

Beginner Bird Banding Class

September 17th – 23th, 2017

Environmental Studies on the Piedmont
& The Institute for Bird Populations

Thank you for your interest in the Beginner Bird Banding Class instructed by Dr. Thomas Wood and Beverly Arnold, in cooperation with the Institute for Bird Populations. The class will be hosted at the Clifton Institute Environmental Studies on the Piedmont field station, located five miles north of Warrenton, VA. The field station combines rich habitat diversity and easy accessibility with comfortable accommodations.

The beginner bird banding class will be held **Sunday, September 17th through Saturday, September 23rd**.

Minimum class size will be six students and the maximum will be eight. All students should be 18 years of age or older. Register early to ensure your placement! **The fee of \$1000** will include all class materials, instructors' fees, family-style meals and shared accommodations on-site in the farm house.

BEGINNER BANDING CLASSES

This six-day introductory course is designed to provide both amateur birders and professional biologists with the skills necessary to participate in monitoring and research programs involving bird banding. A typical day in the beginner bird banding course begins at the mist nets and with birds in the hand and progresses to classroom discussions in the afternoon and/or evening. The pace of the course is fast, but there will be some free time.

Skills taught include...

- Operation of mist nets and safe removal of birds from mist nets
- Bird handling skills
- Songbird identification
- In-hand ageing and sexing techniques
- Data scoring and recording using MAPS protocol and forms

Lectures and discussions cover ...

- Avian life histories, energetics, molts and plumages
- Banding ethics
- The permitting process
- The role of banding in research and monitoring

Materials provided include ...

- Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part 1, by Peter Pyle
- The 2017 MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) Manual
- Additional handouts to support MAPS banding protocols and classroom instruction

WHAT TO EXPECT

The beginner class begins at 2:00pm on Sunday, September 17th and ends after banding, around noon on Saturday, September 23rd. Class starts at sunrise every morning. Five to six hours will be spent in the field at the banding station. There will be a 30-60 minute lunch break followed by two to three hours of classroom instruction.

The weather in September can be unpredictable, but expect mild weather (lows in the 50-60's and highs in the 60-70's) with showers or thunderstorms possible daily. Appropriate 'layered' field attire (closed-shoes, long pants, sleeved shirts, vest/sweater or jacket) is required. Insects are usually not bad in September, but participants may encounter bees, deer flies, mosquitoes, wasps, ticks, and red bugs "aka: chiggers". Snakes, spiders and poison ivy can all be encountered.

FACILITIES & LODGING OPTIONS

The course will be held in the field with instructional time held in our historic farm house. On-site lodging will be provided in the farm house. We have 4 dormitory style bedrooms, with three single beds in each room and a shared bath. Three simple family-style meals will be provided each day. The kitchen is available for you to store and prepare additional snacks. Warrenton is a just a short drive away, for groceries, and restaurants. Students interested in staying offsite will need to make their own arrangements after contacting ES to discuss fee adjustments. Any students staying off-site will be expected to arrive promptly, just before dawn, each morning.

REGISTERING FOR THE CLASS

To register for the class please complete and mail a copy of the registration form with deposit/payment to Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, 6712 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, VA 20187.

Make checks or money orders payable to Environmental Studies on the Piedmont.

- A 50% deposit is required to reserve a seat in the class.
- Full payment is due on or before September 1st.
- Deposit is 100% refundable if you cancel prior to July 20th, 2017.
- Deposit is 50% refundable if you cancel between July 21st and August 12th, 2017.
- Deposit is *non-refundable* if you cancel for any reason on or after August 13th, 2017.

Your place in the course will not be secured until we receive your deposit.

Upon receipt of your deposit, we will forward additional information to assist in preparation for the beginning bird banding course.

Before making plane reservations, please contact the field station to ensure no schedule changes have been made.

For additional information, contact Tom Wood at 703-963-0866 or twood@gmu.edu or Sue Garvin at 540-349-3331 or sgarvin@envstudies.org

Environmental Studies on the Piedmont
Beginner Bird Banding Class 2017
Registration Form

Sunday, September 17th - Saturday, September 23rd, 2017

Beginner Class Fee: \$1000; 50% deposit (\$500) due with this registration form.

NAME: _____

POSITION TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ EVENING PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please tell us what you hope to gain by taking the class:

Please tell us your bird identification, handling, banding and mist netting experience (if any):

Do you have any special needs or conditions that the instructors or staff need to be aware of? *We have bees and other stinging insects on the field station – if you have allergies, please come prepared.*

Payment Options: \$1000 Class Fee
\$500 deposit due with this registration form; balance due September 1st, 2017.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

_____ Check or _____ Money Order: (Payable to: Environmental Studies on the Piedmont)

Deposit is 100% refundable if you cancel prior to July 20th, 2017.

Deposit is 50% refundable if you cancel between July 21st and August 12th, 2017.

Deposit is non-refundable if you cancel, for any reason, after August 12th, 2017.

Mail completed form to Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, 6712 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, VA 20187.