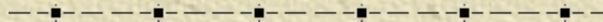




*Banding Hand-Reared and  
Rehabilitated  
Wild Birds for Evaluation of  
Post-Release Survival*



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Valerie H Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center  
North Carolina Zoo

# Bird Banding History

- John James Audubon tied silver cords to the legs of a brood of phoebes near Philadelphia in 1803 and was able to identify two of the nestlings when they returned the following year.
- 1899 Hans Mortensen, a Danish school teacher, began placing aluminum rings on the legs of several species of birds. He inscribed the bands with his name and address in the hope they would be returned to him if found. His system of banding became the model for our current efforts.
- In 1902 Paul Bartsch, began the first scientific system of banding in North America. But, the real pioneer bander in the Americas was Jack Miner who established a waterfowl sanctuary in Ontario. Between 1909 and 1939 he banded 20,000 Canada Geese alone, many of which carried bands returned to him by hunters.
- By 1909 the American Bird Banding Association had been formed to organize and assist the growing numbers of bird banders. 1918 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. By 1920 banding was so widespread that it could not be coordinated by a private group, so the Bureau of Biological Survey (now the United States Geologic Survey) and its counterpart the Canadian Wildlife Service accepted the offer to take over the work of the Association. This has been a joint effort to oversee the activities of dedicated banders all over the world ever since.

# Why?

- Research and Species Management
  - Natural History – life spans, weights, morphologic data
  - Population Sizes and Trends
  - Dispersal and Migration
  - Survival and Reproduction



# Who?

- Banding of birds in the United States is controlled under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and requires a federal banding permit.
  - Some states require a state permit as well.
  - Only official federal bands may be legally placed on birds that are released to the wild within the United States.
  - Approximately 2000 Master Banders in North America; 3000 Sub-Permittees
  - Must apply, have experience and well defined research

# How?

1. Identify – most be able to properly classify species at different life stages and gender
2. Measurements – Wing Cord, Culmen, Body Condition, Weights
3. Band – tools, sizes, unique numbers, types
4. Data – record keeping, Bandit, USGS reporting

# Hands-On Practical...

- Field Guide Handout
- ID Guide To North American Birds Handout

Identify, measure, band, record...

# Identify



- Species
- Age – HY, AHY, SY...
- Gender



23/06/2011

- Field Guides
- Id Guide To NA Birds

# Measurements



- Legs – proper band size
- Wing Cord– Length
- Keel – Body Scoring
- Weights – Body Condition

- Beak – Length/Width
- Tail – Length
- Flat Wing – Length flattened
- Tarsus – Length



# Band



- Types of Bands
- Banding Tools



# Record

Bandit - [Bandit App]

File Edit View Format Records Help

100 / 1019 Found (Unsorted)

Records Show All New Record Delete Record Find Sort

Layout: Bands View As: Preview

Bandit: The Information Manager for Banding Operations

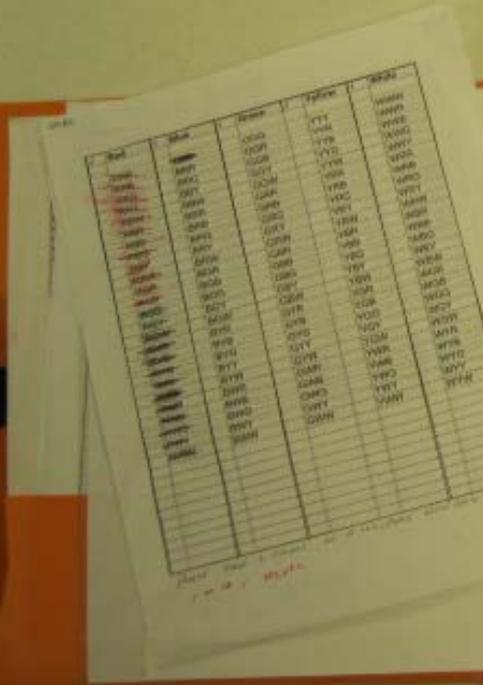
Report Name: New Banding Data to be Submitted

Table Submit New Data Submit Modified Data Export Bands Save as PDF Save as Excel Show/Print Report

