





# NABC Bander's Checklist For Passerines and Other Landbirds

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

- a) Read NABC's Bander's Study Guide  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Read NABC's Passerine Banding Guide  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Know how to use Pyle's *Identification Guide to North American Birds*  \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Know about required permits  \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Know content of banding kit  \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Know and practice the Bander's Code of Ethics  \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Understand how banding fits into scientific studies  \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECKLIST OF PRACTICAL SKILLS

### 1) Identification and Handling

- a) Recognize all target species. Release a bird unbanded if unable to identify it.  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Use the Bander's Grip safely  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Use the Photographer's Grip safely  \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Safely transfer a bird from hand to hand  \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Understand precautions to take with breeding birds  \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Minimize handling time while not compromising safety  \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Open a bird's bill reliably  \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Handle a variety of "awkward" species  \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Safely release a variety of species  \_\_\_\_\_
- j) Effectively deal with escaped birds in an enclosed space  \_\_\_\_\_

### 2) Banding

- a) Select correct band size  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Read band numbers correctly  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Apply a band correctly  \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Recognize an improperly applied band  \_\_\_\_\_

- e) Know when to remove a band  \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Remove a band safely  \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Demonstrate proficiency in special authorizations (as applicable)  \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) Carrying Birds

- a) Safely place birds in bags and handle them correctly  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Recommend when bags need cleaning  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Know what features make a good bird bag  \_\_\_\_\_

### 4) Field Data Collection

- a) Record data clearly and accurately on field sheets  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Recognize and take descriptions of or photograph rarities or unusual birds  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Maintain complete and accurate daily logs  \_\_\_\_\_

### 5) Biometrics

- a) Use and accurately read wing rules  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Use and accurately read balances  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Use and accurately read callipers  \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Accurately measure anatomical features  \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Assess simple wing formulae  \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Accurately assess and record moult  \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Accurately score fat deposits  \_\_\_\_\_

### 6) Ageing and Sexing

- a) Correctly use guides for ageing and sexing  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Accurately score skull pneumatization  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Understand and assign correct age codes  \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Correctly use physical characteristics for ageing and sexing  \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Correctly use brood patch and cloacal protuberance for sexing  \_\_\_\_\_

### 7) Traps

- a) Have knowledge of traps and their target species  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Operate traps properly and safely  \_\_\_\_\_

### 8) Mist Nets

- a) Choose an appropriate netting site and appropriate net for target species  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Correctly set up nets unaided  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Properly furl and unfurl nets  \_\_\_\_\_

- d) Properly take in and store nets and associated equipment  \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Judge how many nets to use safely and check them frequently and carefully  \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Extract a variety of species quickly and safely  \_\_\_\_\_

- g) Deal proficiently with challenging extractions and net management situations  \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Recognize and repair nets that are in poor condition  \_\_\_\_\_

### 9) Nestlings

- a) Follow species, date and age guidelines in the Banding Manual  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Minimize disturbance and predation potential  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Approach nests responsibly and remove, handle, band, and replace nestlings safely  \_\_\_\_\_

### 10) Bird Injuries and Casualties

- a) Show awareness of injury prevention  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Recognize signs of stress and know how to respond to them.  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Demonstrate ability to deal with minor injuries  \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Recognize when to euthanize  \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Know euthanasia techniques  \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Record details of all injuries and casualties  \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Assess carcass as a specimen  \_\_\_\_\_

### 11) Health and Safety of Banders

- a) Be aware of potential injuries from birds  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Take preventative action against physical hazards in banding area  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Be aware of local zoonotics  \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Understand biosafety precautions  \_\_\_\_\_

### 12) Data Management

- a) Proof and correct banding sheets  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Know how to complete banding schedules  \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Be familiar with Bandit software  \_\_\_\_\_

### 13) Public Relations

- a) Communicate effectively with the public about banding  \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Communicate effectively using banding  \_\_\_\_\_