



Report a Banded Bird

OVERVIEW

In Rhode Island, RIDEM wildlife biologists band migratory birds, such as ducks, geese, and mourning doves, as well as resident birds, such as wild turkeys, annually. These local banding efforts in our state contribute to much larger national and international data collections.

FROM THE USFWS

“Managing a complex and mobile resource [birds] requires information on breeding and wintering distribution, behavior, migratory routes, survival and reproduction. Biologists gather this information by placing uniquely numbered bands on many species of birds. These birds may be recaptured in the future by biologists, or are found dead by the general public, or in the case of waterfowl or other game birds are harvested by hunters, who then report these bands to the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory (or Canada’s Bird Banding Office), which provides information about where the bird was banded, where it was recovered, and how long it lived. This is the information that was used to develop the Flyway system that has been used for managing migratory birds since 1950.”

To learn more about the USFWS Migratory Bird Program, click [here](#).

Migratory Birds (e.g., Ducks, Geese, and Mourning Doves)

To report a band, visit www.reportband.gov. If the band is unreadable and numbers are worn off, email bandreports@usgs.gov.

Songbirds, Shorebirds, and other Non-Game Bird Species

To report a band, visit www.reportband.gov. If the band is unreadable and numbers are worn off, email bandreports@usgs.gov.

Wild Turkeys

Non-migratory birds are managed differently—on a state-by-state level. The Rhode Island wild turkey banding project is solely for in-state population monitoring to obtain demographic rates such as survival. This project does not provide data for the USFWS Migratory Bird Program, so bands should not be reported the same way as waterfowl/mourning dove bands. If you harvest, find, or re-sight a banded turkey, please call the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife office at (401) 789-0281. This phone number is etched on the band as well. You can also report wild turkey bands through the community science app Survey123. Click here to access the survey: <https://arcg.is/XTHjW0>



Photos: Dean Birch, Matt DiMaio III