

TO : All Banders

August 18, 1967
MTAB #8

FROM : Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory
Migratory Bird Populations Station
Laurel, Maryland 20810

SUBJECT: 1. Submission of schedules reporting "game bird" bandings
2. Transmission of "Procedures for Issuance, Renewal, Suspension and Revocation of U. S. Federal Bird Banding Permits"

1. We are now approaching the opening of various hunting seasons. Please be sure that any accumulated records of banded game birds are forwarded to the Bird Banding Laboratory as soon as possible.

If a banded bird is shot and the band reported to us prior to the time we receive your data, we will have to request these data from you via Postal Card Form 3-860a (see MTAB #6, p. 3).

If we must request your data via mail, the hunter who cooperated by reporting this band will experience an additional delay of at least 30 days before we can respond to his report.

I recently received a letter from a hunter who had experienced an overlong delay in receiving a response to his report of a band recovery. I feel that the following excerpts from his letter explain the problem quite well:

"...I was under the impression that you desired reports on shooting of banded waterfowl, and furnished information in return on when and where the bird was banded. ...I am hardly stimulated to report the next banded duck I shoot."

Please review the comments pertaining to the dates banding schedules are due in the Banding Laboratory (MTAB #6, p. 14-16).

2. During recent years, the Banding Laboratory has been somewhat restrictive in the issuance and renewal of bird banding permits.

After meeting and talking with hundreds of banders at various banding association and other ornithological meetings, I am aware that some confusion exists concerning our present policies. The attached "Procedures for Issuance, Renewal, Suspension and Revocation of U. S. Federal Bird Banding Permits" outline the policies and procedures presently in effect.

The information contained in the attachment supersedes:

A. Bird Banding Manual (issued June 30, 1961)

1. Page BBM-B-1110 (issued June 30, 1961)
2. Page BBM-B-1120
3. Page BBM-B-1130
4. Page BBM-B-1140 (paragraph titled "Color Marking" only)
5. Page BBM-C-1100 - BANDING IN CANADA

B. Guide to Waterfowl Banding (issued Sept. 1956)

1. Section 1110 -- Banding Permits

C. My memo to all State conservation agencies and national wildlife refuges, dated April 20, 1966, subject: Procedures for Issuance and Renewal of Federal Bird Banding Permits



Earl B. Baysinger

Attachments

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Procedures for Issuance, Renewal, Suspension and
Revocation of U. S. Federal Bird Banding Permits

GENERAL .

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands will be issued only to persons possessing a Federal banding permit which is in "good standing." This policy will apply regardless of whether or not the species the individual wishes to band are covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

All requests for banding permits should be forwarded to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland 20810.

Most requests will be acknowledged by a form letter (copy attached). This letter is intended to "weed out" those persons who are either under age, not qualified or who have only a casual interest in banding.

Persons who reply to the form letter and who appear to be qualified will be provided application forms.

Strong justification will be needed prior to the issuance of a banding permit to persons holding propagating or taxidermy permits.

ISSUANCE OF PERMITS

If, after reviewing the applicant's completed application, he appears to be qualified, letters of inquiry will be forwarded to those persons he lists as references.

If favorable comments are received from these references and the applicant has indicated that he has a need for the banding technique, the applicant will be issued a Federal bird banding permit.

If, after reviewing the applicant's completed application and references, he appears to be qualified but has no specific need for a permit, he will be notified that he is qualified but that at the present time permits are being issued only to persons who have a need for the banding technique. He will be notified that his request can be re-evaluated if or when he develops such a need.

In some instances permits will be issued to qualified individuals who, although they are not involved in personal research, will be participating in or cooperating with research projects conducted by other agencies or individuals. Proposed projects of significant educational merit will also be given consideration.

If, after reviewing the applicant's completed application and/or references, it appears that he would not be qualified for a banding permit, he will be so notified. Since comments provided by the persons listed as references are deemed confidential, the applicant will not be notified as to "who said what" which resulted in the denial of his application.

DISTRIBUTION

The original of each permit will be forwarded to the applicant with a Banding Manual, initial supply of bands, forms, etc.

