

November 14, 2025

The Bird Banding Lab Is Back Online. Thank You for Your Patience.

Dear Bander,

We are pleased to let you know that the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory is officially back online following the 43-day federal government shutdown. We recognize this has been a challenging and uncertain period for many of you, and we are grateful for your patience and understanding while our operations were paused.

As we resume work, our priority is to stabilize core functions of the North American Bird Banding Program. This includes ensuring ReportBand.gov and the Bander Portal are fully operational, processing federal permit requests and modifications, fulfilling band orders, processing banding and encounter data and responding to bander's specific requests by email that came in while our operations were lapsed. Because of the length of the shutdown, we are facing a significant backlog across all these areas, and we kindly ask for your continued patience as our small team works diligently to get everything moving again.

We want to be transparent: the BBL continues to operate with limited staff capacity, and this makes our restart more challenging than in previous shutdowns. However, we remain deeply committed to supporting the banding community, ensuring the long-term integrity and accessibility of banding and encounter data. Your work is essential to bird conservation and research, and we take seriously our responsibility to serve you and the broader scientific community.

Over the next several weeks, our team will focus on catching up with high-priority tasks, addressing time-sensitive requests, and gradually returning to normal operations. If you submitted urgent inquiries or requests prior to or during the shutdown, feel free to reach out so we can prioritize where possible. We will continue communicating openly as we regain momentum.

Thank you for your continued dedication to bird banding and for your partnership with the BBL. Your resilience and support make this community what it is, and we are grateful to work alongside you.

Saludos,
Antonio (Tony) Celis-Murillo, Ph.D.
Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory

U.S. Geological Survey
Eastern Ecological Science Center
BIRD BANDING LABORATORY
12100 BEECH FOREST ROAD
LAUREL MD 20708-4037
EMAIL: bbl@usgs.gov