USGS
science for a changing world

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center - Bird Banding Laboratory
RE-ENGINEERING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING PROGRAM

The Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Canadian Bird Banding Office (BBO) of the Canadian Wildlife Service jointly administer the North American Bird Banding Program. In 1996, a panel of experts reviewed the policies and operations of the BBL, and made numerous recommendations regarding procedures, policies, and data management. As a result, operations of the BBL and the BBO are being redesigned to increase efficiency and effectiveness, especially by taking advantage of the widespread availability of personal computers, web access, client-server technology and user-friendly software.

COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS:

- Web-site "home pages" have been developed by BBL (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl) and BBO (www.cws-cf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc/bbo)
- A bander training and certification program has been developed by the North American Banding Council. The first training and certification sessions were held in September 1999.
- Software, called BAND MANAGER, was released in 1999 to enable banders to manage their banding data and submit them electronically to the banding offices.
- A toll-free telephone number (1-800-327-BAND) has been established and advertised to increase band reporting rates. Public response has been good, and the number of bird bands reported has increased.
- In addition, BBL can receive toll-free calls from Mexico (001-800-327-BAND).
- Bird band recoveries can be reported electronically (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/bblretrv/webrec.cfm.)
- The design of the database to a client-server computer system model including a relational database is completed.
- The development of the client server computer system is near completion.
- Permit policies have been revised.

IMPROVEMENTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

- Redesign and expansion of the banding and encounter record formats
- Electronic notification of band encounters to banders
- Electronic quarterly encounter report to State and Federal agencies
- Data access via the web
- A recapture/resighting database
- Electronic processing of auxiliary marker sightings
- Updating of web site