

MEMORANDUM

TO : All Banders

December 23, 1968  
MTAB-11

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

SUBJECT: 1. End-of-the-Year Reports--Your Cooperation Needed  
2. Availability of Supplementary Punched and Interpreted Recovery Cards

1. Accompanying this MTAB is another of our "Christmas Greetings" into which we have incorporated our annual plea for your cooperation in submitting your end-of-the-year banding records (please see MTAB-6).

The complete, prompt, legible manner in which "Most of You" now submit your data has been a big factor in enabling us to catch up and keep fairly current in processing these data through the Laboratory.

"Many of you" are now complying with the revised time table for banding schedule submission described in MTAB-6, and this year (through November 30) we have already received records of 1,202,020 bandings. All of these data have been processed through the Banding Laboratory and most of them are in the computer files where they are ready for use in processing incoming recoveries.

You'll note the preceding paragraphs are sprinkled with "Most of You"'s and "Many of You"'s. Unfortunately, there is still a small group of "The Rest of You."

I feel a brief summary of the Banding Lab's problems in obtaining most (we still don't have all) of your '67 banding data may serve to illustrate to "Most of You" the problems being created by "The Rest of You."

By July 29, 1968, slightly less than 90 per cent of you had submitted either data or a "negative report" covering the '67 banding year. This left us wondering about "The Rest of You" (10+ per cent). Had you submitted data which were lost in the mail? Had you died, quit banding, or just decided to quit keeping records?

After devoting two days to checking our files for records from "The Rest of You" which may have slipped through our check-off systems, we

prepared and mailed form inquiries to 220 banders requesting them to check a couple of boxes and bring us up to date concerning their banding success.

This effort resulted in a flurry of "records and reasons."

By early September we had heard from 173 of the 220, thus reducing the ranks of "The Rest of You" to 47.

On September 10, 1968, after two more days spent combing files for pertinent correspondence or data which may have been overlooked, we forwarded 47 certified letters to these "cooperators." Among other things, these letters said:

"...This letter shall, therefore, serve as formal notification of the suspension of the federal bird banding permit described above. ...If, within two weeks of your receipt of this letter....we can consider the reinstatement of your federal bird banding permit. Please include a brief resume of the research goals of your banding activities with any such correspondence...."

A few records and several valid (and some quite original) reasons were received, several banding permits were "retired" and we still haven't heard from "The Rest of You."

We realize there are many very, valid reasons why a bander may be unable to submit his records on time. If we are advised of this, we can usually arrange our files in such a manner that no serious problems are created in the Banding Lab's data flow.

However, if we are not advised and if the bander refuses to respond to letter after letter, then we can only conclude that either he or his interest in the banding program has died.

The refusal of "The Rest of You" to submit your data not only adds a great amount of unproductive effort to our rather limited staff during a period when we can hardly spare the time, but also limits the service we can render "Most of You" who do maintain and submit accurate records promptly. In the amount of time we spent "beating the bushes" for data from "The Rest of You," we could have processed the records of literally tens of thousands of newly banded birds, or coded thousands of recovery reports, or answered hundreds of letters from banders with more important questions. Perhaps we could even have put in a couple of hours working on the long overdue Banding Manual!

This year, as an added incentive for banders to submit their data on time, we plan to solicit the aid of "Most of You" in encouraging the "Rest of You." To better enable "Most of You" to provide this assistance, WE WILL PUBLISH, VIA AN "MTAB," A LIST OF NAMES OF THOSE BANDERS WHO HAVE NOT SUBMITTED REPORTS and who therefore comprise "The Rest of You."

What we are trying to say is: Please help us help you.

2. In MTAB-10 we described the manner in which we process recovery data and illustrated both the revised "Certificate of Appreciation" received by persons who recover banded birds and the revised "Report to the Bander" card.

We also pointed out that we were no longer "punching" the statistical data into the "Report to the Bander" card.

Since then, we have received inquiries from several State agencies and a few large-scale banders indicating they had need for the punched card.

In order to accommodate those of you who receive large numbers of recoveries and who have access to automatic data processing equipment, we plan to modify our recovery processing system so we can routinely provide punched and interpreted recovery cards to those of you who need them. We hope to be able to inaugurate this procedure by the latter part of February.

If you need punched and interpreted cards, please notify the Banding Laboratory as soon as possible. We will program your permit number into the computer so that each time our "Report to the Hunter" system runs, the computer will generate both a standard "Report to the Bander" card (as described in MTAB-10) and a second card containing the punched and interpreted statistical information for each recovery of a bird banded under your permit number.

Those of you who request them will receive your punched and interpreted cards a few weeks after you receive your routine "Report to the Bander" cards.

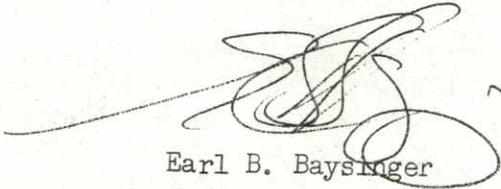
Since this procedure will be time-consuming, please do not request these cards unless you actually plan to make use of them.

I wish to emphasize that this will be part of our routine operational system and should not be confused with requests for data from our master files.

Under this procedure, our "output" from each "Report to the Hunter" run will consist of:

1. A "Certificate of Appreciation" to each person (in some cases, two persons) who reports a recovered band
2. A standard "Report to the Bander" card (as described in MTAB-10) to the bander for each recovery of his birds
3. The newly initiated "punched and interpreted" "Report to the Bander" cards for each recovery for those banders who request such data
4. A listing to each State or Provincial conservation agency containing recovery data for all recoveries of game birds banded in that State or Province regardless of where they were recovered
5. A listing to each State or Provincial conservation agency containing recovery data for all recoveries of game birds recovered in that State or Province regardless of where they were banded.

Once more, if you wish to receive the auxiliary "punched and interpreted" recovery cards, please notify the Banding Laboratory by February 1, 1969.



Earl B. Baysinger