

## **News from the Bird Banding Lab**

**November 25, 2011** (rev. 11/28/11) **Release of Bandit v 3.01**

The BBL is proud to announce the release of Bandit version 3.01. Originally 3.01 was intended to fix a few very minor problems we found in v. 3.0, but other changes, both within the BBL and outside the BBL resulted in many other improvements that extended the time it took to be sure we had a good product. The changes from 3.0 to 3.01 are many fewer than from 2.01 to 3.0, but are significant enough that we encourage all users to upgrade.

The major changes in version 3.01 relate to auxiliary marker codes and status codes for various electronic devices. If you are using transmitters, PIT tags, geolocators, etc. it is important that you upgrade. Not only have we added new codes for the "Aux Marker" portion of Bandit, but we have added new "Additional Information" (a.i.) codes for the Status Code field. We are now distinguishing between satellite and VHF transmitters (making the old a.i. code of 89 obsolete), and we have added a code for dataloggers, including geolocators. Previously we have asked banders to use a.i. code 85 (misc.) for dataloggers. Finally we have a new code (75) for PIT tags. In the Aux Marker Type field you will notice that each of these new codes has an A through G sub code that describes the method of attachment.

Banders using wing tags on birds should also note that, on the Aux Marker page we have broken Aux Marker Type code 39 into 39A, 39B and 39C to distinguish wing, back and head markers. This change does not affect the a.i. code; it remains 39 for all.

The other major change is the addition of resident bird species found in the U. S. possessions in the South Pacific.

Other more minor changes that were made primarily affect how Bandit performs, making it more user-friendly and encouraging better data entry which is why we encourage all users to upgrade. The upgrade process is simple, but you must remember to answer yes to the question about retaining your old data.

**WARNING !** All users, and especially Windows Vista users, should be certain that they have saved the most current backup file and that they know where it is stored. With Vista it has been found that the "restore" that is done as part of the installation process occasionally does not restore the most recent backup or any at all. In such cases it will be necessary to do a "Restore From Backup" after installation.

**<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/resources/bandit/Software/index.cfm>**

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### **July 19, 2011 New BBL Website**

The BBL is pleased to announce the release of its new website. Please visit this site at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>. It is a complete makeover of the former website with updated content, new features and improved navigation that will allow users to locate information about bird banding and the BBL. One new feature of particular interest to banders concerns Permit Renewals. Master Banding Permit renewals can now take place online. You will no longer need to download paper forms and return them to the lab. Go to the Permits section of the website and follow the link to permit renewals and the online renewal form. A quick update of your contact information and electronic signature, then the renewal process is complete. We request that all banders use this electronic form for their renewals.

Additional improvements and updates will be made to this website in the future. The BBL will notify the banding community whenever important new features become available. If you encounter any problems or have any suggestions about the website, please contact to Jo Anna Lutmerding (jlutmerding@usgs.gov) at the BBL.

### **Eliminating Paper Certificates of Appreciation**

For bird bands reported to the BBL beginning August 1, 2011, the BBL will no longer be sending paper Certificates of Appreciation to the person finding the band. Certificates will only be sent in an electronic format. If an email address is provided at the time of the band report, then an email message will be sent with an attached electronic certificate as soon as the banding data are available. For people who do not provide an email address when reporting the bird band, the BBL will also be establishing a website where the person reporting a band can provide their name and band number to download the electronic certificate when it becomes available. We expect this website to become operational around September 1, 2011. The BBL regrets not being able to continue the practice of sending paper Certificates of Appreciation, but budget reductions necessitate an end to this practice.

Bruce Peterjohn, Chief

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