

CALGARY BIRD BANDING SOCIETY

General Information for Members

REQUIREMENTS: All members of the Calgary Bird Banding Society (CBBS) must meet the following requirements prior to volunteering at any CBBS project:

1. Must hold a current CBBS membership

CBBS dues are \$20.00 annually per member. Annual membership must be paid by the AGM in March. CBBS accepts cash, cheques and email transfers. All members must be at least 14 years of age. When participating in CBBS projects any member aged 14 or 15 must be accompanied by a guardian who is also a CBBS member. Members aged 16 and 17 may participate in CBBS projects provided a guardian has signed a CBBS waiver.

2. Must review the CBBS and IBS (for members volunteering at IBS) Orientations yearly

Orientations are provided:

- at the CBBS AGM held every year in late March/early April;
- at banding courses conducted by CBBS during the year; and
- by email as necessary.

3. Must attend the CBBS Banding Course (one-time requirement during first year of membership)

It is a requirement that all CBBS members attend an *Introduction to Banding* session unless exempted by the Board. New members must attend a session during their first year with CBBS. Involvement in CBBS projects will be precluded during 2nd and subsequent years of membership until attendance a session has been attended.

4. Involvement of Volunteers at CBBS Projects

The level of involvement of volunteers, while participating in CBBS projects, will be determined by the Bander-in-Charge (BICs) and is based on experience and knowledge of the volunteer. One of the responsibilities of the BIC is to train volunteers "on the job" as time permits.

5. Must sign a CBBS Waiver (one-time requirement).

All members are required to sign a liability waiver of responsibility to the CBBS before they can participate in CBBS projects. Volunteers should be aware of the risks albeit slight involved in handling of birds, for example West Nile virus. A current tetanus vaccination is advisable. Rarely a bat may be captured in one of the nets and members should be aware of the risk of rabies. Removal and release of the bat should be left to the BIC.

MISSION STATEMENT: To quantify long term population trends of Neotropical migratory birds using constant effort mist-netting, to promote involvement and expertise in bird banding and to promote conservation of Neotropical migratory birds by fostering public awareness and understanding of Neotropical migratory birds.

FUNDING/CHARITY: The Calgary Bird Banding Society is a registered charity (#89887 4573 RR0001). Funding is provided by donations, grants, membership fees and by members participation in the annual Baillie Birdathon and periodic Casinos. New funding initiatives are always welcome.

HISTORY/NATIONAL CONTEXT: The Calgary Bird Banding Society was incorporated on 22 March 1995. As of 1998 the Calgary Bird Banding Society's Inglewood Bird Sanctuary site is a fully designated member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN). Establishment of this formal association of migrant monitoring sites across Canada significantly enhances the value of the work conducted at each site. The Calgary Bird Banding Society and Inglewood Bird Sanctuary hosted the 2003 CMMN national meeting.

MEETINGS: There are several CBBS General Meetings per year, of which one, usually in late March/early April, is the Annual General Meeting and includes the election of the CBBS Board. Any member in good standing is encouraged to stand for office. Board Meetings will occur as deemed necessary, being typically once a month or so throughout the year. Any member may attend a Board Meeting.

ETHICS: All participants in CBBS projects are required to abide by the CBBS Code of Ethics.

PUBLICATIONS: The CBBS has some useful publications for sale. See the website for a list and price of publications.

PROJECTS: All projects undertaken by the CBBS are successfully maintained through the dedication of the members' volunteer activities. Long term projects are conducted at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary (IBS): spring and fall migration monitoring and monitoring avian productivity and survivorship (MAPS). The IBS site is a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. Other CBBS projects are or have been, migration monitoring at Cominco Natural Area, hawk banding and relocation at the Calgary International Airport, Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring southwest of Calgary, spring migration monitoring and MoSI in Costa Rica, and spring migration monitoring at Dinosaur Provincial Park. The CBBS has also provided grants to other individuals or groups who are in need and whose projects fit the CBBS mission statement and objectives.

