

A "THANK-YOU-FOR-REPORTING-RECOVERY" LETTER

Below is a good example of a form letter saying "Thank you!" to the individual who reports the recovery of a banded bird. Rev. Garrett Detwiler, who receives scores of Recovery Reports from the Banding Office, gathers a lot of pertinent information and makes many friends through the use of this letter. A copy of the letter follows:

Mr. Joseph Doakes
Doakesville,
West Doakota

Dear Mr. Doakes:

The Fish & Wildlife Service has notified me that you sent them information about a _____, wearing Band Number _____ that was banded at my Banding Station on _____.

I want to thank you for the valuable service that you have thereby rendered to the Bird Banding Office of the Fish & Wildlife Service and to me personally, as one of several thousand Bird Banders cooperating with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bird Banders are non-salaried cooperators, working under a Federal Permit with the Fish & Wildlife Service, in an attempt to collect information about various birds found in the United States. Bird Banding, for instance, makes it possible for us to trace the migration of birds, to gain information about their life span and to determine their economic value.

By sending in the information that you did, you have enabled me to trace the migratory flight of another banded bird and thereby to increase the knowledge about a subject of considerable importance.

You may be interested to know that _____ birds were banded at my Banding Station this year and of that number _____ were of this particular species. Since December 1953, I have banded _____ birds of _____ species and because of the kindness of hundreds of people like yourself I have been able to gather a great amount of valuable information.

Therefore, I ask that you continue to be on the lookout for other banded birds that may have died or been killed in your locality. The more "Recoveries" of this kind, the greater the amount of valuable information becomes available for study and evaluation.

Again thanking you for your kindness, I am

Very truly yours,

(signed) Garrett Detwiler
