



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme

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FLIGHTLINES

Newsletter of the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS)

Number 33 – July 2018

Edited by David Drynan

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BANDING OFFICE UPDATE

Staff Changes

There have been no changes to staffing in the ABBBS since the last issue of Flightlines. Naomi continues to manage all data submissions, public recoveries and banding authority applications. David continues to manage all project and colour marking applications, data requests, and general queries.

The banding office is located in the John Gorton Building in Parkes, ACT (opposite the Australian National Gallery). Due to security arrangements in this building, visitors must be signed in and escorted by a staff member. If you would like to visit the banding office, please let us know in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Annual Renewals

All banding authorities have been renewed until 31 July 2019, and yours is enclosed with this newsletter. If you no longer require a banding authority, please let one of us know and we will arrange to cancel it. Any bander that resigns their authority is able to reactivate it at any time in the next 5 years without any further requirement for assessment. Please return all unused bands and outstanding banding data ASAP if this is the case. No fees are payable for ABBBS authorities.

A couple of reminders about annual renewal paperwork that are still required:

- your banding and retrap data must be validated and submitted via the secure web portal on our website
- all project renewal reports and data submissions are due by 31 July. Contact us **today** if you have not submitted your report and data.

Banding Office Email Address

A reminder that all email correspondence must be directed to abbbs@environment.gov.au. Emails sent directly to banding office staff will be returned to the sender and not actioned.

ABBBS Website

The ABBBS website address remains unchanged:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/science/bird-and-bat-banding>

All of the forms you need to apply for new banding authorities, projects, location codes and colour marking authorities are available from the site, as well as access to the secure client portal.

We have also added access to a PDF version of the Banders Aid (Rogers et al 1986), including Supplement Number One (Rogers et al 1990), thanks to Ken, Annie & Danny Rogers. There are also links to all state & territory wildlife management agency licencing sections.

Request for updated contact details and permissions

Banders are asked to fill out the form on the last page of this issue and return it to the ABBBS. This is to ensure that we have permission from you before passing on any personal information to potential banders and if you require data you have collected be kept confidential while you analyse and write it up. If we do not have this form from you, data collected under your project is freely available to whoever requests it under our Creative Commons Attribution arrangement. We also require a current postal address for all banders. If your mail is returned to the ABBBS your authority will be cancelled.

PUBLICATIONS

Recommended Band Size List

A new edition of the Recommended Band Size List for Australia and its Territories has been published and can be downloaded from:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/science/abbbs/publications/recommended-band-size-list-birds-australia-and-its-territories-may-2018>

At this stage, it will only be available in electronic format in both Excel and PDF formats. Both formats are set up to be printed should a hard copy be required. If there is an overwhelming need for hard copies to be printed, we will investigate this as resources become available. If you find any errors or have any questions about the new band size list, please contact the ABBBS.

Australian Bird Banders Manual

We are currently in the process of redrafting the Australian Bird Banders Manual. The current edition has not been updated since it was first published in 1989. The new edition will include new chapters on issues such as data management and confidentiality, new trapping method endorsements, the use of call playback and project management. If you have any suggestions for inclusions we would be very pleased to hear from you.

LICENCING AND APPROVALS

Animal Ethics Approvals for NSW

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) have advised that banding projects approved by the ABBBS for NSW do not require a separate Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) approval to proceed. This only applies to standard banding procedures as outlined in the Bird Banders Manual (i.e. capture, handling, measuring, banding and release). Projects that intend to perform procedures such as tracking (satellite, radio, geolocator etc.), bleeding, or any form of experimental manipulation will still require an AEC approval to proceed. If you are unsure if your project will require an AEC approval, please do not contact OEH as they do not administer the NSW Animal Research Act. This Act is administered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (<https://www.animaethics.org.au/>). If you have any other questions about scientific licensing in NSW, you can contact the OEH Scientific Licensing Section via: scientific.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au

New Small Propelled Net Trapping Endorsement

As part of the revision of the Australian Bird Banders Manual, we intend to include a revised system of trapping endorsements that will separate out small propelled nets such as 'phutt' nets, net guns and whoosh nets from the 'basics' level of trapping endorsement. There have been concerns raised that these devices can be dangerous if operated by inexperienced banders that can result in the death or injury of birds and serious injury to the bander. There has already been discussion amongst our regional organisers and banders that are already using these devices, and there has been general agreement that the new system should be implemented. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this issue we would be pleased to hear from you. The current draft section from the new edition of the Banders Manual is as follows:

This endorsement covers other self-propelled trapping devices such as 'phutt' nets, net guns, CODA net launchers, whoosh nets and clap nets. It does not cover Cannon-nets, Nonnacs or Rocket Nets. Small propelled nets can be powered by explosives, compressed air, elastics, and shotgun cartridges. They have many of the same safety concerns as cannon-nets, in particular for the operator and the birds being targeted. Endorsement to use these devices will not be given readily and applicants will be expected to show proficiency in all aspects of their use, particularly the safety practices.

