

# **Beginner Bird Banding Class**

October 9-16 2010

Environmental Studies on the Piedmont  
& the Institute for Bird Populations

Thank you for your interest in our Beginner Bird Banding Class instructed by the Institute for Bird Populations and hosted by Environmental Studies on the Piedmont (ES). ES is located five miles from Warrenton, Virginia in the rolling hills of the Northern Piedmont. Our field station combines rich habitat diversity with easy accessibility and comfortable accommodations. This year's class will be held from Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Minimum class size will be six students and the maximum will be seven – so register early to ensure you have a spot! The fee of \$900 will include all class materials, and instructors' fees. Accommodations and lunch are available on site for a minimal charge, see our application form below.

## **BEGINNER BANDING CLASSES**

A typical day at an IBP training class is spent at mist nets with birds in the hand in the morning and in classroom discussions in the afternoon and/or evening. The pace of the courses is fast, but there is also some free time. This **seven-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.

### **Skills taught include...**

- operation of and removal of birds from mist nets
- bird-handling skills
- 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...**

- a MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) Manual
- Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part I, by Peter Pyle

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

The beginning class begins at 3:00pm Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and ends after banding (around noon) on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Class starts at sunrise every morning and 5-6 hours are spent in the field. There is a 30-60 minute lunch break and then 2-3 hours of classroom instruction (usually with after class “homework”). Visit The Institute for Bird Populations website, [www.birdpop.org](http://www.birdpop.org) for more details on course material. The weather in early October 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. Insects are usually not bad at this time of year, but expect ticks, red bugs “aka chiggers”, mosquitoes and deer flies. Snakes and spiders are also common occurrences. Appropriate field attire is required. There will be a lot of new information and experiences thrown at each student, but if you are up for a wonderful challenge and experience then this is the class to take.

## **FACILITIES & LODGING OPTIONS**

Classroom activities will be held in the field with instructional time held in our historical farm house. On-site lodging will be provided in the farm house for \$15/night. We have 4 dormitory style bedrooms, with three single beds in each room and a shared bath. The kitchen is available for you to fix your own breakfast and dinner, although Warrenton is a quick five minute trip where you can find plenty of restaurants. We are happy to supply lunches at a nominal charge (\$6 a day). Students interested in staying offsite will need to make their own arrangements. The nearest recommended national chain hotels are 5 minutes away in Warrenton.

## **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 at or before the beginning of the class! Deposit is 100% refundable if you cancel 30 prior to the start date of the class.

Deposit is *non-refundable* if you cancel for any reason after 30 days prior to the start of the class.

**Before making airline reservations, please contact the field station to ensure the class has the minimum number of participants and no schedule changes have been made.**

Additional information contact Cindy Shea at: 540-349-3331 or [cshea@envstudies.org](mailto:cshea@envstudies.org).

Registration Form  
MAPS Beginner Bird Banding Class  
Institute for Bird Populations/Environmental Studies on the Piedmont

Beginner Class: \$900 (Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>)

NAME/JOB TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENING PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us what your previous bird banding and mist netting experience has been:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special needs or conditions that we should know? ***Please note: We have bees and other stinging insects on the field station – if you have any allergies, please come prepared, and let us know.***

\_\_\_\_\_

Lodging and Payment Options:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/night for \_\_\_\_\_ nights

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$6/day for \_\_\_\_\_ lunches

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Class Fee

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Due**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (50% Deposit)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Full Payment)

\_\_\_\_\_ Check/Money order enclosed: (Payable to Environmental Studies)

***A 50% deposit is required to reserve a seat in the class. Full payment is due at or before the beginning of the class! Deposit is 100% refundable if you cancel 30 days prior to the start date of the class. Deposit is non-refundable if you cancel for any reason after 30 days prior to the start of the class. Mail completed form to Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, 6712 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, VA 20187.***