

## ***North American Banding Council: Shorebird Bander Certification Criteria***

NABC shorebird bander certification is a voluntary qualification designed to encourage standardized, stepwise progressive bander development and encourage sharing of best practices.

### ***Shorebird Bander Certification Process and Requirements:***

Shorebird certification is offered at three levels:

1. Certified Banding Assistant
2. Certified Bander
3. Certified Trainer

Certification is a four part process:

1. Study of key materials prior to the workshop and exam.
2. Attendance at a training and certification workshop.
3. Pass the written exam.
4. Field expertise.

In order to achieve certification, applicants must demonstrate that they have achieved a certain level of field expertise. Field expertise is flexible to allow for various experience and expertise with various species, habitat, life stages and capture methods. Ideally, certified banders and trainers will have developed expertise with a variety of species and situations.

Once you have completed the requirements for certification, you may apply for certification by sending your application to the North American Banding Council Certification Committee. Your application should consist of this document filled in and signed by your trainer(s), an account of your banding experience, the application for certification form and your certificate of participation at an NABC shorebird banding workshop.

**Please note that NABC shorebird certification does not consider or assess ability or competence to work with projectile capture methods.**

**Criteria for achieving NABC shorebird certification at the three levels:**

<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	<b>Assistant</b>	<b>Bander</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Bander initials</b>	<b>Trainer 1 Initials</b>	<b>Trainer 2 Initials</b>
<b>Background Materials and Ethics</b>						
Knowledge of important manuals and guidelines including: <i>North American Banders Study Guide, NABC Shorebird Banding Manual, Pyle's Identification guide to North American Birds Vol 2., Identification and ageing of Holarctic Waders.</i> Prater et. al. 1977. <i>OC's Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research, the Bander's Codes of Ethics, NABC Photographic Guidelines and Pan American Shorebird Program (PASP)</i>	X	X	X			
Knowledge of legal responsibilities and permitting.	X	X	X			
Knowledge of scientific and ethical standards of using wild birds in research and how banding contributes to science and conservation.	X	X	X			
Effectively teach scientific ethics, standards and legal responsibilities of working with wild birds in research.			X			
<b>Identification and Handling</b>						
Recognize all target species.	X	X	X			
Release a bird unbanded if unable to identify it.	X	X	X			
Safely use a variety of appropriate grips for small and large shorebirds.	X	X	X			
Safely transfer a bird from hand to hand and to another bander.	X	X	X			
Understand precautions to take with breeding birds.	X	X	X			
Minimize handling time while not compromising safety.	X	X	X			
Safely hold and release a variety of species.	X	X	X			
Know what features make good and safe holding/keeping/carrying cage or box and how and when to use them including in relation to climatic conditions and environment.	X	X	X			
Effectively teach bird ID, handling and holding.			X			
<b>Banding and Marking</b>						
Know contents of banding kit.	X	X	X			
Select correct band size and type.	X	X	X			
Read band numbers correctly.	X	X	X			
Apply bands (aluminum and hard metal) correctly.	X	X	X			
Recognize an improperly applied band.	X	X	X			

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Know when to remove a band.	X	X	X			
Safely correct an improperly applied band.	X	X	X			
Remove a band safely.	X	X	X			
Effectively teach bird banding techniques.			X			
Understand the use of auxiliary markers on shorebirds.		X	X			
<b>Biometrics</b>						
Use and accurately read wing rules.	X	X	X			
Use and accurately read balances.	X	X	X			
Use and accurately read calipers.	X	X	X			
Accurately measure anatomical features.	X	X	X			
Assess simple wing formulae.	X	X	X			
Accurately assess and record moult.	X	X	X			
Accurately score fat deposits.	X	X	X			
Teach standardized collection of biometrics.			X			
<b>Ageing and Sexing</b>						
Correctly use guides for ageing and sexing.	X	X	X			
Understand and assign correct age codes.	X	X	X			
Correctly use physical characteristics for ageing and sexing.	X	X	X			
Effectively teach ageing and sexing of shorebirds.			X			
<b>Capture Methods (excluding cannon or rocket netting)</b>						
Select appropriate capture and banding sites (tides, mud, breeding).		X	X			
Have knowledge of a variety of capture methods and their target species.	X	X	X			
Correctly set up and operate a variety of capture equipment (for passive and targeted trapping) properly and safely.	X	X	X			
Extract a variety of species quickly and safely from traps and/or nets.	X	X	X			
Properly takedown and store capture gear and associated equipment.	X	X	X			
Effectively judge how many traps and/or nets to use safely and check them frequently and carefully.	X	X	X			
Deal proficiently with challenging extractions.	X	X	X			
Recognize, repair or destroy capture equipment in poor condition.		X	X			
Be competent with various roles on a banding team.	X	X	X			
Teach the safe and effective operation of a variety of capture methods safely and effectively.			X			

