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Memorandum to All Banders, 41

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MEMORANDUM

April 10, 1980
MTAB-41

TO : All Banders

FROM : Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory
Office of Migratory Bird Management
Laurel, Maryland 20811

SUBJECT : 1. Requests for data
2. Bander coordination and cooperation
3. Banding schedules
4. Transporting birds
5. Monel and stainless steel bands
6. Appreciation of banders' efforts
7. Use of status code 6 (experimental bird)
8. Tree Swallow age/sex key (BBM, Vol. II)
9. Meetings

1. Bird banding and band recovery information is available from the Bird Banding Laboratory. To justify the expense of either programming or computer time, the need for the data must be stated in the written request. Also specify whether or not both banding and recovery data are needed, species and area. Generally avoid area descriptions smaller than a state. We can provide data on cards, listings or magnetic tape or as a combination of any of these. Routine information to data recipients is also sent with the data. Unless the need is urgent, request data in the early summer when our workload is lighter so we can resolve problems, prepare the request and then process it as soon as our annual retrieval file update is completed in late September or early October. This timing also enables requestors to receive the most current information. Remember to let us know of problems with the data so we can modify or otherwise correct our files.

2. The End-of-the-Year Banding Report and other bander correspondence provide us with general information relating individual banders to bird species being studied and to specific types of bander interest such as habitat evaluation, bird behavior, etc. With migratory bird resource concern and a justification so directed, we obtained an exception to the Privacy Act to use this information and, upon request, do so to further cooperation and coordination between banders.

3. When the "hunting season" begins we receive many recoveries for which there is no banding information in our files. This causes extra work and a delay in reporting to the band finder. Most of the recovery reports are on game birds but many are not. The non-game birds most often involved in these "up for bandings" are gulls, terns and raptors. To help us, please report bandings upon completion of any string of bands or upon completion of that calendar year's banding when you finish in the spring or early summer.

4. As a reminder, Federal Bird Marking and Salvage Permit authorization does not include transporting birds. For transporting, holding for more than 24 hours, and various other non-marking manipulations not included on the Bird Marking and Salvage Permit, please contact Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement for a Special Use Permit in advance of transporting birds, etc.

5. During the past year and possibly for the next year or more, we are unable to increase our inventory of monel and stainless steel bands. We have some monel and stainless steel bands available for studies on certain birds where salt or saline water, or the birds' habits or habitat, cause unusual band wear. Requests for these bands will be considered individually and for our information please explain your needs and the reasons relating to the physical considerations involved in unusual band corrosion or wear. Bands we still have in stock are monel 1B, 1A, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B and 8; stainless steel 1B, 1A, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5 and 6.

6. Periodically we compile administrative data on the North American Bird Banding Program and can then relate the extent of the information and its research and management use to other private or national programs and to the total data in the rest of the world. We are continually amazed at our favorable showing. Immediately this brings to mind that vast quantities of the North American data are from volunteer efforts--people interested in birds and willing to work hard and spend their own time and money to benefit the migratory bird resource. In our collective efforts to maintain bird populations and habitats we are greatly outnumbered by those uncaring or uninformed. Thanks to your dedication and work our efforts are far from hopeless.

7. Several banders have expressed concern regarding the use of status code 6 (experimental bird). This code should be used with codes for additional information when the survival of a bird is affected by the marker or treatment after capture, e.g. neck collars, injury, patagial tags, rehabilitation after injury, blood sample, laboratory experiments, (and contrary to the Manual, including additional information code 53), etc.

8. Several researchers have advised us of problems in the Tree Swallow Age/Sex key in the Bird Banding Manual, Vol. II. Couplet 2B should read "SEE 5." Couplet 4 should be omitted. A revised key is being developed and will be available at a later date.

9. A conference on Estimating the Numbers of Terrestrial Birds is scheduled at Asiloma, CA, October 26-31, 1980. For attendance information write to Bird Census Symposium, c/o California Natural Resources Federation, 2701 Cottage Way, Suite 28, Sacramento, CA 95825.

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