

March 20, 2012

When the BBL initiated the electronic submission of banding data in 1999, the banding community was informed that the BBL would not be able to continue accepting paper banding schedules indefinitely. Banders were urged to move to electronic data submission and we are very grateful to every bander that has successfully made this transition. Unfortunately, as a result of recent budget reductions, the BBL will no longer be able to accept data submitted on paper banding schedules, word processing banding schedules, BAND OPS files, or Computer Generated Schedule (CGS) Program schedules/files after October 30, 2012. If you currently have unsubmitted data in any of these formats, you should send these data to the BBL as soon as possible. Data submitted in these formats after October 30 will be returned to you and only electronic files from the Band Manager software or BANDIT version 2.0 or higher will be accepted after that date. If any of your subpermittees use one of these formats to submit their banding data directly to the BBL, please inform them of these impending changes and the need to begin using the BANDIT software.

This notice provides a 6-month transition period to an entirely electronic data submission process. If you need to obtain the current version of the BANDIT software, it can be downloaded directly from the BBL website at:

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/resources/bandit/software/index.cfm>

Or, the BBL can send you a copy of the software on a CD-ROM. The BBL operates a BANDIT help desk to assist banders in setting up and operating the software on their computers. This help desk can be accessed by telephone (301-497-5566) or through email (bandithelp@usgs.gov). If you have any questions about this software, the BBL strongly encourages you to use these resources for assistance.

If you want to continue banding birds and are unable to use the current version of the BANDIT software, then you will need to find someone who is willing to electronically submit data for you. The BBL might be able to connect you with someone who is willing to provide this assistance, although there a fee may be charged for these services. Please contact Karen Jones at the BBL (301-497-5794; email: kvjones@usgs.gov) to indicate that you are looking for someone to electronically submit your banding data and she will provide you with more information concerning your options. If you or one of your subpermittees are willing to electronically manage banding data for other banders, please contact Karen Jones to indicate your willingness to provide that assistance.

The BBL regrets having to take these steps and will try to provide the necessary assistance to successfully transition to the electronic submission of your banding data.

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