



Message from the BBL Chief

Dear Banders and Partners:

Our BBL team is working tirelessly to ensure that the lab remains the premier resource for long-term bird banding and marking data in North America as well as a robust, integrated scientific program that rapidly adapts to new science needs, study methods, and technologies to better facilitate successful and effective bird management and conservation. The BBL of today aims to achieve the following:

- Improve our communication and engagement with our partners and stakeholders, including with the four Flyway Councils (Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific)
- Provide leadership to our community of banders, including agencies, scientists, and amateur banders
- Increase collaboration within our banding community, particularly among coordinated banding projects and with international banding schemes
- Strengthen our infrastructure (database, bander portal and web applications) to provide better service to our community of users
- Coordinate and collaborate with other data archives managing data related to birds and bird banding activities, such as animal tracking repositories, bird surveys, etc.
- Increase BBL involvement in community science and continue our vision for a nationwide constituency of conservation supporters
- Strengthen our strategic science planning process to improve alignment of our investments with the needs of our partners
- Develop a shared vision for the BBL which engages our partners and ensures we are evolving and improving together

While we make headway towards our goals, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or are just interested in learning more. Thank you in advance for your support and assistance. -Antonio Celis-Murillo, Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory

Staffing Announcement

Lauren Walker joined the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory on September 13, 2021. Lauren comes from Yellowstone National Park where she served as a Wildlife Biologist with the Yellowstone Bird Program. While in Yellowstone, she initiated a MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) banding station and participated in various avian research projects. She graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with her master's degree in 2011 and with her Ph.D. in 2015.

As a biologist with the Bird Banding Lab, Lauren will assist with band encounter operations, and provide quality assurance and control of the band and band encounter data. Lauren will serve as a member of the Bird Banding Lab's permit review team, assessing permit applications and contributing to other aspects of the permitting processes. She will also serve as the Flyway liaison and Bird Banding Lab representative at conferences, events and meetings as needed. You can read more about Lauren's recent work here: https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/lauren-e-walker?qt-staff_profile_science_products=3#qt-staff_profile_science_products

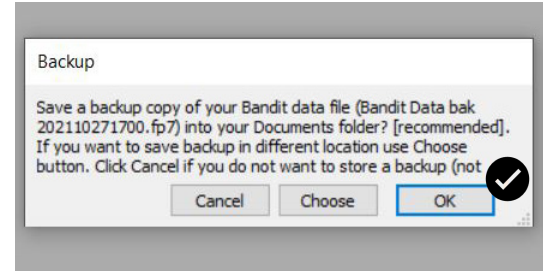


BIRD BANDING LABORATORY: Memo To All Banders: 99

Bandit Notes

Backup File Reminder

Please as always, do not forget to save a separate backup file after an editing session or data submission. It is especially important to have a backup at the end of each banding season or if you may not use Bandit again for a while. All data and settings are easily restored using the backup file on a new or second computer.



Attention Mac users

Bandit 4.0 no longer works on 64-bit only Mac operating systems. Some options:

- Try Bandit 5.0 for Mac. Download it from the FTP site. Users have reported issues, please email bandithelp@usgs.gov and let us know if it works for you.
<ftp://ftpeft.usgs.gov/pub/er/md/laurel/BBL/BANDIT/>
- Use a Windows computer. PC Bandit looks and behaves exactly as the Mac version. 4.0 is compatible with Windows 10, Windows 11 has not been tested.

FTP directory /pub/er/md/laurel/BBL/BANDIT/ at ftpeft.usgs.gov

To view this FTP site in File Explorer: press Alt, click View, and then click **Open FTP Site in File Explorer**.

[Up to higher level directory](#)

07/21/2020 12:00AM	624,817	Bandit 4.0 Data Entry bandings and recaps.xlsx
07/21/2020 12:00AM	622,101	Bandit 4.0 Data Entry bandings only.xlsx
07/27/2016 12:00AM	19,649,081	Bandit 4.0 Data Entry6000bandings.xlsx
03/31/2021 12:00AM	6,274,453	Bandit 4.0 Data Entry6000bandings.zip
11/20/2018 12:00AM	31,081,359	Bandit5 for Windows.zip
11/20/2018 12:00AM	56,493,885	Bandit5forMac.pkg
11/23/2011 12:00AM	32,289,530	Bandit 3.01 for windows.zip
11/16/2020 12:00AM	Directory	Bandit 4.0
12/17/2015 12:00AM	36,818,636	Bandit 4.0.zip
10/18/2016 12:00AM	36,820,439	Bandit 4.01 for windows.zip
11/29/2011 12:00AM	44,405,549	MacBandit3.01.zip
12/23/2015 12:00AM	58,611,703	MacBandit 4.0.zip

