



NABC Shorebird Bander Training and Certification Workshop, Paracas, Peru 2017

The second North American Banding Council (NABC) shorebird bander training and certification workshop was held on 9 November 2017 in conjunction with the 7th Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting at Paracas, Peru. Eveling Tavera Fernandez (Simon Fraser University) chaired the classwork session. Topics presented included working with wild birds in science including legal responsibilities and the role of government, scientific and ethical standards, human health and safety considerations, essentials of shorebird capture, including the appropriate use of audio lures and reducing risk of injury and capture myopathy (Jennie Rauch); ageing in the non-breeding grounds with mist netting and whoosh netting (Eveling Tavera Fernandez); cannon netting (Patricia Gonzalez); visual and electronic markers and attachment methods (Lee Tibbitts); feathers and blood collection (David Mizrahi); and data management and data sharing, the Pan American Shorebird Program and the importance of coordination, resighting flags and how to report (Christian Friis).

There were two breakout exercises where participants were invited to share and demonstrate and



practice some techniques and skills that they use in the field. These were a review of bird band types, sizes, correct band placement and application, corrections and removal. The second session was how to make high quality flags and how to safely attach engraved bands and flags.

A field training session was held the evening of 15 Nov with 20 participants. Topics covered were capture- and banding-site selection, how to set up mist-nets, how to manage net-rounds and a field crew, shorebird extraction and handling, and processing shorebirds in the field.

Including presenters, over 30 people from eight countries attended the workshop. Thirteen participants wrote the NABC shorebird certification exam. Twelve 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.

To find out more about shorebird training and certification sessions visit the NABC website www.nabanding.net. The shorebird banders' checklist and certification criteria for shorebird assistant bander, bander and trainer are available on our website and the North American Bander's Manual for Banding Shorebirds is currently available in English, French and Spanish. Like NABC on Facebook:

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