



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500
Headquarters: (603) 271-3421
Web site: www.WildNH.com

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
FAX (603) 271-1438
E-mail: info@wildlife.nh.gov

Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

April 9, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Requested Action

Pursuant to RSA 206:23, authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to enter into an Agreement with the Atlantic Flyway Council for the purpose of committing to the funding of waterfowl banding essential to regional waterfowl management, from the date of Governor and Council approval through December 31, 2020.

Explanation

New Hampshire Fish and Game is a longstanding member of the Atlantic Flyway Council (AFC). The Atlantic Flyway Council is a coalition of 17 states, Puerto Rico, 6 Canadian provinces, and 1 territory that work in conjunction with their respective federal governments to manage waterfowl in eastern North America. For many years, NH Fish and Game and other member states of the AFC have contributed their pro-rata share to waterfowl research and banding in order to generate essential waterfowl management information. This Memorandum of Agreement reflects Fish and Game's intent to contribute \$8,800 per year for a period of five years, in support of waterfowl banding within the Atlantic Flyway. Approval of this Agreement will result in the promulgation of a formal contract between Fish and Game and The Wildlife Management Institute, fiscal administrator for the AFC, for review and consideration by Governor and Council at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte
Chief, Business Division

EASTERN CANADA COOPERATIVE BANDING PROJECT

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

ATLANTIC FLYWAY COUNCIL

and the

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

I. Purpose:

Whereas, the late summer banding of waterfowl, representing all important species populations, supplies most useful and necessary data for research and management, and

Whereas, sufficient bandings need to be done in core breeding areas for Atlantic Flyway waterfowl which encompasses eastern Canada in order to continuously monitor populations and to determine hunting mortality and survival rates, and

Whereas, the Atlantic Waterfowl Council (hereafter known as Atlantic Flyway Council) wishes to correct this situation and votes unanimously at the August 1963 meeting (renewed in 1975, 1980, 1984, 1990, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2009, 2015) to undertake this herein cooperative undertaking whereby Atlantic Flyway States contribute their individual pro-rata share toward the support of the program, financially or otherwise, and

Whereas, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service are the officially designated agencies responsible for planning, supervising, and coordinating banding projects in Canada.

Therefore, to implement this program, a Program Narrative and 2 job descriptions have been prepared and are attached and are integral supporting documents for this Memorandum of Agreement that follows.

II. Objectives:

To determine population dynamics of selected waterfowl species, by banding and banding analyses, for formulating waterfowl harvest regulations in the Atlantic Flyway.

The general objectives are listed in the Migratory Game Bird Banding Needs, 1989 (currently being revised), published by the Office of Migratory Bird Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

III. Duration:

A 5-year project, January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2020, with revisions and subject to budget authorization annually.

However, this agreement may be canceled at any time by mutual consent of the signatories of this document. Otherwise, it may be canceled by any party with 6 months' notice, providing that such cancellation shall not require return of contracted funds or the discontinuance of work for which funds have been contracted.

IV. Location and Data:

The program will be confined to the eastern Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland-Labrador and Nunavut. Also included are Baffin Island, Bylot Island, Southampton Island, and other adjacent lands of the eastern Arctic.

Period of field operation will be approximately July 1 to September 30.

V. Agency Responsibilities:

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

The State agrees to pay the sum of \$8,800 (\$8,000 program cost + \$800 WMI Fee) on or before July 1 annually to the Management Institute as its pro-rata share of the Cooperative Banding Program.

Unless otherwise changed by mutual agreement, a similar sum will be paid annually during the life of the 5-year program, approximately on or before July 1 annually.

The State will assist wherever possible and practical in locating qualified personnel, loaning equipment, or in other ways.

