



Banding Banter 1
 Band returns deadline extended to 31 May 1
 Vacancies in DOC Terrestrial Science Unit 2
 Would you like to become a band (w)rap artist? 2
 NZNBBS Certificates and Cards 2
 Reminder to order bands and equipment before June 3
 Keen to band African birds? – Dieter Oschadleus 3
 “Dumb and Dumber” – Les Moran 3
 Life cycle of a bird band 4
 Puzzle: colour band recording 4
 Moving? Please report any bird bands found 5
 Quote me 5
 DOC Operations representatives on Banding Advisory Committee: 5
 Bex Jackson 5
 Mailee Stanbury 6
 Answer: The Griddler Puzzle 6
 Bright lights disrupt bird flights – Gill Jackson 7
 Request for old banding equipment 7

Banding Banter

BirDBanD is still going strong, though perhaps not quite as punctually “quarterly” as originally planned... Previous newsletters can be downloaded from <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/bird-banding/> and <https://www.osnz.org.nz/nz-national-banding-scheme>.



Band returns: deadline extended to 31 May

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Band_ prefi	Band_number	NZNBBS _Code	Lookup_Code	Species _Cod	Scientific name	Common name	Date	Date_Acc uracy	Marks

In order to encourage banders to switch to using the new [Version 9.2](#) data template, an *extension to 31 May* has been granted for band returns. In addition to banding and recovery data, we require a record of all bands that you have in stock (new and old, in boxes, banding kits, etc.) as well as any numbered bands that have been transferred to other banders, used for training, lost, or used for other purposes (jewellery, tree markers, artwork, transmitter crimps...) – refer to “Life Cycle of a Bird Band” on Page 4. Over the past year, 198 spreadsheets have been submitted, of which over 70% were in the new template format. Data migration is currently underway, with various scripts and workflows converting all submitted data (from several different templates) into the Version 9.2 template, followed by a comprehensive error-checking process before records are migrated to the new Bird Banding database. Progress so far includes 308,790 records migrated, including >50,000 inventory records, and >250,000 individual birds of 188 species.

It has been interesting to see the errors that are picked up during this process, including the same band placed on two different birds, birds resighted a decade before being banded or even dying twice; future resightings have even been foretold!

An update of all data submitted by 31 May will be provided during the [Birds NZ Conference](#) in June as well as in the next *BirDBanD* newsletter.

Vacancies in DOC Terrestrial Science Unit

This is an exciting time of growth for the Biodiversity Group at the Department of Conservation. Thanks to Budget 2018's funding boost an additional \$76 million will be invested in biodiversity initiatives across land, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. Because of the ambitious work programme to deliver on targets for the next 4 years, we are looking to expand our Group.

Technical Administrator: We are very pleased that administrative support for the Banding Office will be boosted by a Technical Administrator role (based in Wellington). We anticipate that the incumbent will work in the Banding Office for ~3 days per week, providing administrative support, processing banding certification applications and facilitating bander training. The rest of the time they will be assisting with laboratory, storage and volunteer management. For more information, refer to <https://careers.doc.govt.nz/jobs/DOC-500-20606/>.

Technical Advisors (5): <https://www.jacksonstone.co.nz/jobs/6014/>

Managers (3): <https://www.jacksonstone.co.nz/jobs/6013/>

Additional Science and Principal Science Advisor roles will be advertised during May.

Would you like to become a band (w)rap artist?

A great way to identify individual birds without recapture...

...but someone needs to painstakingly make each wraparound band individually!

*Bird observation – identification
Colour bands – unique combination.
Monitor translocation, rates of predation,
flyway migration: aid conservation.
An invitation – throughout the nation
Seeking “wrappers” with determination*

*You supply instrumentation – we'll consider remuneration
And if required – a standing ovation*

*Attention to detail,
accuracy to 0.1mm,
working with hot water,
tweezers, drill bits, and
endless strips of plastic*

Alas! It's not a means to make a quick buck...



Thank you to those who responded to the article in the March Birds New Zealand Magazine! We will be in touch regarding training opportunities. If anyone else is interested in becoming a band “wrap” artist, please contact the Banding Office.

