

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
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B I R D B A N D I N G N O T E S .

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Method of Handling Bird Banding Records.

As announced in Bird Banding Notes No. 4, it has been found necessary to make a change in the method of handling bird banding records in order to reduce the clerical labor in the Biological Survey. We plan therefore to return to the earlier method of using cards for reporting to the Bureau all newly banded birds.

Hereafter whenever bands are forwarded from the Bureau, a set of official, numbered cards will be sent also. The numbers on these cards will correspond to those on the bands, and in the case of particularly active permanent stations, the name of the station and of the operator will also be filled in. For each new bird banded, it will then be necessary for the operator to fill in only the name of the bird, its age and sex (if known), the date, and any pertinent remarks.

These cards should not be retained longer than one month after banding, but may be forwarded to the Biological Survey more frequently. Records of migratory game birds banded during the open season should be sent in promptly (daily if possible), as returns are frequently reported on them only a few hours or days after banding. If any repeats have been secured before the cards are forwarded, they should be entered in the "Record of Recovery" section, so that the record for each banded bird will be up to date when the card is sent to the Bureau.

Addressed envelopes and franks will be supplied as before, for use without payment of postage. When only five or six cards are sent at a time, they may be inclosed in a small envelope. The envelope will also hold ten or twelve cards if care is taken to tie a piece of string both ways around it. Larger consignments should be made into packets, both sides protected by pieces of stiff cardboard, and securely wrapped and tied. Franks should be used on such packages, and for safety, should be under the string.

It is expected that each operator will preserve a complete report of the activities of his station (including all records of "repeats") and forward a copy to the Biological Survey at least twice a year. These reports may well be of a seasonal nature and should be compiled during the slack periods that usually follow the spring and fall migrations. They should show, first, the complete history of each banded bird as observed at the station, and second, a brief account of the general conditions that have prevailed during the period in question. Schedules will be furnished by the Biological Survey for these reports, or each operator may use sheets of his own preference.

With this system in operation it is believed that the bird banding work will admit of unlimited expansion; and through the continued interest and energy of our cooperators, the Biological Survey feels confident that a great quantity of new and important data will be secured.