

## Report Resighting Form Revisions as of 10/11/2011

The Report Resighting Form has been revised to allow reports of shorebirds marked as individuals with a series of color bands, rather than with an engraved marker. Programming has been incorporated to standardize codes for these “color-marked only” individuals. A revision of the dropdown list of markers to include choices for an engraved flag vs a non-engraved flag, as well as use of dropdown lists to report markers seen on the upper and lower parts of the legs, allow these codes to be correctly formatted. Details about the changes follow.

### What's Different?

*Please remember to use sidebar instructions for data entry pointers!*

**Marker Type/Color:** This dropdown list has been revised to allow differentiation between an engraved flag and a plain, non-engraved flag. No flag of any type or no coded color marker of any type observed on the bird? Then choose “BANDS ONLY – No engraving or Flag” at the bottom of the list (*see photos in sidebar*). Please note, if this field is left blank, it will default to “Bands Only”. The list has also been shortened to only include the marker types that are currently in use by participating research programs.

**Marker Code:** Enter the code seen on an engraved marker. For Non-engraved Flags and Bands Only observations, leave the field blank. The system will create a “code” based on the observed markers on each leg part, reading left-right, and top-down. This format will follow banding notation where upper and lower leg data is separated by hyphens and legs are separated by a colon. For example, a bird observed with the following would be assigned the code “FGN/R,G:M/O,O” :

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Upper Left</u>                  | <u>Upper Right</u>                     |
| Non-engraved Flag:Green            | Metal band                             |
| <u>Lower Left</u>                  | <u>Lower Right</u>                     |
| Red color band<br>Green color band | Orange color band<br>Orange color band |

**Upper/Lower Leg Parts:** This data entry is now restricted to choices from a dropdown list of possible markers on a bird. Enter observations reading from top-down.

**Yellow Highlighted Fields:** These fields must be completed by you. An error message will appear if “Save Information” is attempted without completion.

### Useful Data?

Sometimes the reported data just is not enough to comprise useful scientific data, especially when it comes to the Non-engraved Flag/Color Bands Only type reports. Color bands discolor or fall off so a bird cannot be identified as an individual or even narrowed down to select group of individuals. Partial reports of observed markers may comprise useful data for one species, but not another, depending on the banding combinations used. Some data may end up discarded to keep the database as uncluttered as possible. But please be assured that all reports are reviewed based on the needs of the various research projects. So keep the data coming!

### Have Questions?

Feel free to email me, Jeannine Parvin, at [bandedbirds@comcast.net](mailto:bandedbirds@comcast.net) with any questions. I answer as soon as possible. If you need to explain an observation further, please use the “Notes” section. I read your comments; they are helpful for both me and the researchers using your reports!