R...	Band Number	Disposition	Species	Age	How Aged	Sex	How Sexed	Banding Date	Bird Status	Bander ID	Location	Errors	Bird Weight	Fat Score	Wing Chord	Remarks
N	2661-00301	1	HOLA	HY	2	M	D	06/20/2013	400	HDB	WhPI	Age/Sex unlikely on this	29	3.5	95	Hand-Reared
N	2661-00302	1	HOLA	HY	2	F	D	06/20/2013	400	HDB	WhPI	Age/Sex unlikely on this	30	3.5	85	Hand-Reared
	2661-00303											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00304											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00305											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00306											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00307											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00308											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00309											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00310											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00311											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00312											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00313											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00314											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00315											Undefined Record Type				
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	2661-00321											Undefined Record Type				
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	2661-00325											Undefined Record Type				
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	2661-00330											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00331											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00332											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00333											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00334											Undefined Record Type				
	2661-00335											Undefined Record Type				

Showing: Filtered Records Filter By Prefix: 2661 Suffix Range:  Used  Submitted Filter Show All

Fill Down By  Species  Age  Sex  Banding Date  Disposition  Bird Status  How Aged  How Sexed  Location  Bander ID Fill Down



# Release

- Hard Release
- Pseudo Soft Release
- Soft Release



# Monitor for Success...



# To report a banded bird sighting...

- <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/bblretrv/index.cfm?>

## Report a bird with a Federal Band or Color Marker

### [Examples of Federal bands and color markers](#)

Thank you for reporting a bird with a Federal Band or Color Marker!

If you have already reported your Federal Band or Color Marker and want another copy of your Certificate of Appreciation [click here](#)

PLEASE NOTE: If the band has the letters "AU", "IF", "CU", "NPA" or "IPB" it is probably a captive pigeon band. Please do not report captive pigeon bands to the BBL, we do not keep a database of these birds. You can find more information at: <http://www.pigeon.org/lostbirdinfo.htm>

When you submit a report, we will provide you the details about when and where the bird was originally marked. A copy of your report will be provided to the researcher who originally applied the band and/or marker.

Your report will be added to a database maintained cooperatively by the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory and Canadian Wildlife Service, Bird Banding Office. This database contains more than 4 million band encounter records that document movements, longevity, and sources of mortality for North America's migratory birds. This information is used to monitor populations, set hunting regulations, restore endangered species, study effects of environmental contaminants, and address such issues as Avian Influenza, bird hazards at airports, and crop depredations.

If you experience problems using this website, please contact us at [bandreports@usgs.gov](mailto:bandreports@usgs.gov).

# Resources...

- ✦ *Holding Wildlife In Captivity*. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, 1 Aug. 2004. Web. 5 Nov. 2012.  
[http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/License/Documents/Wildlife\\_Rehabilitation\\_License\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/License/Documents/Wildlife_Rehabilitation_License_Rules.pdf)
- ✦ <http://hbrcnet.wordpress.com/>. N.p., n.d. Web. 3 July 2013.
- ✦ International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. *Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation*. 6th ed. Eugene: International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 2010. Print.
- ✦ Johnson, Vicki, Patricia Adams, Pixie Goodrich, and Rae Haas. *Wild Animal care and Rehabilitation Manual*. 4th ed. Kalamazoo: Beech Leaf Press, 2001. Print.
- ✦ Miller, Erica A., ed. *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation*. 1989. 4th ed. St. Cloud: International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, 2004. Print.
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- ✦ Moore, Adele T., and Sally Joosten, eds. *NWRA Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation: The Essential Guide for Novice and Experienced Rehabilitators*. 2nd ed. St. Cloud: National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, 2002. Print. .
- ✦ *North Carolina Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitators*. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Web. 5 Nov. 2012.  
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- ✦ Pyle, Peter. *Identification Guide to North American Birds Part I*. Point Reyes, CA: Slate Creek Press, 2001. N. pag. Print.
- ✦ Pyle, Peter. *Identification Guide to North American Birds Part II*. Point Reyes, CA: Slate Creek Press, 2008. N. pag. Print.