Currently, there is no published guidance on their use except for Whoosh nets and Clap nets which are covered in Chapter 4. Once standard operating procedures to operate these devices safely are available they will be forwarded to all banders that hold this endorsement. In the absence of a set of standard operating procedures, banders are encouraged to study the BTO cannon-netting manual, and chapter 4 of this manual that covers whoosh and clap nets. The BTO cannon-netting manual is available from the ABBBS upon request.

The minimum qualification for this level is two hundred (200) birds processed (see section 2.1 for the definition of processed), and 10 catches made under direct supervision. In general, only 'A' class banders are granted an endorsement to use small propelled nets.

A permit to operate an explosive device or to handle explosives, or a firearms licence may be required from the State/Territory government. Enquiries on this matter should be directed to the relevant State/Territory wildlife management agency.

The addition of this endorsement necessarily requires that the levels of trapping method be amended. For most banders, there will be no change to existing arrangements. Our intent is not to prevent banders from using the trapping techniques already in use. The proposed trapping endorsements will be as follows:

Nil (trainee bander)*

Level I Rehabilitated birds only*

Level II Basics (not mist-, small propelled- or cannon-nets)+

Level III(A) Mist-nets*

Level III(B) Cannon-nets*

Level III(C) Small Propelled Nets#

Level III(D) Cannon-nets and Small Propelled Nets (not Mist-nets)#

Level III(E) Mist-nets and Small Propelled Nets (not Cannon-nets)#

Level IV Mist-nets and Cannon-nets*

Level V All trapping endorsements#

*No change to existing arrangements.

+Amended – no longer includes small propelled nets.

#New endorsement.

To facilitate this change, banders can contact the ABBBS with an outline of their experience with small propelled nets so this endorsement can be added to their authority. There will be scope for 'grandfathering' of banders that are already using these devices. Please contact us if you have a need to use this trapping method so we can come to a workable arrangement.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Electronic Submission of all banding and retrap data

A reminder that all data must be submitted in approved electronic format via our Secure Client Portal. The Secure Client Portal can be accessed through the Department's website at:

<https://secure.environment.gov.au/deh/biodiversity/science/abbbs/index.html>

Please note, only current A-class banders may access the portal. However, we encourage all R- and C-class banders to undergo training with their supervisor(s) on how to prepare, validate and submit data for the ABBBS. A high level of competency in these areas will be required for any banding authority upgrades.

Guidelines for banders on the preparation of banding data for electronic submission can be accessed through the Department's webpage at (note new link):

<http://www.environment.gov.au/science/abbbs/publications/guidelines-banders-2015>

Please contact the ABBBS if you have any queries, would like further guidance on how to use the Secure Client Portal.

New status code 55 for band replacement banding records

To help better identify band replacement records, a new status code has been created. The new code '55' (= 'was released alive carrying a replacement band or colour mark') should be used in the status column for the banding record that relates to the new/replacement band. The retrap record status should already be coded as '14' (= 'was released alive and the band or colour mark was replaced due to wear'). Please see below for more detail on how to code your data correctly.

How to submit recaptures or recoveries of foreign banded birds

Please notify the ABBBS in the first instance by phone or email of any retraps or recoveries of foreign banded birds. We have extensive contacts with all foreign banding schemes and will obtain the original banding data for you, and provide the relevant scheme with the retrap/recovery data. Some foreign banding schemes have specifically requested that they only be contacted by the ABBBS for these requests, so we ask that banders pass all details directly to us in the first instance. These bands cannot be submitted via the web portal submission services.

How to submit double banding and band replacement records

In cases where an additional band is placed on a retrapped bird, please record the banding data in the usual manner (i.e. a retrap of the old band and a new record for the new band), and note the double banding in the

'notes' section in your data submission. Please make it clear that the file contains records of double-banded birds, and which records are relevant. Alternatively you can email ABBBS with a list of bands with their sister band, e.g. '101-23569 also carries 101-45697' so we can manually link both records. At this stage, this does not happen automatically but we are hopeful that this process can be streamlined in the future.