The Wildlife Management Institute

The Wildlife Management Institute, hereinafter called the Institute, has been retained by the Atlantic Flyway Council to serve as a funds administrator for this and other cooperative projects. The Institute will receive the funds provided by the respective States under this Agreement and in close cooperation with all participating agencies, disburse said funds in the most efficient manner possible for the payment of grants for services rendered as agreed upon and provided for. With these funds the Institute will provide grants for services rendered in the operation of specified duck and goose banding stations in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Banding Committee of the Atlantic Flyway Council (Banding Committee), and the eastern Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador, and Nunavut.

The Project funds provided by the Flyway States are for the purposes of aiding and complementing the annual cooperative banding effort sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Provincial Wildlife Departments.

Guidelines for the expenditure of these cooperative State funds are:

a. Only approved projects qualify. Approved projects are those jointly agreed upon annually by the Banding Committee, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

b. State funds provided under this Agreement shall be used for the payment of travel and subsistence (or per diem) expenses, securing services of personnel through grants, rental of equipment, and expendable supplies and materials. These monies will not be used for the purchase of motors, boats, and other capital equipment requiring accountability.

c. Funds not spent during the year for which they were allocated will be carried over and applied to this program the following year. If at the end of the 5-year period the Cooperative Program is terminated and not renewed, any State funds remaining will be returned to the respective States in proportion to the payments made by them.

d. The Institute will issue grants to individuals selected by cooperators to carry out the work, with all payments to be paid out of Cooperative State funds. It is expected that all agencies will assist in locating the best qualified personnel possible for these projects. In any event, no banding station will be operated unless the leader or a member of the crew is experienced in trapping and highly proficient in waterfowl species identification and waterfowl sexing and aging techniques.

e. Although the financing and staffing of all banding operations included under this Project will be agreed upon well in advance of actual field operations, unanticipated situations may arise in the field wherein there may be questions as to the use of Cooperative State funds. In this event, the Flyway Biologist or other representative responsible for coordinating the field work will be responsible for a decision.

f. Personnel issued grants under this Project are responsible for their own insurance against injury or death to themselves or others while participating in this program. Likewise, individuals providing services are not covered by unemployment insurance.

g. The Institute will administer funds for the cooperative banding program. Services will be provided for each approved project. The Game Bird Technical Section Chairman of the Atlantic Flyway Council Banding Committee or the Flyway Representative shall provide to the Institute by May 1 annually, the names and full mailing addresses of cooperators in each project that are to receive invoices, as well as the amount of funds to be contributed by each. Each invoice shall indicate to whom the check should be made out and the addresses of the Institute. All invoices honored by United States cooperators should be paid in United States funds. Any exceptions for Canadian funds will be so stated on the invoice.

h. The Institute will maintain an up-to-date accounting of receipts and disbursements from these Cooperative State funds. A summary report on receipts and disbursements will be forwarded to the Game Bird Technical Section Chairman of the Banding Committee prior to the winter and summer meetings of the Atlantic Flyway Council Game Bird Technical Section or upon request.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, hereinafter called the Service, is the officially designated United States agency responsible for the planning, supervising, and coordinating of waterfowl banding projects in Canada wherein United States' participation is involved. Actually, the Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service work closely together in the supervision, planning, coordination, and implementation of annual banding programs in Canada. This arrangement will continue.

The purpose of this cooperative State project is to aid and complement the continental waterfowl banding program already in operation. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Service to maintain the role of leader, coordinator, and over-all planner.

The Service, as leader, agrees to contribute substantially in funds to the operation of banding stations. It is anticipated that the Service, together with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Provinces, and associated private agencies will contribute half or more of the needs required to operate the banding stations listed.

Canadian Wildlife Service

The Canadian Wildlife Service will participate actively in the supervision, planning, coordination, and implementation of the annual program. The Canadian Wildlife Service is interested in the far north and will contribute personnel, equipment, and funds on certain banding programs.

The Canadian Wildlife Service will assist with the acquisition of materials and supplies, hiring of personnel, the obtaining of necessary permits, issuing of bands to banders, receiving of unused bands and of banding records at the close of the banding period, and in other ways to expedite the program.

