

TO : All Banders

October 10, 1972
MTAB-18

FROM : Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory
Office of Migratory Bird Management

SUBJECT: 1. North American Bird Banding Manual
2. Salvage Form
3. Game Management Agents' Banding Schedules
4. Ordering Bands
5. Requests for Subpermits
6. Letters of Authorization
7. U. S. Postal Service Identification Codes
8. Banding Locations
9. Sex and Age Data

1. Under separate cover we are sending Volume I of the North American Bird Banding Manual. This replaces the old Manual, MTAB's, and Bird Banding Notes. Let us know if you do not receive your copy of the Manual in three weeks. Please review the Manual and advise us of your suggestions for revisions, additions, or changes by January 31. At that time we may request a new printing and could incorporate and print needed revisions.

The new Manual is a tight fit in the binder that we ordered. This is because we weren't aware of manual printing regulations in Canada. Manuals in Canada can be printed on one side of a page only.

2. This year's salvage form is being revised and will probably be better coordinated with the reporting required by the Division of Management and Enforcement of holders of collecting permits. Persons with no collecting permit should report to the Bird Banding Laboratory. We will send the new forms to banders along with the End of the Year Banding Report form in December. Do not send in reports during the year.

Please write to the Bird Banding Lab for the most useful disposition of salvaged endangered species specimens and unusual occurrences of other birds. We would like to coordinate disposition of valuable specimens with the U. S. National Museum. Avoid banding in areas where you are likely to capture birds listed as endangered unless you are authorized to band them.

3. U. S. game management agents banding under Letters of Authorization from agents-in-charge should use the AIC's name and permit number instead of their own in the Bander and Permit No. boxes on the schedules.
4. Banders should please use the band order form and not order bands by telephone. Phone requests for bands should be made only in emergencies.
5. When master permittees request subpermits, please furnish the names of the persons for whom subpermits are requested. We do not send out blank applications.
6. U. S. game management agents-in-charge, national wildlife refuges and state natural resources agencies are reminded to provide the Bird Banding Laboratory and the appropriate regional office a copy of each Letter of Authorization issued to subpermittees under their master permit if they have not already done so. These copies enable the regional offices to keep their state and federal management and enforcement personnel informed of who is banding in each state and assist the Banding Laboratory in determining federal or state affiliation on incoming recovery reports (form 3-1807's) and correspondence.
7. The U. S. Postal Service is expanding their sampling of total Government mail. The Department of the Interior has established identification codes for its bureaus and offices to assist the Postal Service. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has been assigned code 423. The Bureau prefix and code number "INT 423" must appear on all mailed items. It should be typed or printed directly under the postage and fees paid and agency name statement printed in the upper right hand corner of the envelope or label. Please mark envelopes sent to you for your use or those on hand. Due to the very high cost of postage for Government mail since July 1, please order bands and supplies in large enough quantities to avoid frequent orders.
8. Banders' locations or banding stations are being machine listed and are being sent to banders for okay or correction. A letter of explanation is being sent with the listings.
9. Many banders ask us whether the sex-age data in Merrill Wood's Guide are acceptable to the Banding Laboratory. Without going into a lengthy discussion of the Guide's merits and limitations, it might be worth mentioning that the keys to the sexing and/or aging of pine siskins, cedar waxwings, tree sparrows, and mourning doves should probably not be relied upon. On the whole, however, the Guide provides much basic information.

We expect that banders will continue to correct and add to the sexing and aging material now available. We are now working on Volume II of the Banding Manual, which will include sections on trapping, aging,

and sexing. This Volume, incorporating Dr. Wood's own revisions and with his permission, will supplement his Guide. If banders have additional comments or information on sexing and aging procedures, published or unpublished, which should be taken into consideration, now is the time to speak up.

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