



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT  
LAUREL, MARYLAND 20708



MTAB 70  
July 1991

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Banders

From: Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory

Subject: 1. Proposed Changes to Band Specifications  
2. Bird Banding Manual - Corrections and Clarifications  
3. Temporary Move of BBL  
4. Bird Band Recovery Form 3-1807  
5. Golden-cheeked Warbler  
6. Recent Literature

### 1. Proposed Changes to Band Specifications

We thank those who responded to our request for recommendations for a new, smaller band size (see MTAB 69). Addressing the need for a smaller band size has led to a broader evaluation of band needs. We believe that a number of changes in band specifications would help improve band quality, procurement and reporting rates. We propose to change:

- Material: For decades most bands used in the U.S./Canadian banding program have been made of 1100-H14 and 5052-0 grade and temper aluminum. We propose to convert to the magnesium/aluminum alloy used in the British and some other banding programs of the world. These bands are lightweight, harder and more durable than aluminum bands. They require more effort to close, but once in place are less likely to be removed or damaged by birds. More importantly, they are less susceptible to wear and subsequent loss. Alloy bands conform better to manufacturing tolerances and will accommodate more precisely stamped numbers and addresses. Based on samples that we have seen, we expect alloy bands to be superior in quality to aluminum bands.

We intend to continue carrying harder metal bands (incoloy, stainless steel) and to increase our inventory of them as budgets permit.

- To the metric system: Specifications for our bands have always been in English units. Converting to the metric system, which virtually all other banding programs use in describing band dimensions, should stimulate competition among band manufacturers and ultimately lead to improved quality and service.
- Addresses on bands: Many banded birds that are found are not reported. (see Recent Literature this MTAB). We believe that the meager instruction and address currently carried on bands are insufficient. We propose to replace the old "Avisé Bird Band Write

Washington DC USA" with a more specific address. Variations of "Write Bird Band, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD 20708 USA" are proposed, depending upon space available on bands. Using a recognizable address with ZIP code should prompt more people to report bands and enable more reports to get through the U.S. and Canadian postal systems.

- o Sizes and Dimensions: Numerous changes in sizes and dimensions are proposed in Table 1. Among these changes would be a reduction of the diameter of the present size 0 band, thus providing a better fit for small birds such as gnatcatchers and kinglets. Recommended band sizes for some species would change (see Table 2), but adequate sizes for all species would be available.

We believe that our proposed changes will benefit banders, band reporters, postal workers, BBL, and the Canadian Banding Office. Because the proposed changes are major, we wish to hear from banders before making any. Please send your comments or recommendations to Kathy Klimkiewicz at BBL by August 31, 1991. We are also open to suggestions on other band matters including flange designs for lock-on bands, new sizes of bands, and hummingbird bands.

## 2. Bird Banding Manual - Corrections and Clarifications

On page 5-20 of the Banding Manual, species no. 382.6 should refer to Red-crowned Parrot (*Amazona virdigenalis*), not Yellow-headed Parrot. Alpha Code is RCPA. Band Size remains 4A-4 until further information becomes available. Yellow-headed Parrot was incorrectly assigned that species number and should be removed from the list.

On page 5-71: Day Code 99 "Unknown day of recovery" was inadvertently omitted. Please add this.

The use of the "Color Marker Code" column on the revised schedule is not well explained in the manual. There is no standard way of reporting codes. Whatever abbreviations you use in your records will suffice.

Regarding Table 4-1 on page 4-2 of the Banding Manual, **nongame** bird schedules are due by the Mar. 31, Jun. 30, Sept. 30, and Dec. 31 deadlines only for completed band strings or projects whose activities for the year are completed. All remaining nongame bandings are due by Jan. 31 of the subsequent year.

## 3. Temporary Move of BBL

In early August BBL will move to another wing of the building while asbestos removal and HAC renovations occur. We expect to move back approximately six months later. Our address and phone numbers will not change, and we expect only minimal disruption of services to banders.

## 4. Bird Band Recovery Form 3-1807

We wish to remind banders and conservation agency personnel that Form 3-1807 is for their use only. It is not intended that these forms be distributed to hunters or others. Space does not permit a detailed explanation of why. Suffice it to say that data analysts often assume differences between conventional reports coming directly from the public and reports coming via Form 3-1807.

5. Golden-cheeked Warbler

The Golden-cheeked Warbler has been listed as an endangered species (Federal Register Vol.v 55 No. 249 p.53153, December 27, 1990). Banders will need an endangered species permit if they wish to initiate or continue banding these birds. For more information contact the Office Management Authority, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington, VA 22033 (703-358-2104).

