

MEMORANDUM

MTAB-36
June 28, 1978

TO : All Banders

FROM : Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory
Office of Migratory Bird Management
Laurel, Maryland 20811

SUBJECT: 1. Tabulation of encounters of 1972-banded birds

2. Correction to MTAB-27

3. Status code 697

4. Preparation of schedules

5. Ordering bands

6. Do not band certain birds

7. Schedule submission

8. Documentation of unusual species

9. Age and sex of redpolls

1. Enclosed is a tabulation of 1976 banding totals and 1972 banding and recovery results by species. The data are provided primarily to aid in research planning.

2. MTAB-27 paragraph 1 correction -- endangered species permit applications are now available from and permits issued by the Wildlife Permit Office, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. 20240, instead of the Division of Law Enforcement.

3. Status code 697 (MTAB-32, para. 4) should not be used because of misuse and misinterpretation of the code. Please see Part 5, Bird Banding Manual, Vol. I, for list of additional status codes -- 656, 660 and 685 should cover most cases of rehabilitation. Be sure to explain what was done to the bird in the Remarks section of the schedule. We plan to revise the status codes in the future and will provide a more complete series of codes to handle rehabilitated birds.

4. The following suggestions should help banders improve banding schedules:

- a. For identical data enter continuity lines with a ruler.
- b. Use the Remarks section liberally for unusual species or age/sex clarification and for status explanations.
- c. Be sure that status and region codes are three-digit entries.
- d. Enter dates as six-digit codes (i.e., 06-06-78).
- e. Do not mix alpha and numeric codes for age and sex.
- f. Type schedules or print clearly with black ink.
- g. Do not mark out or write over entries -- neat erasures or "white-outs" are acceptable.
- h. Enter inclusive band numbers in the appropriate space on the form.
- i. All birds must have both an age and a sex code entered on the schedule even if the code is U.
- j. Do not punch holes in banding schedules sent to the Banding Lab.
- k. Birds banded between January 1 and the beginning of their nesting period cannot be coded as age Unknown on the banding schedule. By definition, these birds should be coded as AHY (or SY, ASY, TY or ATY when ageing the birds is possible). See page 5-22 of the Bird Banding Manual for definitions of age codes.

1. Study the sample schedule on pp. 4-16 and 4-17 and re-read Part 4 of the Bird Banding Manual, Vol. I.

5. Banders should follow procedures outlined in the Bird Banding Manual, Vol. I, pp. 3-5 and 3-6 for ordering bands. Telephone requests for rush orders cannot always receive special attention. Please try to anticipate your needs and order bands well in advance of the date you need them.

All bands available in the pre-opened style may now be ordered in minimum amounts of 100 bands.

The standard butt-end bands (size 4 - 9C) may now be ordered in minimum amounts of five (5) bands.

We receive requests for bands and supplies from subpermittees. Orders must come from the master permittee.

6. Banders are reminded not to use U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands on resident game birds (Sp. No. 288.1 through 311.0). Do not band parakeets, rock doves and vultures, or unidentified migratory birds such as Empidonax flycatchers, warblers, gulls, and ducks.

7. All banders are reminded that they need not wait until January 31 to submit nongame banding schedules. (See Part 4, Bird Banding Manual, Vol. I, for game bird submission schedule.) When a string of 100 bands is completed, we strongly urge you to submit that schedule by the end of the next month. This procedure reduces the heavy influx of schedules received every January and reduces the end of the year workload of the master permittee. Banding data for colonial birds (herons, gulls, terns, etc.,) should be routinely submitted September 30 to facilitate processing of recoveries and further reduce the January influx of schedules.

8. Document banding of unusual species with a full description, measurements, and a photograph if possible. If there is any identification doubt, do not band the bird.

9. We have had numerous requests for information on ageing and sexing redpolls. Do not use the WBBA Worksheet by Collins and West or the key by Brooks (Bird-Banding 44:13-21). All redpolls should be aged and sexed as follows:

- 1A. Most breast feathers completed colored red or bright pink giving a solid red or pink effect ASY-M (Jan-Jul)
AHY-M (Aug-Dec)
- 1B. Breast light-pinkish, mottled pinkish-white or pinkish buff, or without pink SEE 2
 - 2A. January through July AHY-U*
 - 2B. August through December SEE 3
- 3A. Skull incompletely pneumatized HY-U
- 3B. Skull completely pneumatized AHY-U

* Sex by brood patch or cloacal protuberance during breeding season.

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Enclosure