Canadian Provinces

The Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador, and Nunavut should also participate actively in the implementation of the annual program. It is anticipated that the Provinces will provide technical personnel, equipment, supplies and assistance with coordination wherever possible.

Other Private Agencies

It is anticipated that other private agencies will want to participate in this program. Their assistance in the form of manpower, equipment, supplies, and/or funds will be welcome and will contribute materially to the success of the project.

Banding Committee

The Banding Committee, by order of the Atlantic Flyway Council, assists in the development of banding plans and in the coordination of agency participation. The Committee will allocate funding annually at the winter Atlantic Flyway Council Migratory Game Bird Technical Section meeting.

The Committee is responsible for preparation of an annual report due to be mailed to the respective States and cooperating agencies on or about July 1. This report will summarize all Atlantic flyway pre-season bandings and will be adequate for State use to comply with Federal Aid reporting requirements.

VI. Planning and Review of Programs:

Each banding location has different characteristics and requirements as to manpower, equipment, and timing. The procedure followed annually will be as follows.

a. The Banding Committee and representatives of the Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, the Institute and Provinces will review the status of the whole banding program of eastern Canada. Decisions will be made as to any change in program direction for the coming year or years.

b. Once a decision is made as to which stations will be operated, each station's needs will be specified giving location, dates, estimated manpower and equipment needs, and the agreed upon contribution of funds, equipment, and personnel by the Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, the Provinces, the Cooperative State Program, and other cooperating agencies. Some stations may require only one qualified bander and an assistant; others may require greater participation.

c. A leader will be designated for each station. The leader will be responsible for assembling equipment, scheduling activities, execution of the work, and the preparation of reports. All leaders of stations will be experienced in species identification and sexing and aging of live birds.

VII. Reports:

a. The Banding Committee will prepare an annual report summarizing accomplishments. Included also will be a copy or summary of the Institute's report showing the expenditure of funds. Copies of this report will be sent about July 1 to each State, Regional Office, and other cooperating agencies. (The usual practice has been to send a copy to most people listed on the Atlantic Flyway Council's mailing list.)

b. Each station leader will prepare a report summarizing banding accomplishments, problems, and recommendations. These reports will be submitted to the Province and/or Canadian Wildlife Service on or before October 10 for banding done through September 30. The Province and/or Canadian Wildlife Service will retain a copy(s) for their file and forward a copy for each banding station (or a composite of banding stations under their supervision) under their administration to the Chairman of the Banding Committee.

c. The Institute will submit by December 1 to the Chairman of the Banding Committee, an account of the expenditure of funds for each banding station. The Institute also will send copies of this report to the Atlanta and Hadley Regional Offices.

VIII. Publication and Use of Data:

Data resulting from the program will have immediate use in the continental and Flyway management programs. Analysis of the data will be on a continuing basis by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service, as well as by special contract, as deemed needed. Results will be provided to all cooperators, posted on the USFWS website and published in more substantial and permanent media.

No priority of ownership of the data is claimed by the cooperating agencies. However, if a qualified individual or agency wishes to pursue special studies on certain species, such studies will be encouraged and the banding data made available.

The Atlantic Flyway Council has approved that up to 10 percent of a year's assessment may be used for analyses of data that results from this banding project. Each analytical program or study must be approved by the Banding Committee.

IX. Participating States:

Maine	Rhode Island	Virginia	Florida
Vermont	New York	West Virginia	New Jersey
New Hampshire	Pennsylvania	North Carolina	Connecticut
Delaware	South Carolina	Massachusetts	Maryland
Georgia			

X. Budget:

- a. Total Annual Cost \$231,000
- b. Cooperative State Share \$136,000
- c. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.. \$ 95,000

Each State's annual share in the Project is \$8,800 (\$8,000 program cost + \$800 WMI Fee) (based on 17 states). This is the amount needed per state to keep this banding project on a status quo basis with a balance of near zero at the end of each year.

XI. State Specific Language as needed.

In witness whereof, the respective parties have executed this instrument in three copies, or caused it to be executed by their duly authorized officers, on the date indicated below opposite their respective signatures.