One copy will be forwarded to the Regional Director of each region within which the applicant will be banding. Regional Directors will notify the appropriate State conservation agencies and Federal game management agents.

One copy will be forwarded to the secretary of the banding association within whose territory the applicant's state of residence falls.

One copy will be retained in the Bird Banding Laboratory files.

SPECIAL PROVISOS

1. Authorization to capture and mark waterfowl. Authorization to capture and mark waterfowl will generally be granted only to State or Federal conservation agency employees or their assistants.

Certain exceptions, such as local or private waterfowl sanctuaries, students or faculty engaged in waterfowl research, etc., will be recognized.

Bird banding permits issued to other persons will be worded in such a manner as to exclude authorization to capture or mark waterfowl.

This exclusion should not be interpreted so stringently as to prevent the banding of waterfowl captured incidental to other banding operations. For example, if a bander is netting red-winged blackbirds in a marsh and accidentally captures a duck, he should be permitted to band the duck even though waterfowl are excluded from his permit.

This exclusion is intended to prevent banders from trapping specifically for waterfowl or pursuing or harassing nesting waterfowl, broods, etc.

It is also intended to insure that those agencies charged with the conservation and management of the waterfowl resource have access to all pertinent data derived from the marking of these species.

2. Authorization to capture and mark eagles. Authorization to capture and mark eagles will be granted only to persons engaged in research dealing with these species. Persons requesting authorization to capture and mark eagles will be requested to provide an outline of their research project.

The Bird Banding Laboratory will provide the appropriate Regional Director copies of any pertinent correspondence and will invite his comments prior to granting authorization to capture or mark eagles.

If the applicant has a feasible research project and no unfavorable comments are received, the Bird Banding Laboratory will grant authorization to capture and mark eagles. This authorization will consist of the appropriate notations on the bander's Federal bird banding permit or a "Letter of Authorization" to be appended to the bander's existing banding permit. The appropriate Regional Directors will receive copies of any such permits or "Letters of Authorization."

Ordinary banding permits will be worded in such a manner as to specifically exclude authorization to trap or band eagles.

This exclusion is intended to discourage promiscuous banding of nestling eagles or intensive harassment of flying birds. It should not be interpreted so stringently as to exclude the banding of those flying birds captured incidental to other banding activities. For example, eagles are sometimes accidentally captured during fall migration in sets intended for other raptors. The bander should be permitted to band these eagles even though eagles are excluded from his permit.

This exclusion should be interpreted stringently enough to prohibit banders from climbing nest trees to band eaglets, trapping specifically for eagles, or pursuing or harassing eagles for the purpose of capturing and banding them.

3. Permission to band in states other than state of residence. Persons seeking authority to band in two or more states will be asked for justification. In cases where the bander has a research project requiring him to work in additional states or has other justifiable reasons (acquisition of a summer home, etc.), additional states will be granted. The appropriate regional office will be notified of any such actions.

4. Mist Nets. The use of mist nets requires a high degree of skill and manual dexterity if they are to be used without causing undue mortality. By greatly increasing the number of species the bander is likely to capture, these nets demand a greater degree of ornithological training than would be necessary if the bander were limited to traps.

For these and other reasons, persons requesting permission to use mist nets will be asked for justification. Whenever possible, we will request that they work with another bander who is presently using nets and receive a recommendation from that bander. In cases where the applicant can justify his need for nets and it appears that he is qualified to use them, permission will be granted. The appropriate regional office will be notified of any such actions.

5. Color Marking. Color marking is discouraged. The data derived from birds rendered "experimental" through color marking, etc., are of very limited value since these data cannot be considered comparable with data produced by birds which are simply banded and released.

The number of suitable colors and type markers are also very limited. If permission to use markers of a certain type and color is granted one investigator, these colors or markers must be denied other investigators working in the same area with the same species until all the previously marked birds can be considered dead.

Many complaints are received from the public concerning injuries, etc., caused by color-marking devices. These complaints are justified and present a significant "public relations" problem to the entire banding program.

Due to personnel and equipment limitations, the Bird Banding Laboratory is not able to routinely respond to citizens who report sighting color-marked birds, nor are such data (unless accompanied by a band number) entered into the Bird Banding Laboratory's statistical files.

