

A TRIP THROUGH THE BANDING OFFICE

By Chris and Ruth Rose

This series of photographs represents the effort of the Rose family to record their visits to the Banding Office over two successive trips to the Washington, D.C. area.



1. The Gates. You turn off Rt. 197 at these gates which mark the entrance to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.



2. The "Banding Lab" is a one story building about one mile in from the gates.

3. Ruth and Chris Jr. exchange greetings with Earl Baysinger before touring the center, while Chris Sr. takes the picture.



4. The Mail Room, the heart of the Banding Lab. All incoming mail is stamped with the date received, prior to being processed. Your requests for the various Record Forms and new bands are filled by the Band Supply Clerk, Mr. William Bennett.



5. Bands Issued Files. An accurate record is kept on the size and chronology of bands issued to each permittee.

7. File for Permit #8590. The Banding Schedules of each permittee are filed prior to evaluation and further processing by Mrs. Henry, Data Processing Clerk.



6. Backlog of Mail. Banding Schedules, Report of Banding Returns and Recovery Reports await sorting, evaluation and routing.

8. "Red Lining". Editing and Corrections being made by the clerks prior to releasing Banding Schedules for Data Processing. Any errors on your schedules will be noted on the Banding Schedule Evaluation Sheet to improve the accuracy of reporting.



9. Banding Returns being processed on the desk of Mrs. Orndorff, Data Editing Clerk. This is the first step in the final process of filing. After the coordinates are checked, reports move to key punch and computer which records Species, Band No., State, Date and ultimately updates the "life history" of the bird.



10. Recovery Reports awaiting checking in the map room. Coordinates will be checked before turning information over to Data Processing which will punch out the IBM "Report to Bander" and "Report to Finder" cards.

11. "Lodestar Recordax Data Recovery System". This is a most recent acquisition. Since good public relations is essential in all of the government services - our Banding Lab is no exception.



All recovery letters received by the Banding Lab are indexed, micro-filmed and catalogued. During hunting season the Lab now has data in the hands of the hunter and bander in approximately 70 days. You have to see this machine (see photo #11) work to appreciate the convenience and speed with which it "retrieved" a photo copy of an original letter tucked away amongst a thousand others. After checking the index catalog, you push a lever either right or left to project and scan the reel of microfilm on the screen. Within a span of 3 seconds the single frame of the original document can be located. As you can imagine, recovery data streams in from North and South America and occasionally from Europe and Eastern Asia.

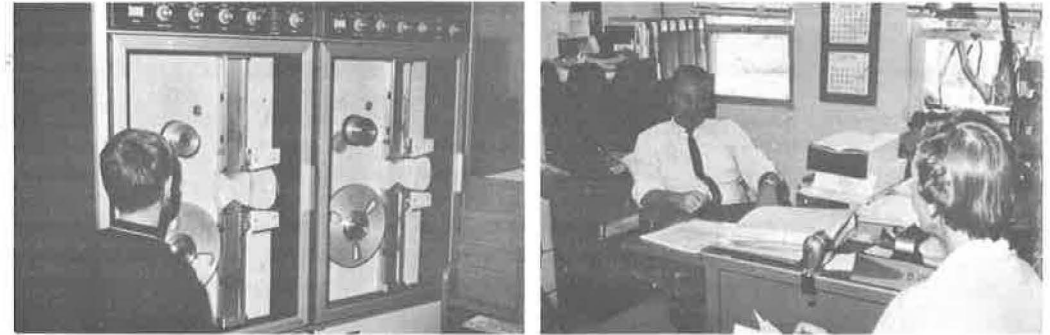


12. Earl Baysinger at Status Card Files. The status of the species is constantly updated as to the total numbers banded, recovered, and so forth.

13. Step Two Multiple Filing by Band Number. Once the band schedules have passed through Data Processing the sheets are filed by Band Number.



14. Improved Efficiency Through Automation. The introduction of this Univac machine now does in 8 hours what previously have required 800 days to accomplish - program, recover data and print out. Chris Jr. has just moved the key punch and sorting room (on his left) to the Univac Print Out.



15. (Left) "Tape Filing". In anticipation of the growing need for filing space, our records are gradually being transferred to tape. This system may ultimately replace the intake system of IBM cards. By attaching the Tape Machine to the Print Out Machine via an "umbilical cord", we can still get the same paper work returned to the bander or finder.

16. (Right) Our visit comes to a close. Earl Baysinger returns from guiding us about the "Lab" to find a pile of Recovery Forms on his desk - this 8" high pile represents one month of recoveries. Among other things our visit tended to develop for us a perspective as to the relationship that exists between the permittee and the Banding Office. In reality, the Banding Office is a repository - a storage and recovery center which receives and compiles "fragments" of data from some 2,000 permittees across the United States and Canada. The reliability of this information is only as accurate as we - the banders - are precise in our methods, field work and records.

We should especially note that the Banding Office maintains records for the United States and Canadian permittees. This fact increases the working load particularly during the hunting season.

We are deeply indebted to Earl Baysinger and Ted Van Velzen for the courtesy extended to us on these visits.

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