NH Fish and Game Department

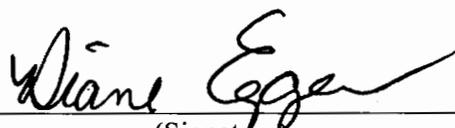
Date May 1, 2015



(Signature)

Atlantic Flyway Council

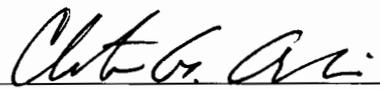
Date April 29, 2015



(Signature)

NH Office of the Attorney General

Date May 12, 2015



(Signature)

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

I. Study Title: Atlantic Flyway Cooperative Waterfowl Banding Program (Survey)

- A. Problem (Need): To properly manage any species, managers must know how many birds there are, their production, and their mortality to determine the effects management measures have on the population. Adequate banding data supplies an essential part of this information. These data are used to determine waterfowl harvest regulations for the Atlantic Flyway.
- B. Objective: To determine population dynamics of selected waterfowl species by banding and banding analysis. General objectives are outlined in the North American Duck Banding Program: a Revised Approach, May 1989 (currently being revised), published by the Office of Migratory Bird Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Additional, more specific objectives have been identified by the Black Duck Joint Venture and the various species committees of the Atlantic Flyway Council Game Bird Technical Section.
- C. Justification: Justification for this project is listed in the North American Duck Banding Program: a Revised Approach, May 1989 (currently being revised).
- D. Status: The Atlantic Flyway Cooperative Waterfowl Banding Program was initiated in 1965 to determine population dynamics of selected waterfowl species in the Atlantic Flyway. Since the beginning of the project, Since 1965, totals of 976,391 ducks and 348,323 Canada geese have been pre-season banded in eastern Canada. During the same period, 784,172 ducks and 291,294 Canada geese have been pre-season banded in the Atlantic Flyway states. These data include pre-season bandings thru 2013. The Black Duck Joint Venture and the various species committees of the Atlantic Flyway Council Technical Section have identified additional, more specific objectives.
- The banding quotas used are those established in 1980 and revised in the North American Duck Banding Program: a Revised Approach (1989)(currently being revised). Prior to the 1974 banding season, those stations that had not consistently banded 300 or more black ducks annually were removed from the program. Most of the banding stations were inspected and operations observed during the 1991 season.
- Approximately 24 banding stations and 35 nights of airboat operations were conducted under the 2013 Cooperative Banding Program in eastern Canada. The Wildlife Management Institute provides all the accounting and disbursement matters for the project's cooperative funds through grants-in-aid and direct payment of bills approved by the Banding Committee. The continuation of the banding program will provide data which are combined

with the harvest and wing collection surveys to determine production, survival, and recovery rates. Banding also supplies information concerning the effects of regulations on the harvest, changes in hunting pressure, and makes it possible, in combination with the kill and wing survey data, to estimate the number of birds in the population.

E. Approach:

Banding Committee will approve an operational plan for each banding station annually. This will include the assignment of a field supervisor. Drive traps, nightlighting airboats, and conventional bait traps will be used. Crew leaders are responsible for insuring that banding data are submitted to the Bird Banding Laboratory in a timely manner. The Banding Committee will prepare on or about July 1 an annual report of the year's program. This will be a cooperative program among Provincial Wildlife Agencies, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, participating Atlantic Flyway States, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

Participating States submit an Application for Federal Assistance to the Federal Aid Office with the Program Narrative submitted by the Atlantic Flyway Council Technical Section as documentation. Participating States submit an annual Project Agreement to the Division of Federal Aid. This Agreement is the financial document between the State and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Banding Committee prepares the annual Job Performance Report, and it is submitted to the Regional Federal Aid Offices. Upon approval, each participating State's Project will be certified as complete. The State will then voucher for reimbursement for their Federal Aid portion of the project.