All color-marking schemes should be cleared through the Banding Laboratory prior to initiation. The Banding Laboratory will act as a "clearing house" for such schemes. If no other investigator is on record as using the same type and color marker on the same species in the same area, and if the investigator has a feasible project which necessitates color marking, such authorization will be granted.

Such activities are not authorized unless so noted on the face of the banding permit or in a supplementary "Letter of Authorization." The Banding Laboratory will provide the appropriate regional office copies of any such "Letters of Authorization." The authority granted in such "Letters of Authorization" shall not extend beyond the expiration date of the banding permit.

6. Authorization to use chemicals to capture migratory birds. The use of various chemical agents to tranquilize and capture birds for the purpose of marking shows great promise. As with mist nets, however, this technique requires a high degree of skill and conscientiousness if undue mortality is to be avoided.

Authorization to use chemicals is prohibited unless specifically noted on the banding permit.

7. Authorization to capture and mark "endangered" species. Authorization to capture or mark those species designated "endangered" by the Secretary of the Interior will be granted only to persons engaged in research dealing with those species. Persons requesting authorization to capture or mark "endangered" species will be requested to provide an outline of their research project.

The Bird Banding Laboratory will invite comments from the staff of the Endangered Species Research Station prior to approving authorization to capture or mark "endangered" species.

If the applicant has a feasible research project and if no unfavorable comments are received, the Bird Banding Laboratory will grant authorization to capture or mark "endangered" species. This authorization will consist of the appropriate notations on the bander's federal bird banding permit or a "Letter of Authorization" to be appended to the bander's existing banding permit. The appropriate Regional Directors will receive copies of any such permits or "Letters of Authorization."

This exclusion should not be interpreted so stringently as to prevent the banding of "endangered" species captured incidental to other banding operations. For example, if a bander accidentally captures a Kirtland's warbler in a mist net or trap intended for other species, he should be permitted to band this bird even though his permit excludes authorization to band "endangered" species.

This exclusion should be interpreted stringently enough to prohibit banders from trapping specifically for these species or from disturbing nests or nesting birds for the purpose of banding.

SUB-PERMITS ISSUED TO BANDERS OTHER THAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
OR STATE CONSERVATION AGENCY PERSONNEL

Any valid banding permit shall be deemed a "master permit." With adequate justification, the holder of any "master permit" can request that one or more "sub-permits" be issued to qualified persons who will be assisting him.

Distribution of sub-permits will be the same as for master permits.

It is not deemed necessary to issue sub-permits to persons who will be assisting a bander while the bander is present or in the immediate vicinity. Sub-permits will be issued only to persons who will be assisting a bander's project when or where it is likely that the master permittee will be absent for extended periods.

In general, if the master permittee is a bander in good standing who submits prompt, accurate, legible records, and if he can justify his request, such sub-permits will, upon his recommendation, be issued.

Where practical, we encourage the issuance of sub-permits. By having a new bander serve an "apprenticeship" under an experienced bander, many problems are detected before the new bander's records are submitted to the Bird Banding Laboratory. The new bander also has a taste of banding and the amount of paper work and record keeping involved. If he loses his enthusiasm or if his records are not of acceptable quality, his activities can be terminated before we go to the trouble of entering his name into the machine records, setting up his files, etc.

The authority granted a sub-permittee will not exceed that granted the master permittee.

The expiration date of a sub-permit will not exceed that of the master permit under which it is issued.

A sub-permittee shall obtain all bands, banding supplies, etc., through the master permittee. All records submitted by the sub-permittee shall be submitted under the name and permit number of the master permittee.

The master permittee shall be responsible for the promptness and quality of all records submitted by his sub-permittees.

The name and address of the master permittee as well as the sub-permittee will be noted on the sub-permit.

The Banding Laboratory does not presently retain the name and address of sub-permittees on their mailing list. The master permittee will be expected to promptly transmit to his sub-permittees all information, requests for data, etc., which he receives from the Banding Laboratory.

Notification of the recoveries of birds banded by sub-permittees will be forwarded to the master permittee.

