



If you capture and band birds in Canada or the US you should be familiar with the North American Banding Council (NABC), their mission, activities, and resources. At the heart of the NABC, is the Banders' Code of Ethics. Bird banders have been following the code since 1996. By following this code, we have elevated the standards for bird banding in North America and beyond. In 2020, the newly formed NABC Ethics, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee revised the Code to be inclusive of all species groups, and it now encourages banders to ensure the respect, safety and welfare not just of birds, but also of people, bird populations and the environment. The new code is succinct and easy to remember. Elements of the old Code of Ethics will be captured in the species-specific manuals and in the Banders' Study Guide. The EDI committee is completing a companion document on professional conduct, which will be ready in 2022. Please review and learn the new code of ethics in the language of your choice: English, French, Spanish or Portuguese. Let us know on the birdband list serve or our facebook page what you think of the new Banders' code of Ethics. If you have any questions about the new code, NABC or bird banding, contact your rep on council, your banding office or NABC.

Banders' Code of Ethics

1. Ensure the respect, safety, and welfare of birds and their populations, people, and the environment.

Handle each bird carefully, gently, quietly, and in minimum time; capture and process only as many birds as you can safely handle given your ability and the environmental conditions.

Follow safety procedures as outlined in NABC materials and constantly innovate ways to conduct operations more safely.

Follow the NABC Code of Conduct to help guide professional behavior.

2. Design or use appropriate studies, methods, and analyses to advance a valid scientific purpose.

Collect accurate data and submit to an appropriate data repository.

Collaborate to maximize data collection

Promote and contribute to projects using standardized protocols when appropriate.

3. Be accountable and strive for high standards.

Engage in self-assessment and invite assessments from others to ensure that your work is beyond reproach.

Share knowledge and offer honest and constructive feedback to others to improve skills and banding practices

4. Obtain all necessary permits and permissions; understand and adhere to the conditions, responsibilities, and limitations thereof.