NZNBBS Certificates and Cards

Certificates that were issued in 2013 expired in 2018 (“5 years from date of issue”), providing an opportunity for the Banding Office to request updated contact details and outstanding data, and banders to request certification reassessment before printing replacements. In addition, the separate Level 2 and Level 3 cards and certificates (and certification numbers) issued from 2013 to 2016 have now been combined into a single card/certificate with a single unique NZNBBS Bander ID number. The new Birds NZ logo has also been added.

We have also started providing cards for active Level 1 operators in addition to certificates. Part of the reasoning behind this is to formalise Level 1 and encourage trainee registration, while also serving as a ready reminder of the Level 1 trainee's Bander ID number (both for the trainee and the Level 3 trainer), and as a means to show registration with the Scheme when joining banding operations – this is now a requirement listed in permit conditions.



Reminder to order bands and equipment before June

In order to give the Banding Administrator some breathing space in June for stock-take and re-ordering, we prefer not to process any orders just before our financial year-end. We would therefore like to encourage you to place your orders before the end of May – keep an eye out on the [Banding webpage](#) for an updated Price List and Order Form.

Keen to band African birds? – Dieter Oschadleus

African Ringing Expeditions (Biodiversity and Development Institute) is setting up a long-term bird monitoring site near Cape Town, South Africa. We want this to grow to become the first “bird observatory” in southern Africa. The chosen site is an hour’s drive from Cape Town International Airport. The ringing site itself is amazing, on a wine farm that uses neither pesticides nor herbicides. The accommodation is superb, in an attractive valley.

Our aim is to cumulatively build a long-term database which can be used for a variety of research studies. Selected species will be colour-ringed to study survival and other aspects (such as territory sizes and interactions). Primary moult is being recorded for all species to study variation in timing and duration of moult (annually and in different habitats). More projects will be developed as more ringers visit. A wide variety of species has already been ringed at the site, and there is potential for many more species to be ringed.

Two blog posts describe the details of a very successful ringing expedition held recently:

<http://thebdi.org/blog/2019/03/04/establishing-a-long-term-bird-ringing-site-part-1-the-place/>

<http://thebdi.org/blog/2019/03/05/establishing-a-long-term-bird-ringing-site-part-2-some-birds/>

There is a species list of birds ringed at <http://weavers.adu.org.za/newstable.php?id=834>

Please forward to anyone you know that may be interested in going on this expedition – details are at <http://thebdi.org/about/african-ringing-expeditions/> or contact dieter@thebdi.org.



Acacia Pied Barbet and Lesser Honeyguide

“Dumb and Dumber” – Les Moran

GR/RM was banded as **Y-6483**.

Interesting story behind this bird – Kiri Pullen & I were mist-netting at Anderson Park in Invercargill when 2 male tui flew past chasing each other. One bird grabbed the other & they both tumbled to the ground fighting. So I just nipped over & plucked them off the ground, banded Y-6483 & then released both birds. Birds don’t come to hand much easier than that! We didn’t normally name our captures but this one ended up being called “Dumb”. The other one we called “Dumber”, we’d previously mist-netted him in October 2003 at Retreat Road.

Moving? Please report any bird bands found

Sometimes there may be a delay between finding a band and reporting it – in this case 30 years!

Sent: Friday, 28 September 2012 2:20 p.m.

To: Mail

Subject: BIRD RING

Hello

I don't know who I should contact but back in approximately 1982/3 whilst walking along a beach in Sydney NSW Australia I came across a bird who had died, it had a leg ring on it which I kept with the intention of sending it to the address on it, however I mislaid until my latest move and now would like to know if it is of use to or interest to you?

