-1B	1B
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1B-1A	1A
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1A-1B	1A
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	1A-1B	1A
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	2-3	3
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	1B-1A	1A (recommended by PASP)

Canadian Migration Monitoring Network / Réseau canadien de surveillance des migrations

The Canadian Migration Monitoring Network consists of a chain of member banding stations across Canada and the northern United States that provides much needed baseline data on population trends of northern breeding birds. The methods developed to count birds on migration involve a combination of standardized banding and standardized daily counts. The Network recently announced a new membership category, Provisional Member, to acknowledge the efforts of stations working towards becoming full members. For more information and for applications, contact [Jon McCracken](#) at Bird Studies Canada.

CMMN-RCSM maintains a listserv for job postings, station summaries, and general news items. You may join this listserv by sending a message (from the email address you want to receive the messages) to

majordomo@bird.bsc-eoc.org. The message should say "subscribe cmmnlist" (without the quotation marks). You will then get a message asking you for confirmation, to which you must reply to complete the registration. Once you are registered, to send messages to the list, send the message to cmmnlist@bird.bsc-eoc.org.

Avian Influenza

Fall migration is now underway. Although the level of risk is unknown, this could be a period when movement of the Eurasian H5N1 strain of avian flu from wild birds into populated and agricultural areas of Canada could occur. Sampling of birds found dead is our most sensitive tool for detection of highly pathogenic strains of avian influenza in wild birds. This program depends on a significant level of vigilance and participation by the public.

Any member of the public in Canada can call the wild bird survey toll-free number (1-866-544-4744) and will then be put in touch with the proper authority in their province or territory for reporting observations of dead wild birds. Information is also available from the [Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre avian influenza](#).

As handlers of wild birds in Canada, banders should be aware of the risk of disease and the precautions that should be taken to reduce the chance of becoming infected or facilitating the spread of infection between birds. Please be sure to review the [biosafety practices for handling wild birds](#).

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the Bird Banding Office and we will send you this important information.

BirdBand Listserv

The BirdBand listserv is an email discussion forum for banders who wish to ask questions or exchange information about bird banding. While most of the information pertains to banding in North America, banders from 32 countries participate. Canadian banders are encouraged to subscribe and to participate in the online discussions. Banders ask questions, share experiences, post banding totals, and promote workshops, banding opportunities, collaborative projects, etc. Visit this link for more information:

<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/6549/birdband.htm>. Most recent postings can be viewed by following the link <http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/BAND.html>.

North American Bird Bander (NABB)

North American Bird Bander (NABB) is a quarterly publication of the [Western Bird Banding Association](#), the [Inland Bird Banding Association](#), and the [Eastern Bird Banding Association](#). This journal includes articles and information of interest to banders. ics include banding, netting, and trapping techniques and making and using various banding equipment, special techniques to age and sex birds, reports from banding stations, original research related to banding, recent literature, and book reviews. This publication comes free with membership to any one of the three of the [local banding associations](#). Volumes 1-25, 1976-2000, of NABB are available through [SORA: the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive](#).

Ontario Bird Banding Association Celebrates 50 years

The Ontario Bird Banding Association celebrated its 50th anniversary this spring. Although the exact total is unknown, it is safe to say that the OBBA members have banded well over 2 million birds since 1956 --a very significant contribution to science and ornithology in Ontario! The Ontario Bird Banding Association publishes a yearly journal and a biannual newsletter free with membership. The anniversary issue of the [OBBA newsletter](#) can be downloaded from their website. This issue contains an excellent article by Stu Mackenzie entitled

"Handling the Big Day."

Reminders

- **Please include your permit number on all correspondence with the Bird Banding Office.**
Your information is filed by your permit number. Providing your permit number on correspondence allows us to work more efficiently.
- **Contact information.**
Please notify the Bird Banding Office of any changes to your name, address, telephone number, or email address for our files.
- **Join your local banding association**
[Eastern Bird Banding Association](#)
[Inland Bird Banding Association](#)
[Ontario Bird Banding Association](#)
[Western Bird Banding Association](#)

FROM THE BIRD BANDING OFFICE

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