PERMITS ISSUED TO STATE CONSERVATION AGENCIES OR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Permits issued to State conservation agencies or national wildlife refuges will be issued for an indefinite period. Instead of an expiration date, the notation "valid until revoked" will be entered on the permit.

Such permits will be issued to the agency or refuge rather than to an individual. The Banding Laboratory forwards data pertaining to recoveries of banded birds to the person or agency under whose permit the bird was banded. Thus, if a permit is issued to an individual and that individual moves, all data pertaining to birds he has banded will follow him to his new station. If such bandings were part of an agency's research program, this could result in the agency's loss of significant data. By issuing the permit to the agency, rather than an individual, the continuity of the agency's banding program will be insured regardless of changes in personnel.

EACH AGENCY OR REFUGE TO WHOM SUCH A PERMIT IS ISSUED WILL PROVIDE THE BANDING LABORATORY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING THE BANDING RECORDS HAS BEEN ASSIGNED.

This individual's name will be entered on the banding permit below the name of the agency to whom the permit was issued.

All correspondence, requests for supplies, data, etc., will be handled through this "responsible individual." In the event that the person designated as the "responsible individual" moves, or is otherwise relieved of his duties, the Banding Laboratory should be notified as to who will replace him. A new permit, containing the new name, will then be issued.

It has been practically impossible to maintain a current file of State conservation agency employees to whom sub-permits have been issued. This is due to the high turnover in State personnel and their frequent changes of address.

For this reason, we will issue only one permit to a State agency. The person designated as the responsible individual will then issue "Letters of Authorization" to persons who will be banding migratory birds under the State's master permit. Such letters should be worded as follows:

(Date Issued)

"This is to certify that John Doe is an employee of (name of State agency) and is authorized to trap migratory birds for the purpose of banding under the provisions of Federal Banding Permit Number issued to (name of agency to whom permit is issued). The authority granted herein shall expire on (no more than one year after date of issue) or upon the termination of his employment with this agency, whichever occurs first."

(Name and Title)

The State should provide the Bird Banding Laboratory and the regional office a copy of any such "Letters of Authorization."

The same procedure should be followed for refuge personnel banding under a refuge's master permit on areas outside the refuge boundaries. If such bandings are accomplished on the refuge, it is not necessary to issue a "Letter of Authorization."

All records submitted to the Banding Laboratory should carry the permit number and name of the agency to which the permit is issued.

EXPIRATION DATES, RENEWALS, ETC.

With a few exceptions, such as permits issued to national wildlife refuges or State conservation agencies, all permits are valid for a period of not to exceed two years.

In order to more evenly distribute the workload of permit renewals and to avoid any "backlogs," the following table to determine the month in which permits expire has been set up:

<u>Bander's last name begins with</u>	<u>Bander's permit expires on</u>
A, B	January 31
C, D	February 28
E, F	March 31
G, H	April 30
I, J	May 31
K, L	June 30
M, N	July 31
O, P, Q	August 31
R, S	September 30
T, U	October 31
V, W	November 30
X, Y, Z	December 31

It is the responsibility of the bander to request renewal of his permit approximately 30 days prior to the expiration date.

A notation will be entered on each permit above the permit number. This notation indicates what action was taken on the permit. These notations should be interpreted as follows:

<u>Notation</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Issue	Initial issue of a new permit.
Renewal	Renewal of a permit which was in "good standing." No changes were made on the new permit.
Revision	Revision of a permit which was in "good standing." New permit differs from old permit (special provisions added or deleted, etc.).

Reactivation	Reactivation of a permit which was voluntarily placed on "inactive status" due to permittee's inability to participate in banding for an extended period.
Reinstatement	Reinstatement of a permit which had been suspended due to permittee's failure to submit usable records or for other reasons. Also used to indicate reinstatement of permits which banders have allowed to expire. Requests for reinstatement should be accompanied by a detailed outline of the bander's need for the banding technique.
Replacement	Permit issued to replace a lost or destroyed permit.

The appropriate regional office will receive copies of any pertinent correspondence transmitted to a bander with his permit.