6. Recent Literature

Band reporting rates (the probability that a person encountering a banded bird will report it to BBL) have always been assumed to be less than 1.0 (100%). Results from a sophisticated study indicate that only about one third of banded mallards encountered are reported. While this figure can not be applied directly to other species, it does support beliefs that band reporting rates in general may be low. See: **Nichols, James D., et al., 1991. Band reporting rates for mallards with reward bands of different dollar value. J. Wildl. Manage. 55(1): 119-126.**

Their Abstract: "Adult mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were banded in summer 1987 with reward bands of different dollar values (0-\$400) to determine the lowest dollar value that would yield a reporting rate approaching 1.0. During the 1987-88 and 1988-89 hunting seasons, rewards of between 50 and \$100 were required to yield a reporting rate near 1.0. We estimated reporting rate of standard bands to be 0.32. Reward bands with 5 and \$10 values produced reporting rates that were 1.5-2.0 times as large as those of standard bands. We developed a linear-logistic model to predict reporting rate as a function of the dollar value of reward bands."

A new book on radio-telemetry may be of interest to the many banders now using this technique. The philosophy of science in telemetry studies, study design, implementation, data analysis and computer software are covered in this comprehensive work. See: **White, Gary C., and Robert A. Garrott, Analysis of Wildlife Radio-Tracking Data. Academic Press, Inc. San Diego, CA. 1990. 383 p.**

Hans Bub's monumental German works on bird trapping and banding have been translated into English by banders Fran Hamerstrom and Karin Wuertz-Schaefer and published by Cornell University Press. This well-illustrated book contains much practical knowledge and historical information that would be of interest to most banders. See: **Bub, Hans. Bird Trapping and Banding. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY. 1991. 330 p.**



Table 1. Proposed changes in band dimensions.

BAND SIZE	All Bands				Alum. vs. Alloy		Incoloy or S. Steel	
	Internal Diameter		Height		Thickness		Thickness	
	Old in. (mm)	New mm	Old in. (mm)*	New mm	Old ga. (mm)	New mm	Old mm	New mm
0	0.83 (2.11)	2.0	13/64 (5.16)	5.5	24 (0.51)	0.4	na	na
1	6/64 (2.38)	2.3	13/64 (5.16)	5.5	24 (0.51)	0.4	0.27	0.3
1B	7/64 (2.78)	2.6	13/64 (5.16)	5.5	20 (0.81)	0.5	0.35	0.4
1A	8/64 (3.18)	3.1	13/64 (5.16)	5.5	20 (0.81)	0.5	0.35	0.4
2	10/64 (3.97)	3.8	16/64 (6.35)	7.0	20 (0.81)	0.6	0.35	0.4
3	12/64 (4.76)	4.8	16/64 (6.35)	7.0	20 (0.81)	0.6	0.35	0.4
3B	13/64 (5.16)	5.2	16/64 (6.35)	7.0	20 (0.81)	0.6	0.56	0.6
3A	14/64 (5.56)	5.6	16/64 (6.35)	7.0	20 (0.81)	0.6	0.56	0.6
4	16/64 (6.35)	6.5	24/64 (9.53)	10.0	18 (1.02)	1.0	0.56	0.6
4A	18/64 (7.14)	7.2	24/64 (9.53)	10.0	18 (1.02)	1.0	0.56	0.6
5	20/64 (7.94)	8.0	24/64 (9.53)	10.0	18 (1.02)	1.0	0.60	0.6
6	24/64 (9.53)	9.5	24/64 (9.53)	10.0	16 (1.02)	1.0	0.85	0.8
7A**	28/64 (11.11)	11.3	32/64 (12.70)	14.0	16 (1.29)	1.3	0.95	1.0
7B**	34/64 (13.49)	13.7	32/64 (12.70)	14.0	16 (1.29)	1.3	0.95	1.0
7D	38/64 (15.08)	15.0	40/64 (15.88)	17.0	14 (1.63)	1.6	0.95	1.0
8	44/64 (17.46)	17.5	40/64 (15.88)	17.0	14 (1.63)	1.6	0.95	1.0
9	56/64 (22.33)	22.0	40/64 (15.88)	17.0	14 (1.63)	1.6	0.95	1.0
9C	72/64 (28.50)	29.0	80/64 (31.75)	32.0	14 (1.63)	1.6	0.95	1.0

\* Height of blank stock. Distortion due to stamping actually produced bands close to proposed new heights. Less distortion is expected in alloy bands.

\*\* 7A and 7B bands in short heights (10.0 mm) will also be carried.

