



NABC Bander's Checklist For Shorebirds

Name: _____

The Bander's Checklist provides a way for you to track your banding skills development and help you to assess when you are ready to apply for a banding permit or NABC certification. You may wish to have your trainer initial when you are competent with certain skills or record the date when accomplished.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL and ETHICS

- Read NABC's Banders' Study Guide
- Read NABC's Shorebird Banding Guide
- Be familiar with *Identification and ageing of Holarctic Waders. Prater et. al. 1977*
- Know how to use Pyle's *Identification Guide to North American Birds Vol 2.*
- Be familiar with *Pan American Shorebird Program (PASP) Protocol*
- Read *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research*
- Know and practice the Bander's Code of Ethics
- Knowledge of legal responsibilities and permits
- Knowledge of scientific and ethical standards of working with wild birds in research
- Understand how banding contributes to scientific studies

CHECKLIST OF PRACTICAL SKILLS

1) Identification and Handling

- Recognize all target species.
- Release a bird unbanded if unable to identify it.
- Safe use a variety of appropriate grips for small and large shorebirds
- Safely transfer a bird from hand to hand
- Safely transfer a bird to another bander
- Understand precautions to take with breeding birds
- Minimize handling time while not compromising safety
- Know what features make good and safe holding box or keeping cage for your environment
- Safely hold and release a variety of species

2) Banding and Marking

- Know content of banding kit
- Select correct band size and type
- Read band numbers correctly
- Apply bird bands correctly
- Recognize an improperly applied band

- Safely correct an improperly applied band
- Know when to remove a band
- Remove a band safely
- Apply hard metal bands
- Demonstrate proficiency in special authorizations

3) Biometrics

- Use and accurately read wing rules
- Use and accurately read balances
- Use and accurately read calipers
- Accurately measure anatomical features
- Assess simple wing formulae
- Accurately assess and record moult
- Accurately score fat deposits

4) Ageing and Sexing

- Correctly use guides for ageing and sexing
- Understand and assign correct age codes
- Correctly use physical characteristics for ageing and sexing

5) Traps

- Ability to select appropriate capture and banding sites
- Have knowledge of a variety of traps and their target species
- Operate a variety of traps properly and safely
- Extract a variety of species quickly and safely

6) Nets

- Choose an appropriate netting site and appropriate net for target species
- Correctly set up nets unaided
- Properly furl and unfurl mist nets
- Properly store nets and associated equipment
- Effectively judge how many nets to use safely and check them frequently and carefully
- Extract a variety of species quickly and safely
- Deal proficiently with challenging extractions
- Recognize and repair nets that are in poor condition
- Understand the various roles on a netting team

7) Precocial Young

- Minimize disturbance and predation potential
- Follow species, date and age guidelines in the Banding Manual
- Capture handle, band, responsibly and release precocial young safely

8) Bird Injuries and Casualties

- Show awareness of injury and mortality prevention
- Demonstrate ability to deal with minor injuries
- Recognize signs of stress and know how to respond
- Be familiar with signs of capture myopathy and know how to respond
- Recognize when to euthanize
- Know euthanasia techniques
- Record details of all injuries and casualties
- Ensure scientific use of casualties

9) Health and Safety of Banders

- Take preventative action against physical hazards in capture and banding area
- Be aware of potential injuries from birds
- Be aware of local zoonotics
- Understand biosafety precautions

10) Data Collection and Management

- Record data clearly and accurately on field sheets
- Recognize and document or photograph rarities or unusual birds
- Maintain complete and accurate daily logs
- Proof and correct banding sheets
- Know how to complete banding schedules
- Be familiar with Bandit software
- Report data on time
- Know how to report auxiliary marker use and resightings

11) Public Relations

- Communicate effectively with the public about bird banding
- Communicate effectively using banding data (reports, articles, etc.)
- Know and follow the NABC Photographic Guidelines.