United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT
LAUREL, MARYLAND 20708

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Banders

From: Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory

Subjects:
1. Spotted Owl
2. Nongame Bird Banding Workshop
3. Some Permit Matters
4. Banding Assistance - Australia
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1. Spotted Owl

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the Northern Spotted Owl as a threatened (sub) species (Federal Register Vol. 55, No. 123, p. 26114, June 26, 1990). The ruling implements protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for Spotted Owls occurring in Washington, Oregon, and northern California. Effective July 23, 1990, banders will need an endangered species permit if they wish to initiate or continue banding Northern Spotted Owls. For more information contact: Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington, VA 22203 (703-358-2104).

2. Nongame Bird Banding Workshop

The Office of Migratory Bird Management, in collaboration with the Migratory Bird Surveys Division of the Canadian Wildlife Service, hosted a nongame bird banding workshop, January 30 and 31, at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, home of the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL). The purpose of the workshop was to solicit the views and recommendations of bird banders from throughout Canada and the United States on a variety of subjects related to their needs and plans and the current policies and procedures of the two governments. Attendees included representatives of regional banding organizations; federal, state and private conservation agencies and major bird observatories. Subjects addressed included the role of the government in guiding and coordinating bird banding activities, cooperative banding projects, banding as a means of monitoring bird populations, bird banding in Latin America, and the importance of banding in conservation education. The North American bird banding system was compared to the British bird ringing system.

The workshop was a step in a larger effort to evaluate BBL functions and the banding program. Results of the workshop will aid in assessing needs in staffing, computer technology and possible modifications in the basic design of the current record entry and storage procedure. Currently, the BBL receives and stores information on an average of 1.1 million banded birds each year. Encounters or recoveries of banded birds average 50,000 per year. The ultimate goal of the BBL evaluations is to assure the best use of bird banding and BBL resources in the conservation of migratory birds during the 1990s and beyond.

3. **Some Permit Matters**

We remind banders that banding permit conditions specify that birds may not be captured or possessed for reasons other than banding, marking or salvage (dead birds, held temporarily only). The following, which may be legitimate when covered by other permits, are not legitimate uses of a banding permit:

a. Capturing or holding birds expressly for photography or painting; (this does not preclude photographing banded birds to document unusual occurrences or plumages)
b. Capturing birds for falconry or propagation
c. Collecting birds
d. Holding birds more than 24 hours

Contact the assistant regional director for law enforcement at your regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office for information on permits that might cover these activities.

Some banding permittees use their permits strictly for salvage purposes. In these cases, a salvage permit (available from your Service regional office) would be more appropriate.

BBL can authorize banders to take blood samples from birds. Additional permits from other Service offices are not required unless the birds are threatened or endangered. As with salvage, however, for cases where blood sampling, not banding or marking, is the permittee's only reason for having a banding permit, then another Service permit would be more appropriate.

4. **Banding Assistance - Australia**

The Australian CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology is studying avian populations in remnants of vegetation and road verges in the wheat belt of western Australia. Qualified banders are invited to assist CSIRO biologists in banding projects there. Transportation and accommodation in the field are provided free, and a field allowance of $10.00 per day is paid to volunteers. We assume that transportation to the study area is not provided. For more information contact: Perry de Reberia, CSIRO, LMB 4, P.O. Midland, WA 6056, Australia (phone 09 252 0107).

5. **Recent Literature**

The development of methods for analyzing banding and other forms of capture/recapture data continues with the recent publishing of: Pollock, K.E., J.D. Nichols, C. Brownie and J.E. Hines. 1990. Statistical Inference for Capture/Recapture Experiments. Wildl. Monogr. 107. 97pp. This monograph presents a detailed, practical exposition on the design, analysis, and interpretation of capture/recapture studies. It is technical and will be most useful to banders having serious interests in analyses of population size and survival. The Literature Cited section provides an excellent source of references on capture/recapture studies. The monograph is available from the Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814. The price is $4.45.

Less technical and having broader application in bird banding studies is William Hilton, Jr.'s Bird Banding: Experiencing the Scientific Method. It is written primarily as a teaching aid for science and biology teachers, but contains information that would be useful to many banders, particularly those not having experience in the scientific method. It is available from the author (1432 Devinney Road, York, SC 29745). The price is $5.00.

John Tautin