

# Banding Office Newsletters

## MEMORANDUM TO BANDERS

### Number 94

Spring 2008

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#### 1. Auxiliary markers on permits

Starting with 2008 permit renewals, auxiliary markers not used in the last 3 years will be deleted from permits. We have noticed that many authorizations for auxiliary markers do not reflect current projects but are left on the permits "just in case". Only active auxiliary markers should be listed. Removing unused authorizations will help us to keep our permit database as current as possible and facilitate coordination of future requests. All records of auxiliary marker use remain in our database and inactive auxiliary markers can be renewed upon request with a project update at any time.

#### 2. Recent changes to recommended sizes

Male White-Winged Scoters 7B  
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  
Cardinals: 1A hard metal  
Shrikes: 1D hard metal (inside diameter: 3.5mm)  
Bald Eagle: 9-8A rivet  
Golden Eagle: 9-9C rivet

#### 3. Bandit

Bandit version 2.1 will soon be available for download by following the link from the [BBO website](#). You should refer to the Reference Manual to answer most questions. Importing Band Manager data can be slow and we are working on improving the import time for the next release. We are also making other improvements to the software including user-suggested enhancements. The next release should be available in spring 2008.

One problem we are routinely encountering is that data is not being submitted to the BBO when it appears to the bander that it has been sent. There are two common problems that can cause this:

- First, Bandit will submit only error free data. Some errors may be by-passed and that data will be attached to the submission file if you select “by-pass” for those records. It is easy to tell if a particular error may be by-passed because if it can't, the program will not allow you to do so! In this case, you must correct the error. The Reference Manual explains which errors may be by-passed and which ones must be corrected. To check for errors prior to submitting your data, click on the find function and type an asterisk (\*) in the error text field. The program will sort through all the data and find the records that contain errors. Either correct or by-pass those errors and then when data is submitted, all of the records will be in the submission file.
- The second problem arises if you do not have your e-mail linked correctly to the program. There are ways to ensure that your file was actually sent when you submit data. First, check your sent mail file and see if it is there. If it is not there, the file did not get sent to the BBO. Second, you should receive an e-mail confirmation from the BBO stating that we received the submission file. If it is not in your sent mail or you did not get an e-mail from the BBO, open your e-mail as you normally would, attach the Bandit Submission file that was saved to your “My Documents” folder, attach it as you would when sending any attachment, and e-mail to [louise.laurin@ec.gc.ca](mailto:louise.laurin@ec.gc.ca) with “Bandit Data Submission Permit XXXXX” in the subject line.

We are working diligently on the next version so be sure to send us any feedback you might have on the current version.

#### 4. Bandit Checks and Errors

Bandit performs many of the automatic data checks and requires those entering data to verify and correct errors before data is submitted. This task used to be performed by the HP database and verified by BBO and BBL staff. In Bandit, banding data are compared to tables of information such as allowable locations for certain dates and acceptable age sex combinations. However, some of the information may not be up to date especially for locations where some species may not have been routinely banded in the past. If you are getting location error messages for species that are known to occur in an area, please let us know. We will update the information tables in later versions of Bandit and eliminate the problem.

BBO/BBL has always required (refer to the Banding Manual) an explanation in the “Remarks” field for status codes 200, 500, 700, 800 and other additional codes. Having remarks allows BBO/BBL to make sure the correct status code is used. “Bird Status” that requires “Remarks” are placed on hold until they are resolved. Even with “Remarks”, we have noticed many errors associated with 700 status codes. For example, birds that are oiled are sometimes given the Status 700, but they should be 740, or birds that were taken to a rehabilitation centre, but had no injury and were released the same day have been reported as 700 when they should be 300. Sometimes birds are taken to a rehabilitation centre, but have no injury have been reported as 700 when they should be 200 because they were transported outside the 10 minute block. Other examples include: nestlings without an injury are 400 and nestlings with an injury are 485. If an auxiliary marker is placed on the bird for example, or another procedure not related to rehabilitation, the “additional code” is different. If remarks are not included, we are not able to check this. We understand that there is a multitude of possibilities. A simple remark such as wing injury, leg injury, botulism, orphan etc, can be used. Tracking of injuries is an important part of banding and helpful to ensure the correct status code is used.

As stated above, it is important to understand that only error free data are submitted to BBO. Those data with errors or not verified and the errors overridden are not submitted to the BBO.

#### 5. BBL MTAB

The BBL issued the latest MTAB November 1, 2007. BBL MTABs and Notes to All Banders are posted on the [BBL website](#).

## 6. Year-end Reports

In November, Year-end reports were sent to master banders whose permits expired in 2007. Year-end reports must be filled out and returned to our office otherwise permits will not be renewed. If your permit is still valid but requires modifications for the upcoming field season, please contact the Banding Office to ensure that you have the required authorizations.

## 7. The North American Banding Council Update

The North American Banding Council (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. The next NABC meeting will be held April 10 and 11th 2008 in Erie PA in association with the [Eastern Bird Banding Association](#) (EBBA) meeting.

NABC has participated in all three Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network workshops. The exposure has resulted in significant interest by Latin American and Caribbean organizations in NABC's messages and products. The NABC international committee is working to ensure that 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.

