

Banding Office Newsletters

MEMORANDUM TO BANDERS

Number 92

Spring 2007

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1. Band Supply and New Recommended Band Sizes

Currently, we have a full band supply in stock for 2007, including hard metal bands available in many sizes. If you band long-lived birds, birds that tend to damage their bands, or birds that frequent marine environments, you may want to consider switching to hard metal bands.

We have several changes in recommended band sizes based on bander input. Please remember that where two sizes are given the first is the preferred and most often used. Legs should be gauged to ensure the appropriate band size is used.

Wood Duck: 5A-6-5 (height: 7.95mm; inside diameter: 8.74mm)
Swan: 9C flat lock-on stainless steel is recommended to replace 9C
Common Eider: 7A-7B (hard metal)
Yellow Rail: 2-1A
Shrike: 1D hard metal (inside diameter: 3.5mm)
Bald Eagle: 9-8A rivet
Golden Eagle: 9-9C rivet

2. Band Replacement

Bands should not be replaced, except if a band is causing irritation or injury to the bird or if the band is illegible or nearly illegible due to wear. If a band is causing irritation or injury, it should be removed and a new band applied to the other leg.

If you replace a band that is no longer legible, please send us the band via regular mail so that we may monitor band wear. We will chemically etch the illegible band and notify you of the complete band number so that you will have it for your records. Please include the new band number and all of the banding data for replacement bands with those to be etched.

For all replaced bands, remember to cross-reference the schedule upon which you report the new band, giving the older number in the “replaced band number” field in Bandit or in “ALT-Band” field in Band Manager.

3. Encounter Reporting on the Web

Encounter reports can now be submitted on line at www.reportband.gov or by following the link from the BBO website. Features of the Web reporting page will soon include choice of reporting language (French, English, or Spanish); e-mail confirmation that your data were received; immediate feedback on banding data; and the option to receive and print your certificate of appreciation electronically at home. This enhanced encounter reporting page will eventually have short cuts for banders and hunters. We hope that by offering an additional reporting method, we will increase reporting and reporter satisfaction. Band encounters can be reported on line at www.reportband.gov, by calling toll free 1-800-327-2263 (1-800-327-BAND), by sending an e-mail message, or by writing to:

Bird Banding Office
National Wildlife Research Centre
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, ON Canada K1A 0H3

4. Web Address on Bands

Starting in 2007, the new Web address www.reportband.gov will replace the postal address on all bands. The toll-free telephone number will remain the same. During 2007, banders will continue to receive the postal address bands until the supply has been exhausted. However, those who wish to study how this change will affect reporting rates on their project may request Web address bands.

We hope that with the new encounter reporting page and the Web address on bands, encounter reporting will increase due to ease of reporting. We also expect reporting to increase from outside North America where the toll free line does not operate.

5. Banding and Encounter Data Requests

The North American Bird Banding Program database holds over 66 million banding records and over three million encounters dating from 1908. While banders are encouraged to analyze and publish the results of their banding activities, the Banding Office also encourages use of banding data by others. These data are gathered for the primary purpose of facilitating migratory bird research in North America, and are available free of charge upon request, from the Banding Office. The BBO website has a new data request form to obtain the data you require for your research. This form will allow the BBO to track data requests to better understand how banding data is used.

Bird banding data have been gathered at a significant cost to the many banders who cooperate in the North American Bird Banding Program. Banders have certain proprietary interests in the data they produce. To protect their interests, policy and data release statements are included with each request, describing current limiting criteria for data use.

Pre-1960s data are summarized but are not generally included in data requests, unless specifically requested that these data be included. Information may be withheld for species of conservation concern including species at risk. Additional justification and approvals may be required to receive these data.

6. Bandit: The New Program for Managing Banding Data

Version 1.03 of Bandit, the new user friendly program for banding data management and submission, is now available for download from the [Bird Banding Laboratory](#) (BBL) website or by following links from the [BBO website](#).

Bandit has many of the features of Band Manager as well as some new ones. Bandit is compatible with Windows versions 2000 and later and with Macintosh operating systems, has simplified import/export functions for Microsoft Excel, and accepts Band Manager files. Bandit data files are submitted electronically via e-mail. Please be sure that all data files sent to BBO have a .tab extension. Let us know if you encounter any problems, or have any suggestions for improvement.

You can view demonstration videos and download a printable Reference Guide to help you become acquainted with Bandit's features. The Reference Guide has descriptions of how to use all of Bandit's functions such as importing files from Band Manager and how to ensure your locations are valid, and it describes the error messages you may encounter. The Bandit Bander Reference Guide can be found in the Bandit program, by clicking on Bandit Help > Bandit website > Bandit Documentation. Call Louise Laurin (613-998-0524) if you require additional Bandit support.

Although we encourage you to switch to Bandit, the Bird Banding Office will continue to accept banding data from Band Manager, and Louise will continue to offer Band Manager support.

7. Year-end Reports

Last year, year-end reports were sent only to master banders whose permit expired in 2006. If you did not receive a year-end report but require modifications to your permit for the upcoming field season, please contact the Banding Office to ensure that you have the required authorizations.

8. Migratory Birds in Research Animal User Training Module

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the [Canadian Council on Animal Care](#) (CCAC) are developing a training module to inform investigators, who use wild birds in research and monitoring in Canada, of applicable laws, ethics, safety, permit requirements and available resources to augment technical knowledge and field training. The module can be presented by instructors as part of an Animal Care training session, or viewed by individuals to meet their Animal Care Committee (ACC) training requirements. The module will be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation and will include complete speaking notes and sample test questions. Look for it on the [CCAC website](#) sometime this summer.

