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8-28-1963

Memorandum to All Banders, August 1963

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Duvall, Allen J., "Memorandum to All Banders, August 1963" (1963). *Research*. 115.
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MEMORANDUM

TO : Bird Banders

FROM : Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory

SUBJECT: Bird Banding Reports

August 28, 1963

The processing of Banding Schedules is a very time consuming task. During this process all data on the schedules are checked. This includes the common name, AOU number, status, age, sex, latitude and longitude, date and banding location.

One of the most difficult parts of this operation is that of checking the coordinates for banding locations and one bander's locations may require up to four (4) hours to check and complete. This difficulty is due principally to the fact that too many banders do not provide sufficient details or accurate enough information for us to find their banding locations. To remedy this situation, from this date, it will be necessary for the bander to submit a section of a road map (or similar map) with every submission of schedules. Each location used on the schedules must be clearly marked on the accompanying map. Road maps obtained from any oil company service station may be used for this purpose. As it will not be possible for us to return these maps or to keep them on file, it will be necessary for the bander to provide a new map for every submission, even if the same banding locations are used during subsequent years.

Due to the incompleteness of many schedules submitted, we also direct the attention of banders to the following points:

1. The nearest town and the distance and direction from this town must be included for every banding location.

2. All schedules must be filled out in full detail with ink or typewriter. An entry must be made in all ten columns and ditto marks or lines drawn to indicate when subsequent data are the same. Attention is directed to the example of a Banding Schedule on page BBM-B-1291 of the Banding Manual. The words "lost" or "destroyed" or some other appropriate entry should be made for any band number, within a series of bands reported, for which no data are given.

3. The common names and AOU numbers given in the Banding Manual should be used for all species. Although it is permissible to abbreviate common names, a notation should be made for each part of the name (e.g. B.-c. Chickadee, B.-h. Cowbird). Abbreviations such as "Chickadee" or "Cowbird" should not be used.

4. All current bandings must be reported on the new 3-860 (Rev. 1961) Banding Schedules. Any current bandings reported on the old 3-860 (Mar. 60 and earlier) schedules will be returned to the bander to transfer to new schedules.

5. The term "juvenile" can no longer be used as an age classification. The terms nestling, local, immature or unknown must be used for all birds of the year. The Banding Manual should be carefully consulted to assure that these terms are understood.

6. When bands are cut down for use on hummingbirds, a notation should be made in the remarks section indicating the numbers which were removed from the band. The x bands, made for hummingbirds, are still in short supply and can be furnished only for special studies. Under no circumstance should x bands be used for species other than hummingbirds.

7. Many banders are either not reporting banding returns on Form 3-137B or are failing to fill out these forms properly. Attention is directed to the example on page BBM-B-1293 of the Banding Manual for the correct manner in which to fill out these forms. It is necessary for data to be included in all of the columns of this form.

8. Schedules for bandings made by sub-permittees are frequently sent directly to this office. These bandings should be reported to the Master Permit holder and submitted under his name and number. Recognition of the sub-permittee can be made in the remarks section of the schedule. As our IBM punch card allows us only 18 spaces (including blanks) for the bander's name (or Agency title) each bander is invited to abbreviate his name, within these limits, as he would like it to appear on our records.

This year we again find that we will be unable to finish processing the previous year's schedules before we are involved with the activities of the current hunting season. We feel that this lag is primarily due to the fact that many banders have not submitted their schedules on time or have failed to complete them in the recommended manner. If this situation is not corrected in the future it will be necessary to suspend the banding activities of these banders.



Allen J. Duvall

Enclosure: "Ducks at a Distance"