An NABC booth was set up at the [Partners in Flight Conference](#) (PIF) held in McAllen, Texas February 14 to 16, 2008 to promote the NABC to conference participants and hand out information and materials such as training manuals, key chains and flyers. NABC also had a poster entitled *The North American Banding Council: Supporting bird research, conservation and management* during the poster sessions to promote NABC's mandate of sound and ethical banding principles and techniques. The booth was very well received. Find out more about [NABC on their website](#). If you would like to obtain copies of the NABC training manuals, e-mail us at [BBO\\_CWS@ec.gc.ca](mailto:BBO_CWS@ec.gc.ca).

There are four NABC passerine trainers in southern Ontario who will conduct individual and group NABC bander and trainer certifications. They are proposing to hold trainer and bander-level certification sessions at Long Point Bird Observatory in July 2008. For more information on upcoming bander training and evaluation sessions go to [www.nabanding.net](http://www.nabanding.net).

## 8. The Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network

The [Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network](#) (WHBBN) met in McAllen Texas February 11, 2008. The WHBBN is a voluntary network of individuals and programs to help coordinate and address bird banding and marking issues and promote information sharing effort throughout the Americas.

Why is this network needed?

- Worldwide interest in internationally coordinating efforts for tracking bird movements especially in light of world conservation and health issues such as global warming and Avian Influenza.
- Many individual countries and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean are developing or have expressed interest in developing national banding schemes.
- Facilitate encounter reporting within the Western Hemisphere.
- Banding data currently are not routinely shared between countries, and there are no common mechanisms for data sharing or standardized methods of data collection.

The network's current objectives will centre around international coordination of bands and markers, coordination of reporting recoveries, permit issues, data management, sharing, archiving, and data security,

banded training, ethics and bird safety and mechanisms for communication. The [network website](#) will be available soon for more information.

## **9. Canadian Migration Monitoring Network National Meeting**

Canadian Migration Monitoring Network National Meeting was held at Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, October 2007. A total of twenty bird banders involved in migration monitoring stations across Canada traveled to Slave Lake in northern Alberta in October 2007 to participate in the sixth national meeting of the [Canadian Migration Monitoring Network – Réseau canadien de surveillance des migrations](#) (CMMN-RCSM). The CMMN-RCSM is a network of 19 member organizations operating migration monitoring and bird research stations across Canada. Regional and national support and coordination for the network is provided by Bird Studies Canada and Environment Canada. The program included reports from the stations and the CMMN-RCSM Steering Committee, presentations on various research projects, a preview of a major technical report on population trends being prepared by Bird Studies Canada, and varied discussions about network development. This meeting was hosted by the [Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory](#) at the [Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation](#), a stunning new education and research facility built to be environmentally-friendly using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard. The Boreal Centre is operated by LSLBO in conjunction with Alberta Community Development, Parks and Protected Areas.

## **10. The Doug Tarry Bird Study Award for young Ornithologists**

The [Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop](#) occurs annually each summer at Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO). The goal of the workshop is to foster the interests and development of ornithology in Canadian teenagers. Participants attend a ten day workshop/natural history camp at LPBO, located along the north shore of Lake Erie, Ontario, in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve.

The Workshop focuses on "hands-on" learning and training in field ornithology. It provides a unique opportunity for like-minded teenagers to enhance their knowledge and skills in the scientific study and aesthetic enjoyment of birds. Participants learn how to identify, age and sex birds, and how scientists study populations and behaviour. Careful and skilled instructors teach bird handling and banding techniques, how to prepare specimens for scientific study and bird censusing techniques.

Space is limited to six participants, ranging in age from 13-17 years old. All direct costs of the workshop (accommodation, meals, travel while at Long Point, and professional instruction) are covered. Recipients are responsible for their own transportation to and from Long Point, though a small travel grant may be available. Prospective participants are invited to download and complete the [application form](#). Applications are due 30 April 2008.

## **11. Watch for Mortality Events in Wild Birds**

If you or other members of the public see sick or dead wild birds, please call the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at 1-866-544-4744 and a bilingual message will provide contacts and information for your area. Information is also available [online](#).

What to watch for...

Disease outbreaks and mortality events ("die-offs"), including:

- routine mortalities of any species (important for avian influenza testing)
- sick or dead corvids (crows, ravens, magpies, jays) for West Nile Virus testing

- sick or dead wildlife in unusual numbers, times or locations
- any mortality events involving more than five individuals or more than one species

Refresh your knowledge on how to safely handle wild birds. Download the fact sheet, Recommendations for Safe Practices When Handling Wild Birds ([Public Health Agency of Canada](#)), or call 1-800-454-8302 or contact BBO to receive a printed copy.

## 12. Publications of interest

- 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.
- Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada (and Regulation Proposals for Overabundant Species) November 2007 is available [online](#).

## 13. Reminders

- If you will be banding federally listed species at risk you are required to fill in the SAR application form. Please request this form from the BBO. This will ensure that your banding permit has the proper authorizations for your SAR project. This is required only if you are targeting species at risk for research. If SAR are captured incidentally during other banding activities they may be banded. Please see the attached [appendix \(PDF Version\)](#) of migratory birds at risk which require SAR permits.
- An Animal Care training module for the use of migratory birds in research will soon be available on the web. Consult the [Canadian Council on Animal Care](#) or the BBO websites for updates.
- Report encounters and recoveries on line at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov), by calling toll free 1-800-327-2263 (1-800-327-BAND), by sending an e-mail message to [BBO\\_CWS@ec.gc.ca](mailto:BBO_CWS@ec.gc.ca) or by writing to:

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

- 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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