The correct status code for a bird released carrying two numbered bands is '37'. All double banded bird records **MUST** have this code recorded. Banders can create an additional column in their data file after the mandatory 14 fields to record double banded birds. The column should be titled 'OB' (= 'other band'), and banding records for both bands should have the other band number recorded in this field. An example is provided below:

Band	Retrap	Species	Age	How Aged	Sex	How Sexed	Date	Locode	Time	Method	Status	Authority	Project	OB
011-12345	R	529	1+	P	M	P	20/05/2018	12	1203ES	03	37	2340	1	01C-54321
01C-54321		529	1+	P	M	P	20/05/2018	12	1203ES	03	37	2340	1	011-12345

When a band needs to be replaced altogether, banders need to let us know either on the submission notes field in the data submission service, or by email that there is a band replacement in the data file. There needs to be two rows in your data for band replacements; one retrap record of the old band that is to be replaced; and one new banding record for the new band.

The retrap record **MUST** have a status of 14 (= 'was released alive and the band was replaced due to wear').

The new banding record **MUST** have a status of 55 (= 'was released alive carrying a replacement band or colour mark') as outlined above.

Banders can define two new columns in their data file after the 14 mandatory fields to record band replacements properly. The two extra columns will capture complimentary data, one to indicate what band was used to replace the band in the retrap record ('RW': this band replaced with), the other to indicate what band was replaced by the band in the new banding record ('RE': this band replaces). An example is given below:

Band	Retrap	Species	Age	How Aged	Sex	How Sexed	Date	Locode	Time	Method	Status	Authority	Project	RE	RW
011-12345	R	529	1+	P	M	P	20/05/2018	12	1203ES	03	14	2340	1		01C-54321
01C-54321		529	1+	P	M	P	20/05/2018	12	1203ES	03	55	2340	1	011-12345	

All existing records of band replacements where the status is 13 have been re-coded in the ABBBS database to reflect this change.

Please ensure that you alert us to band replacement records in your data file as these band replacement records must still be entered manually by ABBBS staff.

How to submit banding mortality records

Due to a glitch in our data submission system, banders are asked to record any mortalities of unbanded birds in the comments field of the Data Submission Service, rather than in the data submission file itself. Please record the species number, date, location code and death cause code (DC, in your banders manual page 11.12). Any other information that you feel helps explain the event can be recorded in your annual progress report or in an email direct to abbbs@environment.gov.au. We hope to implement a more streamlined system for mortality reporting in the future, and all banders will be advised of this when it becomes available.

How to submit records of lost or destroyed bands

If you have lost or destroyed a band, you are still required to submit a record in your data submission so we can account for every band issued. To facilitate this, you need to use the following codes in your submission file:

- Band Number: As per usual requirements in correct format (see CODD guidelines for details)
- Species Number: 0 (zero)
- All age & sex codes: U (unknown)
- Date: the date on which the band was destroyed or suspected to be lost (or as close as possible, it is OK to use the date from the preceding record)
- Location Code: The site at which the band was destroyed, or suspected to be lost (OK to use the location code from the preceding record)
- Method: 44 (band lost) or 45 (band destroyed or damaged)
- Status: 00 (status of the bird/bat and band is unknown)
- Bander ID: The authority number of the bander to whom the bands were issued
- Project Number: The project number that the bands were issued for.
- An extra column titled 'AD' can be added to provide additional information on the circumstances.

An example is given below; the first for a lost band, the second for a destroyed band:

Band	Retrap	Species	Age	How Aged	Sex	How Sexed	Date	Locode	Time	Method	Status	Authority	Project	AD
011-12345		0	U	U	U	U	20/05/2018	12	1203ES	44	00	2340	1	Fell on ground
011-12346		0	U	U	U	U	20/05/2018	12	1203ES	45	00	2340	1	Overlapped

Please contact one of us if you are having trouble submitting these records.

Banders are asked to return any destroyed or worn bands that are removed to the banding office.

ANNUAL PROJECT RENEWALS

Annual Reports

ABBBS annual project reports are due by 31 July each year. If your project renewal paperwork has not arrived, please contact the banding office as an urgent priority. Banders failing to report on the progress of their banding projects may have support for their projects withdrawn.

Copies of journal articles

Please send the ABBBS a copy of any journal article that you publish that results from your banding studies. You can send them in with your annual project reports. Electronic copies in PDF format are preferred, if possible. Having copies of your papers help us to illustrate the value of the ABBBS and banding in general.

