



The North American Banding Council

NABC Shorebird Bander Training and Certification Workshop

The first North American Banding Council (NABC) shorebird bander training and certification workshop was held on 12 Sep 2015 in conjunction with the 6th Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting at Wallops Island, VA. This classwork-only session was chaired by Lesley Howes (Canadian Bird Banding Office), Cheri Gratto-Trevor (Environment Canada) and Eveling Tavera Fernandez (Simon Fraser University).

Topics presented included an overview of NABC and the certification process, bands and equipment, and use of nanotags (Stu Mackenzie); legal responsibilities, health and safety, data management and sharing (Bruce Peterjohn); ethical and scientific standards, auxiliary markers, and the Pan American Shorebird Program (Lesley Howes); shorebird capture (Jennie Rausch, Eveling Fernandez, Patricia Gonzalez); use of geolocators and feathers/blood collection (David Mizrahi); use of satellite transmitters (Lee Tibbitts); and shorebird identification, moult, aging, sexing and standard measurements (Cheri Gratto-Trevor).



Including presenters, 38 people from ten countries attended the workshop. Sixteen participants took the NABC shorebird certification exam. Fifteen people passed the exam and will qualify for certification at assistant, bander, or trainer level once they have met all remaining certification criteria including sufficient practical experience for their level.

A shorebird banders checklist and certification criteria for shorebird assistant banders, banders and trainers have been developed and will soon be available on our website <www.nabanding.net>. The *North American Bander's Manual for Banding Shorebirds* is currently available in English, French and Spanish. Banders interested in future shorebird workshops or in obtaining shorebird certification are encouraged to contact the NABC via email at: <northamericanbandingcouncil@gmail.com> or via facebook at: <<https://www.facebook.com/North-American-Banding-Council-NABC-185931741437853>>.