

## BIRD BANDING LABORATORY: Memo To All Banders: 97

### Staffing Announcement

Antonio Celis-Murillo, Ph.D., began service as Acting Chief of the lab on June 7, 2020 and will remain in position until further notice. Antonio will continue to ensure the Bird Banding Lab's administrative and operational obligations are fulfilled, while continuing to develop and implement strategies promoting the lab's mission during the transition to a new Chief.

### Band Supply & Inventory

When possible, ensure banding data are submitted to the lab in a timely manner so bands do not show as outstanding (unused) bands on your existing band inventory. Otherwise, when you order bands from the lab, we may question or decline your request as your inventory may show you already have many unused bands in your possession.

### Do You Use Hard Metal Bands?

The lab is evaluating how best to supply hard metal bands as we draw down our existing inventory. If hard metal bands are required or preferred for use on your study species, we would like to know 1) which sizes you need, 2) approximate annual numbers of birds banded, 3) preferred material (incoloy/stainless) and presentation (open/closed, on strings/on tubes/loose), and 4) whether you would be willing to pay for bands. FWS and agency banders should respond through their Flyway banding committees. Other banders should reply by October 1 to [jmalpass@usgs.gov](mailto:jmalpass@usgs.gov) and [kvjones@usgs.gov](mailto:kvjones@usgs.gov).

### Requesting Information

Peter Pyle is currently working on an update to his 1997 publication of Identification Guide to North American Birds: Part 1, which includes species accounts for passerines and near passerines including owls. Peter is requesting banders' comments and suggestions useful to fix any errors in the current edition as well as collecting new literature that may have come out since the last publication. For more information, please visit: [www.birdpop.org/pages/blogPost.php?id=36](http://www.birdpop.org/pages/blogPost.php?id=36)

### 100 Years of the Lab

The Bird Banding Lab is pleased to celebrate our 100 year anniversary and a century of conservation science. To find out more about the lab's first hundred years and centennial updates, please visit the Bird Banding Lab's [homepage](#).

### Smaller Data Entry Files Available

For those using the Excel data entry template to import records containing auxiliary marker information, two updated data entry files are available for download, one for bandings only, and one for bandings and recaptures. These Excel templates are designed for import into Bandit 4.0. You can download them at [usgs.gov/software/bandit-software](http://usgs.gov/software/bandit-software).

If you prefer working with the original template, a copy may be downloaded from the BBL FTP site: <ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/er/md/laurel/BBL/BANDIT/>

If you have questions email [bandithelp@usgs.gov](mailto:bandithelp@usgs.gov).

### Animal Welfare Act: Listening Sessions

USDA-APHIS will hold three virtual listening sessions to gather information to assist in the development of regulations that will ensure the humane care and treatment of birds not bred for use in research, consistent with the Animal Welfare Act. Anyone who is exhibiting, transporting, breeding, or dealing birds for compensation (including payment, donation, gas card, free lunch, etc.) is now covered under AWA. This would include a bander who is publicly exhibiting banded birds and/or transporting birds for release and receiving any form of compensation for the program. USDA-APHIS is exploring what activities should require a license vs. be exempt from a license. Virtual listening sessions will be held Sept 29, Oct 7 and Oct 15. To register for the listening sessions and learn more about the comment process, please visit: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/aw-news/bird-listening-sessions>