PERMIT SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS

A bander is occasionally encountered who either cannot or will not submit usable data or who otherwise creates problems serious enough to warrant the suspension or revocation of his banding privileges.

There will also be instances where regional personnel become aware of situations warranting permit suspension or revocation. For example, the region may become aware that the bander obtained his permit under false pretenses or be aware of a history of law violations or associated activities on the part of the individual that would make it undesirable for the individual to possess a permit to trap and band birds.

Field personnel may, during the conduct of routine duties, become aware of situations which, in their opinion, warrant corrective action or the suspension or revocation of the bander's permit.

Such information and/or recommendations should be forwarded to the Bird Banding Laboratory. If this information is transmitted directly from the field, the regional office should be kept fully informed via copies of pertinent correspondence.

The Bird Banding Laboratory will, upon request, provide regional personnel any pertinent information available in the Bird Banding Laboratory files.

When the situation warrants, the Bird Banding Laboratory will, via the regional office, request additional investigation by regional personnel.

The Bird Banding Laboratory will notify the bander of the problem he is creating and, when practical, suggest possible solutions. The regional office and other interested parties will receive copies of any pertinent correspondence.

If this action fails to correct the situation, the Bird Banding Laboratory will notify the bander of the suspension or revocation of his banding privileges. Such notifications will be transmitted via certified mail. The appropriate regional office will be provided copies of any such correspondence.

Persons whose permits are merely suspended may, upon clarification of the problems prompting such suspensions, have their banding privileges reinstated. Regional offices will be kept informed of any such actions.

If, after a reasonable length of time, persons whose banding privileges have been suspended have not clarified the problems, their permits will be revoked. Regional offices will be informed via copies of pertinent correspondence prior to the revocation of a banding permit.

The banding privileges of a person whose banding permit has been revoked will not be reinstated for a period of at least 12 months from the date of revocation.

BANDING IN CANADA

All questions concerning Canadian banding policies, procedures, etc., should be directed to:

Chief
Canadian Wildlife Service
400 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa 4, Ontario
Canada

Attention: Bird Banding



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
MIGRATORY BIRD POPULATIONS STATION
LAUREL, MARYLAND 20810

TELEPHONE
776-3760
(Washington Exchange)

I am writing in reply to your recent letter requesting information concerning the issuance of a federal bird banding permit.

Most wild migratory birds throughout North America are protected by federal regulations. In order to capture these birds for the purpose of marking or banding, it is necessary to first obtain a federal bird banding permit. Such permits are issued through this office.

In addition to your federal permit, most states require that you also obtain a state banding permit. We cooperate with Alaska by honoring their request that persons wishing to band in their state make application and receive a state permit before we issue a federal permit. In the remainder of the states, it is necessary to receive a federal permit before applying for a state permit.

The only purpose for banding such birds is the generation of complete, accurate, scientifically usable data. All such data accrued by professional and amateur banders throughout North America are forwarded to this office. This information is converted to automatic data cards or magnetic tape and subsequently made available to scientists, wildlife technicians, students or banders who wish to make a detailed study of these birds.

For these reasons, persons who are issued permits are required to keep accurate detailed records pertaining to all birds they band. This requires not only many hours of paper work each year, but also a very sound background in ornithology and the ability to correctly identify the species, age, sex and various plumages of most of the birds they are likely to encounter.

At the present time, we are receiving many more requests from persons desiring permits than we are able to honor. We are, for this reason, only issuing permits to highly qualified individuals. We further request that these persons have a specific need for the banding technique.

In addition, all applicants must be at least 18 years old and be able to furnish the names of at least three licensed banders or competent ornithologists who will vouch for the applicant's ability to correctly identify the birds he will likely be handling as well as his ability to maintain thorough, accurate, legible records.

Except in very rare instances, the banding of waterfowl is restricted to state and federal conservation agency employees or their assistants.

Special restrictions are placed on the banding of Bald and Golden Eagles.

Except in rare cases, banding permits are not issued to persons holding propagating or taxidermy permits.

If you feel you can meet the qualifications outlined above, please notify me and I will forward the forms necessary to apply for a federal banding permit.

Sincerely yours,

Earl B. Baysinger, Chief
Bird Banding Laboratory