

October 20, 1981
MTAB-46

MEMORANDUM

TO : All Banders

FROM : Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory
Office of Migratory Bird Management
Laurel, Maryland 20708

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of punched computer cards

We are in the process of improving the methods for processing banding and recovery information. One of the major stumbling blocks to a more modern data processing system is the current use of punched cards. We now use 21 different kinds of punched cards and two of these are periodically sent to banders (Report-to-Bander and punched-and-interpreted cards).

Beginning January 1, 1982 we will discontinue the use of all punched cards. All permittees will receive a listing of current recoveries in February and August of each year. The first listing will be mailed in August 1982. If unusual circumstances exist which require data more frequently for special research or management applications, other arrangements will be made. Any request for more frequent reporting of recoveries should include a detailed explanation of the need.

Requests for banding and recovery data will be processed as in the past on either printed listings or magnetic tape. Recovery data on tape will be formatted in 82-byte records, blocked at 4100 bytes and banding data will remain formatted as described in MTAB-34.

We welcome any comments that you have regarding this change.

George M. Jonkel
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