In addition to this request, we also ask that banders acknowledge the ABBBS in these papers for provision of support for the project. Many thanks to the banders who have already sent papers in, and those that have acknowledged the assistance of the ABBBS.

COLOUR MARKING

Approval required for all colour marking

All forms of colour marking must be approved by the ABBBS prior to commencement. There have been a few recent examples of unauthorised colour marking where the banding office has not been able to determine the origin of colour marked birds, as no approvals had been obtained prior to commencement. This is unacceptable, and any bander found to be colour marking without approval (including flags, neck collars, wing tags etc.) may have support withdrawn from their authority and project/s. Unauthorised colour marking can result in duplication of individual marks that can jeopardise not only your study, but other studies as well. There may also be welfare issues that could be relevant and need to be considered prior to commencement.

All applications for colour marking authorities require reasonable lead time to be able to run appropriate checks to prevent any potential clashes between studies. All applications for international migrants require at least three months lead time so that all banding schemes that may encounter these birds can be contacted to clear the proposal.

BANDS AND BAND DESIGN

There are no new band designs to report in this edition. If you feel that your study birds need a more suitable marking method please contact us to discuss your concerns and requirements. Banders are also asked to continue to send in trial of band size forms when bands other than those in the recommended band size list are used. This information is used to update our recommended band sizes. The reporting form is available on our website (address above).

Requisitions for Banding Supplies

All requests for bands and pliers must be made on a band requisition form available on the ABBBS website. Requests by phone or contained within an email message will not be actioned. Please ensure that you provide a valid postal address, and provide the metal types as well as the sizes required. The new recommended band size list has metal types recorded for each band size recommendation, as well a complete list of band specifications. If in doubt, please contact the ABBBS before making a request.

VALE PERRY DE REBEIRA AND DAVID MILTON

It is with great sadness that I write the next section, as we have lost two of our stalwart banders: Perry de Rebeira of Western Australia and David Milton of Queensland.

Perry de Rebeira first enrolled in the ABBBS 1 July 1970 and was continuously active in banding circles right up until his death on 24 April 2018. He was the ABBBS Regional Organiser for WA from 1974 to 1998, and I still recall the day when I first started in the ABBBS and Barry Baker said to me: "You don't need to worry about anything in the West, Perry runs everything there with an iron fist!" I always found him to be a pleasure to deal with (except when I overlooked an urgent band order by mistake. I only ever made that error once!). He was incredibly knowledgeable about WA birds and banding generally and was always happy to share this with anyone that asked. This attitude toward sharing information was most apparent with his tireless work on producing the banders guide to WA birds. He always provided the banding office with frank advice, and whole-hearted support. I have spoken with former ABBBS colleagues and we all agreed that Perry was one of the most knowledgeable, helpful, witty, friendly and caring bander we ever had the pleasure to deal with.

Perry had a major stroke eight years ago on a banding trip to the Great Sandy Desert which greatly curtailed his activities, but he still stayed involved with banding with Alma right up until his passing. It was injuries suffered in a fall at the Eyre Bird Observatory in mid-April that he was unable to recover from.

Perry is survived by his wonderful wife Alma, who will continue on with Perry's projects into the future.

David Milton first enrolled in the ABBBS on 4 July 1990, and was an instrumental member of the Queensland Wader Study Group for his entire banding career until his untimely death on 14 March 2018. Whilst he did not run his own projects, he undoubtedly banded thousands of shorebirds under the QWSG banner. He continually championed the conservation of shorebirds in Queensland and was instrumental in coordinating counts and banding operations in the Moreton Bay Ramsar Site. He was also involved with shorebird bander training programs in countries such as Mongolia and was editor of 'The Stilt' journal from 1998 to 2003. He was always a pleasure to deal with, and a real gentleman.

David is survived by his wonderful partner Sandra, who will continue her involvement in shorebird research.

Our most sincere condolences to Alma and Sandra and their families for their terrible losses – our thoughts are with you. Australian Ornithology, and in particular banding in Australia will be all the poorer without both Perry and David.

BILL BOARD

In the process of searching for something else, we located the following short film on banding in Australia made by the CSIRO in 1964:

<http://www.scienceimage.csiro.au/library/animals/v/11715/bird-banding-in-australia/>

It stars Harry Frith, the original head of the scheme, plus banders such as John Hood catching ravens and Doug Gibson catching albatross. Some of the techniques employed would probably not be acceptable to an Animal Ethics Committee today!!