9. Avian Influenza and Wild Bird Survey Update

Surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds will continue throughout 2007. 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 individual in Canada can call the wild bird survey toll-free number (1-866-544-4744) and will 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 information page) at <http://wildlife1.usask.ca/en/aiv/index.php>.

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 at: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html#4.

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

If you have been asked to participate in a collaborative sampling project for avian influenza, ensure that you have the appropriate authorizations on your banding permit including cloacal swabs ([see Memo # 90](#)) and all the necessary permits (which may include export permits) in place.

10. The North American Banding Council Update

The [North American Banding Council](#) (NABC), incorporated in 1998, is a non-profit group encompassing organizations whose members use bird banding as a tool in ornithological conservation, management and research. The NABC met in Mission, Texas, on March 10-11, 2007. A poster and a flyer are now available in French, English and Spanish on the NABC website. A number of additional educational products and curricula for training sessions are under development. Following NABC's exposure at the North American Ornithological Conference in Mexico, there has been significant interest by Latin American and Caribbean organizations in NABC and its products. The NABC international committee will work to ensure that NABC products are available to banders outside North America and to strengthen ties with member-based organizations who wish to promote NABC's mission of promoting sound and ethical bird banding practices and techniques. If you would like to obtain copies of the NABC training manuals, e-mail us at BBO_CWS@ec.gc.ca.

11. BBO Collaboration with Other Banding Programs

In 2006 there were several milestones towards cooperative efforts between the BBO and other national banding programs.

In May, the North American Bird Banding Program received support from the Trilateral Committee on Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation to expand the North American Bird Banding Program to include Mexico. An outreach program and a toll-free telephone number for reporting band encounters in Mexico have been very successful. This has led to an increase in the number of birds encountered in Mexico.

In August 2006, the [International Ornithological Congress](#) held its first [IOC Standing Committee on Bird Marking](#) meeting in Hamburg, Germany. The BBO met with banding schemes from Europe, Africa and Asia and committed to collaborate on sharing program management experiences and to develop ways to effectively share information at a global level.

The North American Bird Banding Program (NABBP), Cornell University, and the [Landbird Monitoring Migration Network of the Americas](#) (LaMMNA) organized a symposium at the [North American Ornithological Conference](#) (NAOC) in Veracruz, Mexico, to discuss the importance of monitoring networks across national borders. Monica Tomosy, Chief of the BBL, on behalf of the NABBP, addressed the need to develop a structure for sharing bird banding information with the banding programs of the western hemisphere.

Both BBO and BBL as well as our Mexican counterparts held a workshop following the NAOC in Mexico to initiate discussions on how to develop a flexible, voluntary framework for communication, coordination and collaboration among banding programs in the western hemisphere. The outcome included a commitment to establish a communication network to facilitate band reporting between countries.

12. Additional Permits

Your banding permit may be only one of several permits you require for your project. Federal banding permits are only valid in conjunction with other necessary permits. Banders are responsible for ensuring that they have all the necessary permits for their project. Additional permits, which you may require, include but are not limited to the following:

- **Provincial or territorial banding permits:** Be sure to contact all provinces and territories where you are banding to ensure you have appropriate permits.
- **Protected areas:** If you will be banding within a protected area, you will require a permit. Please contact the responsible authority.
- **Telemetry:** Applicants wishing to use radio-telemetry may require a permit from Industry Canada. Contact your nearest Industry Canada regional office for more information.
- **Federal scientific collection permits:** If the project involves the collection of biological material such as blood samples, feathers or eggs, banders must hold a federal scientific permit specifically for these activities, as well as a federal scientific permit to capture and band migratory birds. If you are working on a collaborative project, you are required to have a copy of permits from the project coordinator or lead investigator. Contact your CWS Regional Permits Officer for more details.
- **Species at risk:** Applicants wishing to band a threatened or endangered migratory bird listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) must apply for a permit from the BBO. If your project involves more than capture and banding, you should contact your CWS Regional Permits Officer for a SARA permit.
- **Animal Care Committee approval:** All banding projects involving fitted collars, nasal saddles, patagial/wing tags, radio and satellite transmitters or other auxiliary markers other than colour bands must be approved by an ACC.
- **Banding birds outside of North America:** Your Canadian banding permit is valid only in Canada. If you wish to band in the USA, you must apply for a federal banding permit from the [USGS Bird Banding Laboratory](#). For banders who wish to band outside of North America, BBO issues a letter of authorization to use federal bands on North American migrants outside North America. Applicants require the approval of the host country to capture and band birds.

13. Banding Atlas Online

Volume 1 of the Banding Atlas is now fully accessible on the Web. The first edition is out of print and the second edition is available only on line, in English and French. This is a great resource on encounters of passerines and near-passerine birds banded or encountered in Canada.

English: http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/BBA-AOB/v1ed2/cont_e.cfm

Francais: http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/BBA-AOB/v1ed2/cont_f.cfm

14. Reminders

- **Cloacal and oral swabs:** Banders who collect cloacal or oral swabs during the banding of migratory birds, as part of a research project, are required to have this activity listed on their banding permit. An environmental assessment screening must be conducted before cloacal or oral sampling can be authorized on banding permits. Generally, this is arranged by the project coordinator and not by individual banders. Be advised that the assessment process includes a two-week posting on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry, so be sure to apply early. See [Memo #90](#) for more information.
- **2006 Banding Data and Permit Renewals:** If you have not done so already, please submit your 2006 banding data as soon as possible. For those whose permits expired in 2006, please ensure that your 2006 year-end report is submitted to our office, otherwise your permit will not be renewed.
- **Please include your permit number on all correspondence with the BBO.** Your information is filed by permit number. By providing your permit number on correspondence, you help us to work more efficiently.

- **Contact information:** Please notify the BBO of any changes to your name, address, telephone number, or e-mail 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](#)

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