

North American Banding Council
Brief summary of the NABC Annual Meeting, 5-7 March, 2010
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona

18 Council members and 3 NABC Trainers attended this 3 day meeting in Tucson Arizona. Audrey Heagy and David Okines who represented the OBBA and Lesley Howes of the BBO were the Canadian representatives.

Training and Workshop Committee.

John Alexander will prepare a report on several workshops that were held, focusing on NABC materials.

Certification

- a.) Anthony Hill was elected as the chair of the Certification Committee, all requests to hold an NABC Certification session will now go to him (anhinga13@hotmail.com).
- b.) The Committee agreed that the current pool of test questions be evaluated to assure they are in line with the new evaluation materials or existing NABC Manuals.
- c.) Discussion was had regarding the need to stay in touch with the supporting organizations as well as all certified Banders.
- d.) There was a motion passed that NABC Certification will no longer expire, contingent on the certified individuals maintaining updated contact information with the NABC. The Recertification Committee is to review and potentially contact those individuals who are beyond the five year period of certification to determine if they would like to maintain certification.
- e.) A simplified evaluation process, which is based on the current Trainer's Checklist replaces the current field evaluation process during evaluation sessions.
- g.) The current NABC manuals will be reviewed and revised.

An alternative evaluation process

During the meeting, the NABC Evaluation Committee and Council voted to approve a new method for certifying as Trainers, those bird banders who have exceptional experience who are unable to attend a session. This process will consist of an application containing the following:

1. Proof of having scored at least 90% on the NABC written exam.
2. Cover letter clearly summarizing the applicant's qualifications as a trainer. This letter should address the following:
 - a. Years of experience training banders (≥ 5 years).
 - b. Approximate number of banders trained (≥ 10 individuals).
 - c. Examples of banders trained and describe the training provided. Provide names and current positions.
 - d. Identify which of your trainees have been certified by NABC and what level?
3. Three letters of recommendation from certified NABC Trainers (two of whom have banded extensively with the individual and have been involved in past Evaluation Sessions) summarizing the following:
 - a. Their personal knowledge of the applicant's recent banding experience
 - b. Their personal knowledge of the applicant's recent bander training abilities
 - c. Their personal knowledge of the applicant's ethical standards in regards to bird banding
4. Curriculum Vitae
 - a. Shows ≥ 3 banding-related peer-reviewed publications
5. Signed letter (1) indicating that the NABC study guide and training manuals (and relevant bird group manuals) have been read in full and (2) stating the applicant's commitment to teach using the principles and techniques therein.

Certification process: The certification committee will review each of these applications and a quorum (percent to be determined) of that committee will make the final determination.

Evaluation Committee.

Committee continues work on evaluation papers and an international evaluation protocol.

Outreach Committee.

Committee will work on developing a plan to reach different audiences, engage Trainers and Banders in the work of NABC, produce a general white paper for all to use in informing their organization or the public to ensure that all audiences receive the same message, and write a short summary of the NABC Annual Meeting for publication in the OSNA Newsletter.

Bylaws.

Following discussion Council agreed to identify ten organizations as member organizations in the bylaws, allow up to 25 directors, and include three At Large seats for Trainer representatives to be elected by active Trainers for three year terms.

Motion: To accept the bylaws revision pending legal review. Approved

Bird Banding Office.

The Office is conducting a review of recommended band sizes, including sources of recommendations, what banders are using, any geographical variation in bird size, etc. Some species are being banded with more non-recommended size bands than the recommended size. The study may result in new band sizes, as well as new size recommendations. (send any comments on band size to Lesley at the BBO)

A Bird Bander Ageing/Sexing tool is being developed, and a new birdsong training tool, Dendroica Canada, will be released this spring.

Bird Banding Laboratory.

The current budget and staffing remain at last year's level; a two-year band supply is being maintained. Encounters are increasingly reported and handed via the web, saving high costs on the 1-800 number use. A new version of Bandit, 3.0, is in Beta version now, will be completed in 3-6 months. The original version will shortly be abandoned. So any current users should update. Stimulus money is allowing conversion of 6.5 million paper and microfilm encounter records to digital. The pending newly developed BBL regulations are currently being reviewed, and may be published for public comment by the end of the year.

LaMNA.

The purpose of the Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas is to preserve banding data, much of which is lost each year. There are now 790 banding stations reporting to LaMNA with one million banding records in hand or promised.

New Business

- a.) Items of policy and procedure, including new Trainer representative elections, will be covered in a Procedural manual, with the initial draft to be prepared by Mark Shieldcastle.
- b.) Bob Frey was appointed to chair an Ad Hoc Recognition committee to develop the award concept and criteria to establish three awards, to a Trainer, a Council member, and an outgoing Council member.
- c.) The Chair of NABC will contact the Executive Director of the Ornithological Council and Greg Smith indicating that NABC has a number of concerns regarding the requirement of GPS points on banding reports.

The 2011 Annual Meeting is to be held in Ashland, Oregon

The full minutes of the 2010 NABC meeting will eventually be placed on the NABC website (www.nabanding.net)