There have been a few record-breaking recoveries and resightings reported since the last issue of Flightlines.

A first year female Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) was banded with 083-00011 by Joy Nicholls following rehabilitation in Waratah, Newcastle, NSW on 29/09/2017. The bird was found injured after colliding

with a fence whilst being attacked by Magpies in Sussex Inlet, NSW on 19/05/2018. Unfortunately it suffered from a broken leg and toes and was mercy killed by the local wildlife carer group. The distance travelled is 271km, which is a new movement record for this species.

A pullus Norfolk Island Boobook (*Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata*) was banded with 091-21981 and 091-21980 by Penny Olsen in the Norfolk Island National Park on 26/11/1995. The bird was recovered dead (cause unknown, and partially decomposed. Death estimated at 2-4 weeks earlier) near the banding site on 26/10/2017, 21 years and 11 months after banding by staff of the National Park. Of note is that the second band (091-21980) was missing from the bird, but the remaining band still had part of the original reflective tape applied almost 22 years earlier. This is a new longevity record for this sub-species, and is also 6 years older than the oldest recovery of the mainland species. It is also the only recovery ever recorded of this sub-species. Craig Doolan, the manager of the National Park informed us that this bird was the grandson of Miami, the last remaining pure Norfolk Island Boobook, which was located in 1989, and it was paired with two New Zealand Moreporks to prevent the species from going extinct. This individual's mother was the result of the first successful breeding event in 1989, and the father was from the second breeding event in 1990.

A pullus Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) was banded with 061-77336 by Nic Dunlop on Penguin Island, WA on 26/03/1988. It has been retrapped a number of times at the banding site, the last time on 10/12/2017, 29 years, 8 months and 14 days after banding, which is a new longevity record for this species.

A pullus Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*) was banded with 101-01658 by Harry Battam/SOSSA at Flinders Island in the Five Islands off Port Kembla, NSW on 16/1/1993. The bird was found with a broken wing, hiding in bushes behind Towradgi Beach, NSW on 29/5/2018. Unfortunately it had to be mercy killed by local wildlife carers, 25 years 4 months and 13 days after banding, and 8km from the banding site. This is the second oldest Sooty Oystercatcher ever recovered, the oldest was 25 years 6 months and 21 days. When we inspected the recapture history of this bird, we found that it been resighted three times before the final recovery; once at Wombarra Beach in Northern Wollongong (19km); once at Long Reef near Dee Why on the Northern Beaches of Sydney (85km); and once at Congo Point on the South Coast of NSW (181km), all more than 21 years ago. These early sightings were of the colour bands that were applied when the bird was first banded. This recovery illustrates the value of placing a metal band on any bird that is colour banded – without the metal band these amazing life span records would simply not exist.

A pullus Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) was banded with 091-59696 and engraved orange leg flag 'X8' at the Mud Islands, Port Phillip Bay, Victoria on 8/11/2017 by the Victorian Wader Study Group. The bird was resighted alive at Bowen Pier, Queensland on 4/6/2018 after moving 2057km. This is the second longest movement recorded for this species.

You can query details for all species via our public access web portal:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/science-and-research/bird-and-bat-banding/banding-data/search-abbbs-database>



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme

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Email abbbs@environment.gov.au

CURRENT ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Title: _____ Initials: _____ Preferred first name: _____ Surname: _____

ABBBS Authority no: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone: home () _____ Facsimile: () _____

work () _____ eMAIL: _____

mobile: _____

PERMISSION TO RELEASE NAME AND ADDRESS

I hereby give permission to ABBBS to provide my name and address to the following people or organisations:

	Circle Responses		
	Street address	Phone	Email
OTHER BANDERS	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
GOVT. RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS (EG CSIRO)	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
NON-GOVT. RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS (EG BIRDLIFE)	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BECOMING BANDERS	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
PUBLISH NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS ON ABBBS WEB SITE	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY OF BANDING DATA

The Department has adopted the Australian Government Open Access and Licensing (AusGOAL) framework, where all data are freely available to any interested parties that request it, with due acknowledgement for the original collector. Banders may request confidentiality for data they have collected. Any request for confidentiality must be accompanied by a business case, and will be granted for a maximum of 3 years. In the absence of a confidentiality request, all data will be freely available. Please note that only project supervisors that have been issued bands are able to make this request. If you are assisting on a project, please speak with your supervisor to make this request.

Circle response

NO DATA TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ME

YES / NO

If so, please provide justification:

Signature _____ Date _____