

Standard Operating Procedures

#AU 0004 Banding Birds

Materials:

Darvic, celluloid, or acetal coloured leg bands
Aluminum Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Band
Banding pliers (CWS band)
Band Applicator (Coloured leg bands)
Leg Gauge

A Canadian Wildlife Service banding permit is required for banding

Procedure:

The bird will be held in the bander's grip: non-dominant hand, with the bird facing up, the head of the bird secured between the first and second fingers, and the body secured with the last 2 fingers. The leg to be banded is held extended and supported using the thumb and first finger.

The CWS band is opened with the banding pliers and secured around the leg. Care is taken to make sure that the band is completely closed and that there is no overlap. One to three coloured bands (2 bands total per leg maximum incl CWS) are then applied using the band applicator which acts like a shoe horn; the band is opened and then the leg is inserted and the applicator is removed. For birds with very small legs, the coloured band may be cut to decrease the circumference and then the band ends may be soldered in place.

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Banding



Banding – nestling

