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Memorandum to All Banders, 1955-1962

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Patuxent Research Refuge
Laurel, Maryland

February 28, 1955

Dear Bander:

In memo of December 14, 1954, banders were advised of certain fundamental changes in operational procedures of the Service's Bird Banding Program. The present communication is intended to advise banders how to proceed with these changes as well as to point out other important considerations.

The attached new forms 3-137B (Report on Banding Returns) will replace field use of the IBM cards(3-137) to record live station returns after an absence of 3 months or more. They should be made in duplicate so that each bander can keep a copy of data submitted to this office.

Most of the data to be completed on this form can be readily understood but if the "Flyway" in which you band is unknown, the proper entries will be made in this office. This likewise is true for the coordinates for the locality of banding which should be recorded in the two columns for "Latitude" and "Longitude". The last column (No. Prev. Returns) should be used to record from your records the number of times a particular bird has previously "returned" after each lapse of 90 or more days. This will tell us how many returns are already on file for that bird.

Since different species can be entered on the same sheet (maximum of 35 individuals of the same species, or maximum of 35 different species, etc.), only 2 sheets are being sent to each bander. Of course, a few banders will need more, and we will furnish additional forms upon request.

As explained in the December memo, plans were being made to use latitude and longitude in place of the county code when preparing IBM cards for Summarization of Bandings and for Recoveries. In addition to the data currently required on Bird Banding Schedules (3-860), there should be included at the end of the line marked "Station Locations" the coordinates for the locality of banding. For example, Laurel, Md, is 3906 - 07651. If more than one banding location is contained on the same sheet for which the coordinates are different, then the coordinates should be listed so as to correspond with each location on lines (A), (B), and (C).

It is anticipated that some banders will not have facilities, such as atlases, gazetteers, and road maps, to determine the proper coordinates (degrees and minutes); and in such cases, upon request to this office, coordinates will be determined and furnished for subsequent use.

A very interesting and productive project can be undertaken by Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, FFA or school classes by urging the girls and boys to search for dove nests during the week days. On Saturdays the sponsor should visit the nests with the youngsters and band the nestling doves. If eggs are present, the nest can be re-visited the following Saturday for banding. During the last five years, the state of Texas conducted a very successful banding project by utilizing school children and having local game protectors supervise and conduct the banding. Local bird clubs might well consider this type of project. This Service urges banders, students, biologists, game protectors, sportsmen and others to participate in a nation-wide effort to band large numbers of nestling doves and breeding adults during the next five breeding seasons.

Mr. Allen J. Duvall, in charge of our Bird-Banding Office, endorses this project and has aided by mailing this appeal to all banders. If you are able to participate, please send me a summary of your accomplishments at the close of the nesting season. You will contribute much needed information to an important investigation of this migratory game bird and we believe you will enjoy the experience.

Harold S. Peters
Research Biologist
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Peachtree-Seventh Building
Atlanta 5, Georgia

April 1955

HELP US BAND MORE MOURNING DOVES!

The most pressing need for improving Mourning Dove management is better information on the movement of doves from breeding areas of known population density to the various concentration points during migration and the winter months. More recoveries from doves banded as nestlings and breeding adults are needed to provide information on the source of origin of birds killed in each hunting area or state. To obtain the desired recoveries, it is necessary to step up the banding of nestlings and breeding adults throughout the range of the Mourning Dove.

An analysis of recoveries from all previous dove banding provides only about 1,000 usable recoveries from nestling banding. The recovery rate from nestling banding unfortunately is very low, usually only one to two per cent. However, several nestling banding projects have produced higher rates of recovery; consequently we hope more recoveries may result from intensified nestling banding projects. We need between 50,000 and 100,000 nestlings banded during the next five years. Adults banded from mid-May to mid-July can be considered breeding adults at the location of banding.

The recovery rate from adults may be slightly higher than that from nestlings; however, the difficulties of banding adults during the desired period limits the number which can be banded. They must be trapped on the nest or baited to nearby traps. This requires very frequent visits to traps since adults cannot be away from eggs or young in the nest more than a very short time. On the other hand, banding of nestling doves is a specialized job, requiring diligent search for dove nests in various habitats. If eggs are found in the nest, a subsequent visit must be made to band the young. Usually we recommend the nestlings be banded from approximately six to ten days of age. However, by utilizing a technique developed by Charles Kossack of Barrington, Illinois, and described in Bird-Banding (23:28-29, January 1952), very young nestlings can be safely banded. A short piece of elastic adhesive tape, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch wide is wrapped around the band and secured to the upper part of the leg, mainly on the small downy feathers. This prevents the band from slipping up above the joint of the leg or off the toes. The adhesive tape will gradually come loose and fall off in one to three weeks.

Dove nests are most commonly found from four to fifteen feet high in both coniferous and deciduous trees. In the early part of the nesting season, doves prefer evergreen trees almost exclusively. Cemeteries, parks, estates, hedge rows, farm-steads and small towns are good places to visit in searching for dove nests.

Banding should be so distributed and in such numbers that it will sample adequately the annual production and the breeding population to be evaluated. Nestlings should be banded throughout the entire nesting season in order to sample the production of all broods. The dove nests from March to September. Usually two or three broods are successful from four to six nesting attempts.

00	6795121025	100462	01
ADD'L INFO.	F STATE LAT. LONG. DIR	MO. DAY YR.	HUNTING SEASON
	WHERE RETAKEN	DATE RETAKEN	WHO REPT.

