Training and certification

North American Banding Council: Experiences on training and certification across the region

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NORTH AMERICAN BANDING COUNCIL AND Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas

- NABC is a collaboration of ornithological societies and governments.
- ...promotes standards, methods, and communication.
- LaMNA is a Network of banders and institutions...
- ...provides data, infrastructure analysis/visualization tools
- LaMNA enables NABC standards and maintains DIVERSITY OF DATA

North American Banding Council

- Non-profit and non-governmental organization
- Consists of representatives of ornithological societies and promotes sound and ethical banding principals and techniques

NABC Representatives


- Ex-officio Representatives from the Mexican, Canadian, and U.S. Bird Banding Offices and organizations
- Encourage participation from all North American banders
- Discussion ongoing to include representatives from all of the Americas or to encourage Latin American organizations

NABC Background

- Organizational Meeting in California, March 1995
- Identify needs: training, evaluation, certification, and ethics
- Discussions: permitting policies; bander training in all countries of the Americas
- North American Banding Council established in 1996

What is NABC doing?

- Publications, current manuals in English, Spanish, and French languages are available
– North American Banders’ Study Guide
– Instructors’ Guide to Training Banders in North America
– Manual for Banding Hummingbirds
– Manual for Banding Raptors
– Manual for Banding Passerines and Near Passerines
– Manual for Banding Shorebirds
– Manual for Banding Waterfowl

Being prepared:
– Manual for Banding and Public Outreach
– Manual for Seabirds

• International Programs
– Manual translations
– NABC guidelines for training in Neotropics
– NABC contributes input to resident banding programs

• Bander training and certification program
  – Integrate NABC publications and guidelines into training programs and workshops
  – Recent and Upcoming NABC Training programs in: Caribbean Region, El Salvador, Peru and Costa Rica – November 2010!

Bander Certification Levels
• Assistant: competence in handling and banding birds under direct supervision.
• Bander: competence in all aspects of banding, including the design and carrying out of meaningful studies that involve the capturing, handling, identifying, ageing, sexing, banding, and measuring of birds; recording of data; and accurate and timely completion of banding schedules.
• Trainer: banders with exceptional experience, knowledge, skill, and demonstrated teaching ability. Trainers will certify banders.

Bander Certification
• Group and Individual Evaluations –
• Written Exams
• Field Evaluation - comprehensive assessment of skills
  – Safe capture techniques
  – Biometrics
  – Identification, ageing, and sexing

NABC and Opportunities
• For banders to establish standards for banding
• To make knowledgeable decisions in bander training
• For collaboration in research
• To continue learning

NABC - Banding in Bird Studies
Bird studies will benefit from:
• Increased number of competent banders
• More reliably accurate data
• More opportunities for collaborative studies
• Birds will benefit from a safer, more effective, banding program in the Americas
• Banding Offices can recognize certification as evidence of qualifications for a federal banding permit
• Integration of data with LaMNA will result in fantastic analyses!