BANDERS: There are several master permitted and sub-permitted bird banders within the CBBS who are eligible to be "Banders-in-Charge" (BICs) and thereby responsible for the daily activities of CBBS projects. However all participants in CBBS projects, both BICs and volunteers, are responsible for the safety and welfare of the birds.

Both the BIC and volunteers are expected to treat each other with courtesy and respect. Although the BIC has the final decision on banding matters (species id, sexing, ageing etc) volunteers are encouraged to challenge the BIC and thereby help avoid data errors as well as improve their own skills. BICs are expected to accept such challenge positively. Any BIC or volunteer who feels they have not been treated with appropriate courtesy or respect while participating in CBBS projects is strongly encouraged to report their concern to the CBBS Board on a confidential basis.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING: The volunteer scheduler will maintain the volunteer schedule for each CBBS project in WhenToHelp. A member wishing to volunteer should do so through the WhenToHelp website. The volunteer scheduler will arbitrate shifts when necessary to accommodate the requirements of the station as well as the desires of the volunteers. At present, CBBS does not restrict volunteers to a maximum numbers of days nor are members required to volunteer. If you are unable to take the shift agreed on, you are required to inform the volunteer scheduler as soon as possible and help find a replacement if possible. A membership list is maintained and updated and provided to BICs regularly. A volunteer who fails to show up for a scheduled shift, without advance warning or appropriate explanation or finding a replacement, may lose volunteer privileges as deemed by the Board.

VOLUNTEERING AT INGLEWOOD BIRD SANCTUARY: IBS has some specific requirements: all volunteers must attend a yearly orientation, only four people including the BIC are allowed in the reserve area at one time and volunteers must stay on the designated pathways. An IBS name tag must be worn while on duty. A record of each volunteer's hours is kept at the banding station and must be completed. For IBS projects, meet in the parking lot one-half hour before sunrise. Sunrise times will be provided by the CBBS prior to the commencement of each project. All CBBS projects are run on a strict protocol to maintain consistency and ensure the data obtained is as accurate as possible. The nets must be open approximately at sunrise and are kept open for six hours, weather permitting. This means that shifts will be between 7 and 8 hours long. The nets are checked at regular intervals throughout the six hours. Approximately half way through the shift (ie 3 hours after sunrise), one or more volunteers conduct a census of the sanctuary on a predetermined route. There are maps of the net locations and the census route at the banding station. Two way radios are provided which must be tested each morning and carried at all times by the BIC and volunteers. It is expected that volunteers will be quiet and attentive while birds are being processed. In addition to other duties volunteers are expected to scribe, census and repair mist-nets as required. Please take care to ensure that data sheets are accurate and complete. A good practice is to read back the data for each capture to the BIC.

RISKS AT BANDING SITES: members are at risk of injury at CBBS banding sites and while travelling to and from the sites. These risks include:

- reptile, insect and other wildlife bites or injuries;
- infections from poisonous plants or handling birds while being extracted or banded;
- bodily injury from falls or other misadventure;
- exacerbation of pre-existing health conditions due to exertion or weather and climatic conditions; and
- accidents during travel to and from banding sites.

CBBS will provide insect repellent (deet), latex gloves and a first aid kit at sites to mitigate these risks. BICs will have current first aid certification and communication capability appropriate to the site (cell phone or satellite phone).

WHAT TO BRING: You will need to bring appropriate clothing and good walking footwear. Weather can be variable so layers are a good idea. Avoid jewelry, velcro and clothing (e.g buttoned shirts) that may entangle in the nets. Rubber boots may be needed if the river is high and there is often dew in the grass/bush. Bring your own water, non-alcoholic drinks, snacks, and lunch. Binoculars, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, and bird books are all essential. There is a portable toilet at the banding site and the Col. Walker House (a 5 minute walk and on the census route) has a wash room available to volunteers (entry by code key).

INCOME TAX RECEIPT FOR MILEAGE: CBBS will reimburse mileage costs going to and returning from the IBS banding site and other CBBS projects subject to a tax deductible donation to CBBS's Project Reimbursement Fund, greater than the costs claimed. All mileage claims must be submitted to the Treasurer, using the CBBS Expense Reimbursement form, before November 30th.