



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT
LAUREL, MARYLAND 20708

MTAB 65
January 31, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Banders

FROM: Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory

SUBJECTS:

1. New Chief, BBL
2. Alpha Codes on Schedules
3. Consolidation of Banding Locations
4. Pink Card (Form 3-860a) Problems
5. Computer Schedule Generator Program
6. 1986 Banding Accomplishments
7. Current Name and Address
8. Leg Flags on Piping Plovers
9. Plastic Band Problems
10. Corrections to MTAB 64

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently selected John Tautin of Laurel, Maryland, as the new Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory, effective December 5, 1988. He replaces George Jonkel who has assumed a position as Senior Staff Specialist with the Office of Migratory Bird Management at Laurel, Maryland. During his 17 years of service as Chief, BBL, Mr. Jonkel developed many friendships among professional and avocational ornithologists. Those of you wishing to remain in contact with him may do so by writing the above address or phoning 301-498-0402.

Mr. Tautin began his career with the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1974 as a biologist with the Bird Banding Laboratory. Longtime banders may remember that he handled recovery problems and data requests among other duties. In 1977 he became the Service's Woodcock Specialist, coordinating woodcock population and harvest surveys for the Office of Migratory Bird Management at Laurel, Maryland. During his tenure as Woodcock Specialist, he also served as Acting Chief of the Bird Banding Lab for a four month period, 1984-85. Most recently, he held a staff position with the Office of Migratory Bird Management at Washington, D.C., where he led development of National Environmental Policy Act documents covering migratory bird hunting, falconry and the captive propagation of raptors.

2. We thank all banders who have coded their schedules with the new alpha codes that replace common names on the schedule (Form 3-860). We remind others that use of these codes is mandatory on all schedules submitted

on or after September 1, 1988. The codes were distributed with MTAB 63 (corrections with MTAB 64). If you did not receive these, or need additional copies, please contact us. Schedules that are not coded may have to be returned to the banders for correction.

3. We encourage all banders to consolidate multiple banding locations within a 10-minute block of latitude and longitude into one verbal (alpha) description for use on banding schedules. Separate site information should be kept in field records but not used on banding schedules sent to BBL. For example, a bander doing roadside hawk trapping might capture 10 birds at various sites within block 390-0764 in Maryland. These 10 sites should be combined into the description "South Laurel, MD". Also, pinpoint maps should be enclosed with schedules each time new locations are used. This facilitates the editing of coordinates.
4. Please complete the Pink Card (Banding Data Request, Form 3-860a) with the same data as that which will be used on your schedule so that we can process these cards quickly and reply to the band finder. Any status code that requires an explanation on the schedule also needs one on the Pink Card. We send many pink cards requesting data for which schedules are overdue. Each card takes approximately 30 minutes of BBL processing time, and replies to band finders are delayed. It is very important that all banders follow the Quarterly Reporting Procedure as outlined in MTAB 63 and/or the Game Reporting Procedure (BBM, VOL 1, Part 4, pp. 4-1 and 4-2, para. 5 and 6). Endangered Species bandings are due within 45 days of banding.
5. BBL has a newly revised program to allow banders to produce computer-generated schedules. It works on any IBM-compatible PC and utilizes data from existing data base files to generate schedules. If you are interested in receiving this program, send a formatted diskette and a request for the COMP-SCHED materials to BBL (ATTN: M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz). When approval is received, 1989 data (and later) can then be submitted using this program. 1988 data should be submitted on the schedule forms (3-860a).
6. Attached is our record of birds banded under your permit in 1986.

This listing includes birds that:

- have ACU numbers assigned.
- were reported under your permit number only.
- were banded in 1986 only.
- were reported and processed by the BBL by September 9, 1988.

This listing does not include:

- lost or destroyed bands.
- rebanded birds.
- birds that died before banding schedule was submitted.
- birds that died after schedule was submitted, but within 90 days and within the same 10' block of banding.
- bandings reported or processed by BBL after cutoff date.

If you detect any errors or omissions, we would appreciate your notifying us by returning this list (or a copy) with your reply and providing band numbers for species in question. Note: There is no need to reply or return the list if there are no discrepancies.

7. A Current Name and Address Listing is attached. If corrections are needed, please make them and return the listing to us. It should not be used for requests.
8. Some banders have reported injuries to piping plovers caused by the use of leg flags and/or more than two plastic leg bands. The problem is well documented, and use of these markers on Atlantic piping plovers is being reduced. Banders noting problems with use of these markers on piping plovers or other shorebirds are asked to notify BBL (Attn: Danny Bystrak).
9. Improperly applied colored, plastic leg bands of the spiral coil and wrap-around types can shrink, causing injury or even amputation. The wrap-around type band should be uncoiled and recoiled backwards. Both types should be fused with acetone to prevent shrinkage. Butt-end plastic bands are preferable.
10. Corrections to MTAB 64 are: Mongolian Plover is MONP, not MONG; band size for Black-eared Bushtit is 0, not 2.


John Tautin