SAMPLE

[illegible]

BIRD BANDING RECOVERY CARD
REPORT TO BANDER

BAND NO.									A.O.U. NO.				STATUS			AGE			SEX			PERMIT NO.				WHERE BANDED				DATE BANDED				WHERE RETAKEN				DATE RETAKEN				DATE PUNCHED				HOW OBTAIN		PREVIOUS		ADDITIONAL		INFORM		DIR. B.A.		DIR. RE.		WHO		REPORT		HUNTING		SEASON		DAY CODE	

647-70076

J H ROSS
145 LOGAN CRES AVE
YORKTON

SASK

MALLARD

ADULT

FEMALE

TENN F AND GAME COMM

OLD HICKORY LAKE

TENN

DEC 3 1960

YORKTON AREA

SASK

OCT 4 1962

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
MIGRATORY BIRD POPULATIONS STATION
LAUREL, MARYLAND

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

S A M P L E

Thank you for reporting
band number 647-70076 .

To: J H ROSS
145 LOGAN CRES AVE
YORKTON

SASK

BANDING INFORMATION:

Species MALLARD

ADULT

FEMALE

Age

Sex

Banded by TENN F AND GAME COMM

Location OLD HICKORY LAKE TENN on DEC 3 1960

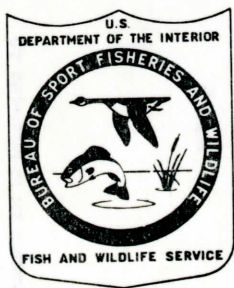
RECOVERY INFORMATION:

Location YORKTON AREA SASK on OCT 4 1962

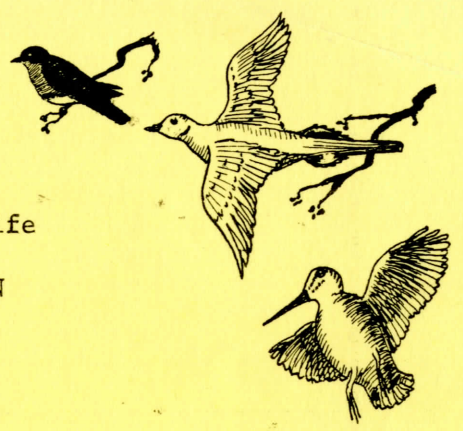
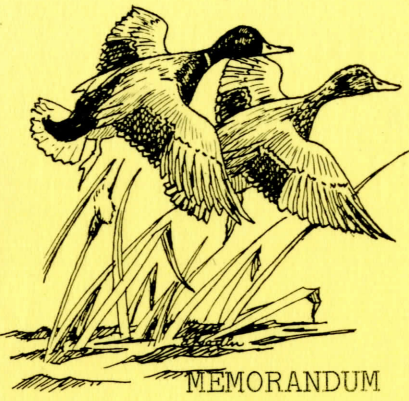


Band recoveries provide valuable information on migration routes, mortality, and other subjects important in the conservation of migratory birds. For example, the banding of waterfowl on the breeding grounds provides information on the sources of birds that are hunted in each State or Province. In this way we are learning many facts about the behavior and life histories of over 800 kinds of North American birds. Many of these, including some ducks such as the Blue-winged Teal, migrate as far as South America. Other distant points where bands have been recovered include Siberia, Japan, Africa, Portugal, England, France, New Zealand, and several Pacific Islands. One Pintail banded in Canada was taken in England 18 days later.

Banding has revealed that most birds live less than two years. However, a Caspian Tern was recovered 26 years after banding; a Ring-billed Gull and an Osprey lived 21 years; a Purple Martin lived 14 years, and a Blue Jay and Chimney Swift 13 years; several Mallards and Pintails have survived more than 20 years. Banding has indicated that Albatrosses continue to breed at an age of at least 30 years. Bird banding in North America is under the general direction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service with participation by State and Provincial Game Departments and many licensed and qualified volunteers. Over 11 million birds have been banded and a half million or more are being added each year. About 1 million of these have been recovered and are being studied. The agencies and individuals participating in this work thank you for your cooperation.



Bird Banding Laboratory
Migratory Bird Populations Station



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Branch of Wildlife Research
MIGRATORY BIRD POPULATIONS STATION
Laurel, Maryland

MEMORANDUM

December 21, 1962

To : Bird Banding Permittees
From : Bird Banding Laboratory
Subject : Band recoveries

You will recall that banders were advised under memo dated April 26, 1962 of further changes in our recovery reporting procedures to the bander and to the person reporting a band recovery.

Enclosed are two sample cards illustrating recent changes. The one with the Departmental and Service insignias is the new type report to the individual reporting a recovery or a foreign retrap. You will note that the information can be readily understood without recourse to code sheets, etc., and that all essential data are presented for both banding and recovery.

The card with the green horizontal stripe contains record for a given recovery or foreign retrap. It replaces the machine listing previously used and is a duplicate of the record used in our band recovery (statistical) file. The codified information is punched in the 80 column card, and the code numbers printed across the top (face) of the card so that it will not be necessary to "read" the punch holes to determine the code designations. For your convenience, however, the reverse side of the green-stripe card contains the English version for most of the coded data as well as the name and address of the reporter. This is an exact reproduction of the data sent to the "hunter".

Future recoveries, therefore, under your banding permit will be processed and transmitted on a green-stripe card similar to the enclosed sample. For some Master Permittees, machine listings of recoveries as heretofore will be periodically prepared and forwarded. They will contain only coded information.

Season's Greetings.

Allen J. Duvall