Automatic VS. Manual Data Submission

To automatically submit data files to the BBL FTP site, install Amazon Corretto. Choose version 8, download for Windows x86 - get the jdk.msi file:

corretto.aws/downloads/latest/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jdk.msi

If Corretto is not an option, it's still fine to submit data files 'manually'. Locate your banding, recapture and modified .tab files in the Documents folder and attach to an email to bandit@usgs.gov.

Keep track of all submission files received at BBL by checking the bander portal at the BBL website:

pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/Bander_portal/login/main_login.php

These links can be used in scripts to pull the latest version of Amazon Corretto 8.

Platform	Type	Download Link	Checksum (MD5)
	JRE	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest/amazon-corretto-8-x64-windows-jre.msi	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest_checksum/amazon-corretto-8-x64-windows-jre.msi
		https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest/amazon-corretto-8-x64-windows-jre.zip	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest_checksum/amazon-corretto-8-x64-windows-jre.zip
Windows x86	JDK	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jdk.msi	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest_checksum/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jdk.msi
		https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jdk.zip	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest_checksum/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jdk.zip
	JRE	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jre.msi	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest_checksum/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jre.msi
		https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jre.zip	https://corretto.aws/downloads/latest_checksum/amazon-corretto-8-x86-windows-jre.zip

BIRD BANDING LABORATORY: Memo To All Banders: 99

Bander Portal: New Features & Improvements

The BBL continues to work determinedly on the development and improvement of the Bander Portal, therefore, new features are being added frequently that allow banders a better management of their banding data and address additional bander needs. The Bander Portal now also serves the public (anyone without a Federal Permit) and allows them to manage their re-sightings and encounters reported to the Lab, among other features.

What can you do in the Bander Portal if you are a bird bander with a federal permit from the Bird Banding Lab? Note: If Sub bander does not see some features, the Master bander needs to allow access to those features using “Define Menu for Sub Banders” (see tools menu, Fig. 1).

- View and update your contact information
- View list of subpermittees and permit authorizations
- Download/print your permit
- View/download banding locations associated with your permit
- See the list of Encounters associated with the email address on your account (Fig. 4)
- See Data submission history
- Make a request of bird banding and/or encounters data archived in the Bird Banding Lab (Fig. 3)
- See delinquent data
- Order bands and confirm bands as received
- View/download band inventory for your permit
- Request transferal of bands TO your permit or FROM your permit to another permit
- Notify the Bird Banding Lab about returning bands
- See report to bander (Fig. 2)
- Upload Documents related to bandings, encounters, or permit

What can you do in the Bander Portal (Public Access)?

- See the list of Encounters associated with the email address on your account (Fig. 4)
- Make a request of bird banding and/or encounters data archived in the Bird Banding Lab (Fig. 3)
- Upload images or documents related to encounters reported previously
- View tables of valid codes for various banding and encounter data fields (e.g., age, sex, etc.) and recommended band sizes by species