Quote me

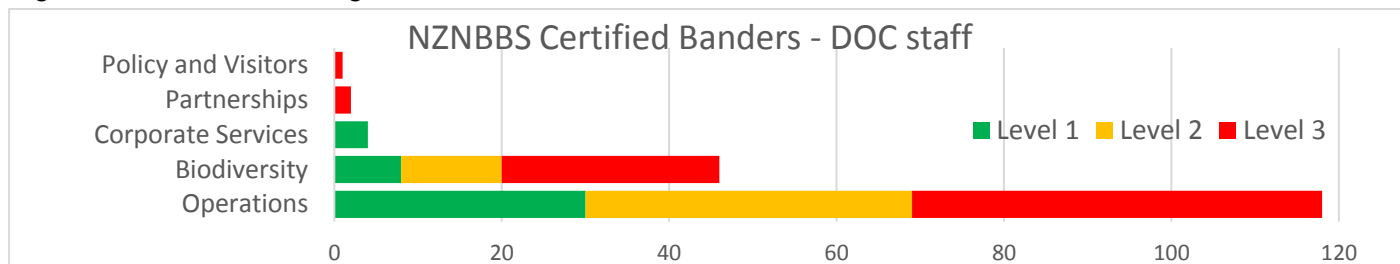
“You can know the name of a bird in all the languages of the world, but when you're finished, you'll know absolutely nothing whatever about the bird . . .

So let's look at the bird and see what it's doing – that's what counts. I learned very early the difference between knowing the name of something and knowing something.”

Richard P. Feynman

DOC Operations representatives on Banding Advisory Committee

The Operations Group of the Department of Conservation (DOC) comprises 70% of all DOC banders registered with the Banding Scheme.



In working towards increased engagement, we sought Expressions of Interest from banders within this group to join the Banding Advisory Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the South Island and North Island Operations representatives:

Bex Jackson



My first job with the Department of Conservation was about 10 years ago in the Eglinton Valley, Fiordland, working for Research and Development on morepork, long-tailed bats and South Island robins. Many temporary contracts and a few overseas adventures later I have moved over to Operations, where I am part of the Fiordland District Biodiversity Team. Most of my time is taken up with the protection, monitoring and translocation of lizards, bats and passerines as well as overseeing predator control in the Eglinton Valley.



Bright lights disrupt bird flights - Gill Jackson



Earlier this year the Banding Office received an email from Gill Jackson about a banded petrel she was involved in caring for and returning to the wild. Gill Jackson does an amazing job with bird rehabilitation in Russell, Bay of Islands.

This is the story of Pycroft's Petrel D-163529: a cruise ship came into Russell on 29 January - came up the coast from Tauranga. Late in the afternoon the ship contacted the NRC pilot boat saying there was a sick bird on board and the bird was handed to the pilot boat skipper who happens to know me. Sam phoned me and the pilot boat handed the bird over to my hubby on Russell wharf. I assessed the bird and found nothing wrong with it. It was well fed and very active. I've had a few of these birds brought to me. I believe they are attracted to the bright lights and get off track. People then think they are injured because they don't walk well on land. I saw the band and took photos of bird and took the bird to Long Beach. The bird was getting agitated and stressed and I wanted to let her go free. I put the bird on the sand near the water, but it sat looking at me. Lifted the bird up in my hands and gently 'pushed' her up and off she went very strongly. Last seen heading to Robertson Island. Must say that it brought a happy tear to my eye.

Band number D-163529 was placed on a Pycroft's Petrel chick on 13/03/1994 at Lady Alice Island (part of the Hen and Chickens Island Group). At 25 years old this is an old bird and a valuable record as not much is known about the longevity of this species.

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in visiting cruise ships and with their bright lights they attract petrels and terns. As at February Gill has had four call outs to help disorientated birds. The last one Gill managed to talk the harbourmaster through the bird rescue, and he reported it was a success with the bird flying off.

Request for old banding equipment

If anyone has old unused banding equipment lying around (banding pliers, circlip pliers, mist-nets with holes in), it would be great to add these to our Bander Training materials – these are made available on loan from the Banding Office for bander training workshops, school holiday programmes and Level 3 trainers. Also, while you rummage around looking for these, please report any bird bands that you find lying around (old, new, used or otherwise).



We now also have a few more 3-D printed bird-legs for training banders to attach (and even more importantly, to remove) bands without risk to birds.

If you're curious, come and find the Banding Office table at the [Birds NZ Conference](#) in June!