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<b>Working with Precocial Young</b>						
Minimize disturbance and predation potential.	X	X	X			
Follow species, date and age guidelines in the Banding Manual.	X	X	X			
Capture, handle, band, and release precocial young safely and responsibly.	X	X	X			
Teach safe methods for working with precocial young.			X			
<b>Bird Injuries and Casualties</b>						
Show awareness of injury and mortality prevention.	X	X	X			
Demonstrate ability to deal with minor injuries.		X	X			
Recognize signs of stress and know how to respond.	X	X	X			
Be familiar with signs of capture myopathy and how to respond.	X	X	X			
Recognize when to euthanize.	X	X	X			
Know euthanasia techniques.	X	X	X			
Record details of all injuries and casualties.	X	X	X			
Assess carcass as a specimen and ensure scientific use of casualties.	X	X	X			
Teach bird safety, injury prevention, first aid, care and euthanasia.			X			
<b>Health and Safety of Banders and field staff</b>						
Take preventative action against physical hazards in banding area.	X	X	X			
Be aware of potential injuries from birds.	X	X	X			
Be aware of local zoonotics.	X	X	X			
Understand biosafety precautions.	X	X	X			
Effectively teach field health and safety.			X			
<b>Data Collection and Management</b>						
Record data clearly and accurately on field sheets,	X	X	X			
Recognize and take descriptions of, or photograph rarities or unusual birds.	X	X	X			
Maintain complete and accurate daily logs.	X	X	X			
Proof and correct banding sheets.	X	X	X			
Know how to complete banding schedules.	X	X	X			
Be familiar with Bandit software.		X	X			
Report data on time.		X	X			
Know how to report auxiliary marker use and sightings.		X	X			
Teach field data collection and data management.			X			

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<b>Public Relations</b>					
Communicate effectively with the public about banding.	X	X	X		
Communicate effectively using banding data (reports, articles, etc.).		X	X		
Know and follow the NABC Photographic Guidelines.	X	X	X		
Ability to manage and lead field teams.		X	X		
Ability to teach public relations.			X		
Present a shorebird topic related to the NABC mandate at an NABC shorebird bander training workshop, scientific conference or other training venue.			X		
<b>Additional Requirements for NABC Certification</b>					
Pass the written test with a mark $\geq$ 75%.	X				
Pass the written test with a mark $\geq$ 80%		X			
Pass the written test with a mark $\geq$ 90%			X		
Attend at least one NABC shorebird workshop and certification session	X	X	X		
<b>Field Expertise</b>					
Must have a minimum of 250 non-breeding, or 25 breeding <i>adult and</i> precocial young or a representative combination of nonbreeding, breeding and precocial young shorebirds safely extracted/banded.*	X				
Must have a minimum of 1500 non-breeding, or 100 breeding and precocial young or a representative combination of nonbreeding, breeding and precocial young shorebirds safely extracted/banded.*		X			
Must have a minimum of 6,000 non-breeding, or 400 breeding and precocial young or a representative combination of nonbreeding, breeding and precocial young shorebirds safely <i>extracted, banded, and processed</i> .*			X		

\* Field experience (number of shorebird extracted/banded) must be confirmed with your trainers' signature. In order to achieve certification banders are expected to have achieved a field expertise working with shorebirds in the field. We recognize that banders have varying opportunities to capture, handle and band shorebirds depending on if they work with breeding or nonbreeding birds. The intention is to provide achievable targets as banders gain experience.

I certify that the information in this document is correct.

Applicant signature:

Initials:

Date:

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I certify that the information in this document is correct.

Trainer signature:

Initials:

Date:

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**I certify that the information in this document is correct.**

**Trainer signature:**

**Initials:**

**Date:**

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