Table 2. Suggested band size changes for species that currently require a size 0, 1 or 1B. If a species is not listed, no change is recommended.

**Old recommended band size = 0; New recommended band size = 0-1**

Orange-crowned Warbler	Pine Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler	Alder Flycatcher
Blackpoll Warbler	Southern House Wren
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Jamaican Tody
Yellow Warbler	Olive Warbler
Willow Flycatcher	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher	Brewer's Sparrow
House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Blackburnian Warbler	Western Flycatcher
Vermilion Flycatcher	Black-throated Sparrow
Rufous-winged Sparrow	Clay-colored Sparrow
Bananaquit	Least Flycatcher
Cape May Warbler	Gray Flycatcher
Red-breasted Flycatcher	American Tree Sparrow
Yellow Palm Warbler	Rufous-collared Sparrow
Akepa	Black-and-White Warbler
Siberian Flycatcher	Buff-breasted Flycatcher
Jamaican Euphonia	Dusky Flycatcher
Jamaican White-eyed Vireo	Traill's Flycatcher
Western Palm Warbler	Hammond's Flycatcher

**Old recommended band size = 0; New recommended band size = 1**

Unidentified Dark-eyed Junco	Oregon Junco
Bank Swallow	Common Redpoll
Bell's Vireo	Lesser Goldfinch
Philadelphia Vireo	Hoary Redpoll
No. Rough-winged Swallow	American Goldfinch
Black-capped Chickadee	Hutton's Vireo
Lawrence's Goldfinch	White-eyed Vireo
Prothonotary Warbler	European Goldfinch

**Old recommended band size = 0; New recommended band size = 1-0**

Red-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Hooded Warbler	Worthen's Sparrow
Pygmy Nuthatch	Pine Siskin
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Yellowthroat
Canada Warbler	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Black-chinned Sparrow	Blue-Black Grassquit
White-collared Seedeater	Boreal Chickadee
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	Carolina Chickadee
Audubon's Warbler	Mountain Chickadee
Western Wood-Pewee	Mexican Chickadee
Myrtle Warbler	

**Old recommended band size = 0-1; New recommended band size = 1**

Warbling Vireo	Henslow's Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco	Barn Swallow
Mourning Warbler	Northern Waterthrush
Oriental Greenfinch	Greater Antillean Pewee
Lesser Antillean Pewee	Black-capped Vireo

Old recommended band size = 0-1; New recommended band size = 1-0

Lavender Fire-Finch	Molokai Creeper
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	Anianiau
Black-rumped Waxbill	Red Avadavat
Hawaii Creeper	Chestnut Manakin
Maui Creeper	Field Sparrow
Warbling Silverbill	Gray-spotted Flycatcher
Kauai Creeper	Oahu Creeper
Caribbean Elaenia	Antillean Euphonia
Siberian Tit	

Old recommended band size = 0-X; New recommended band size = 0

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Black-capped Gnatcatcher
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	

Old recommended band size = 1; New recommended band size = 1-1B

Bluethroat	Olive Tree Pipit
Bahama Yellowthroat	Rock Wren
Pechora Pipit	Sprague's Pipit
Bridled Titmouse	Rustic Bunting
Bewick's Wren	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Plain Titmouse	Canyon Wren
Pallas' Reed-Bunting	Rufous-throated Solitaire
Water Pipit	White Wagtail
Common Reed-Bunting	Gray Wagtail
Black-backed Wagtail	Yellow Wagtail
Red-throated Pipit	Rufous-capped Warbler

Old recommended band size = 1; New recommended band size = 1B-1

Smith's Longspur	Chestnut-collared Longspur
McCown's Longspur	

Old recommended band size = 1-0; New recommended band size = 1

Red-eyed Vireo	Elepaio
Violet-green Swallow	Common Canary
Bahama Swallow	Worm-eating Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Kentucky Warbler
Indigo Bunting	MacGillivray's Warbler
Yellow-faced Grassquit	Little Bunting
Tree Swallow	Puerto Rican Vireo
Eastern Phoebe	Ovenbird
Lincoln's Sparrow	Solitary Vireo
Swamp Sparrow	Swainson's Warbler
Golden-crowned Warbler	

Old recommended band size = 1-1B; New recommended band size = 1B

House Finch

Old recommended band size = 1-1B; New recommended band size = 1B-1

Semipalmated Sandpiper	Western Sandpiper
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Least Sandpiper
Olive-sided Flycatcher	

Old recommended band size = 1B-1; New recommended band size = 1B

Carolina Wren	Common Sandpiper
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MTAB 70/2  
July 1991

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