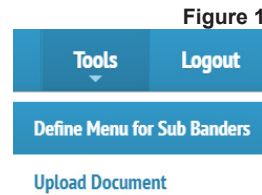


Figure 1

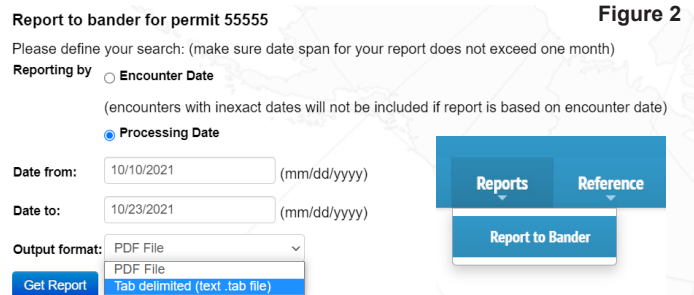


Figure 2

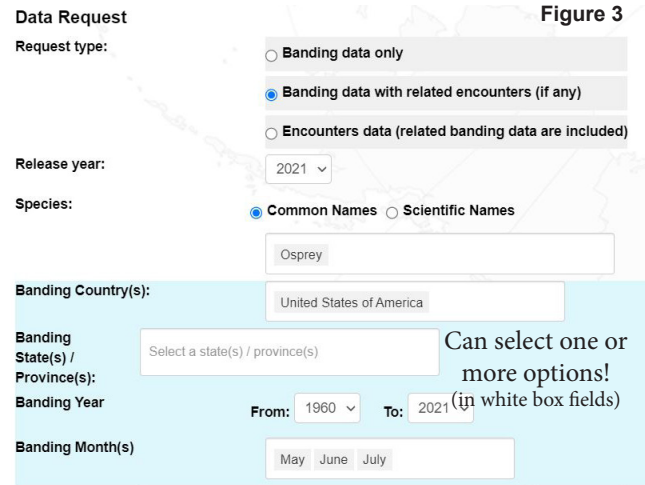


Figure 3

Can select one or more options! (in white box fields)

N	Band ID	Enc Date mm/dd/yyyy	Species	How Obt	Latitude	Longitude	Enc Location	Error/Option	Images
1	1603-24625	10/23/2018	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Killed or caught by a predator other than a cat	39.04907	-76.81212	0.9 mi E of MONTPELIER WOODS, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES	See Certificate Upload images related to this encounter	
2	1332-15451	08/15/2012	Ruddy Turnstone	Saw or photographed neck collar, color band, or other marker (not federal band) while bird was free	38.96350	-74.96331	1.3 mi SSW of NORTH CAPE MAY, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES	See Certificate Upload images related to this encounter	

Figure 4

BIRD BANDING LABORATORY: Memo To All Banders: 99



STEP-UP Program Update

After a yearlong break during the Covid-19 shutdown, our STEP-UP interns are back at work assisting BBL. The Secondary Transition to Employment Program-USGS Partnership (STEP-UP) provides employment training and opportunities for students who have earned special or modified standard diplomas. For the past 6 years, over 40 participants from two local high schools have scanned and digitized paper banding schedules for preservation and availability to BBL staff. To date, nearly **1 million schedules** have been processed. We look forward to our continued involvement with the STEP-UP program.



Banders Without Borders

The Banders Without Borders (BWB) Initiative is a way to create connections with banding/ringing schemes around the world. The initiative will kick off with virtual meetings organized by the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory to meet with other schemes and to share information about our current programs. The goals of BWB are to 1) improve communication among banding schemes, 2) foster learning among the banding community, 3) seek collaborative opportunities, 4) develop and champion partnerships and 5) advance the bird banding sciences. In these meetings, each program/scheme will share information about their banding scheme through a short presentation followed by an open discussion and question and answer period. These series of meetings are the initial step in forming the Banders Without Borders Initiative that aims to make positive advancements in our scientific field by standardizing and supporting the collection, archiving, curation, analyses and dissemination of information of marked birds and to ultimately, develop effective bird science practices, management and conservation of birds.



BIRD BANDING LABORATORY: Memo To All Banders: 99



Albatross Project Completed

In 2021, the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory completed a 20-year long data management project as part of long-term collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This effort will allow scientists to use banding data as a tool to assess the population demographics of Black-footed Albatross and Laysan Albatross in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The BBL's role was to locate, digitize, review and store all known banding and recapture records for both species. The result is a fully vetted dataset of more than 1 million records going back to the first Laysan Albatrosses banded on Midway Atoll in 1939. The dataset is now being analyzed by USGS Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.



Fall Migration Monitoring Banding Station

The BBL resumed operation of its Fall Migration Monitoring Banding Station at the Patuxent Research Refuge after taking a hiatus in 2020. While a slow year in general, highlights included the first House Finch since 1999, Lincoln's Sparrow, and an early season American Woodcock. The station generally operates three days a week running a total of 26 nets. We've currently banded a total of 33 days so far this fall, with 9 days left in the field season. To date, we've banded a total of 1,338 new birds and processing 224 recaptures. In addition to monitoring fall songbird migration, the station continues to provide training and learning opportunities to the BBL and EESC staff and volunteers. Read more about the unique history of the station here: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eesc/science/bird-banding-patuxent-wildlife-research-center?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects



Follow us on Facebook

Following the merger of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Leetown Science Center in 2020, The Bird Banding Lab is now a part of the Eastern Ecological Science Center. Follow EESC's Facebook Page for updates on the BBL's Banding Station, amazing encounters and bandings, and more! <https://www.facebook.com/USGSEESC>