It is intended that funds provided by the States will be used essentially to cover expenses for salaries, travel, subsistence, and the purchase of expendable materials and supplies.

Job A. Eastern Canada Waterfowl Banding

Objective:

To band black ducks, mallards, green-winged teal, wood ducks, Canada geese, and other waterfowl in accordance with the North American Duck Banding Program: a Revised Approach, May 1989 (currently being revised), needs identified by the Black Duck Joint Venture and species committees of the Atlantic Flyway Council Technical Section.

Job B. Waterfowl Banding Data Analysis

Objective:

To analyze banding data to facilitate the management of the waterfowl resources in the Atlantic Flyway and in North America.

F. Schedule:

Cooperative Banding Program

<u>Year</u>	<u>Work Planned</u>	<u>Cost Per State</u>
Calendar Year 2016	Job I-A	\$8,000
Calendar Year 2017	Job I-A	\$8,000
Calendar Year 2018	Job I-A	\$8,000
Calendar Year 2019	Job I-A	\$8,000
Calendar Year 2020	Job I-A	\$8,000

Total Cost per Participating Flyway State (5 years): \$44,000 (\$40,000 Program cost+\$4000 WMI Fee)

Note: This cost is determined assuming that all Atlantic Flyway States participate. See Memorandum of Agreement for United States Fish and Wildlife Services Participation.

G. Geographic Locations:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ontario | 13. Connecticut |
| 2. Quebec | 14. Pennsylvania |
| 3. New Brunswick | 15. Massachusetts |
| 4. Nova Scotia | 16. Maryland |
| 5. Prince Edward Island | 17. Delaware |
| 6. Newfoundland-Labrador | 18. New Jersey |
| 7. Nunavut | 19. West Virginia |
| 8. Maine | 20. Virginia |
| 9. Vermont | 21. North Carolina |
| 10. New Hampshire | 22. South Carolina |
| 11. Rhode Island | 23. Georgia |
| 12. New York | 24. Florida |

Also included would be the following areas of the far North: Bylot Island, Baffin Island, Southampton Island, and adjacent land areas of the eastern Arctic.

H. Personnel:

Various wildlife biologists from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Provincial Wildlife Agencies, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and State Wildlife Agencies as well as contracted technicians.

I. Related Federal Projects:

Connecticut - Project W-49-R-13
Job 402 - Waterfowl banding

Delaware - Project W-21-R
Job I-3 Cooperative Migratory Bird Censusing and Banding

Maine - Project W-82-R
Job 226 - Game Bird Banding Studies

Maryland - Project W-61-R
Job 522 - Preseason Duck Banding

Massachusetts - Project W42-R
Work Plan II - Coastal and Inland Waterfowl Banding
Job 3 - Preseason Waterfowl Banding
Work Plan XVIII
Job 2 - Canada Goose Banding

New Jersey - Project W-68-R
Job IV-A Waterfowl monitoring Programs
Job IV-D Atlantic Flyway Cooperative Research and Monitoring Programs

New Hampshire W-89-R Project 5
Job 5 Statewide Waterfowl Banding

New York - Project WE-173-G
Job 081-04-05 - Waterfowl Management Planning
Job 126-01-04 - Coordination of Wildlife Marking Procedures and Records

Rhode Island - Project W-23-R
Job %5 Goose Banding

Vermont - Project W-33-R
Job I-2 Waterfowl Banding and Data Analysis

North Carolina - Study W-57 Wildlife Management in NC
Job E1-4 - Waterfowl Banding

Virginia - Project WE-99-R
State Project IX, Job 6 – Waterfowl Banding

JOB DESCRIPTION

State:

Project Number:

Study Number:

Job Number: I-A

Study Title: Atlantic Flyway Cooperative Waterfowl Banding Program

Job Title: Eastern Canada Waterfowl Banding

Job Objective: To conduct banding operations in eastern Canada for waterfowl species in selected areas. Specific banding needs are presented in American Duck Banding Program: a Revised Approach. May 1989 (currently being revised), published by the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. and additional banding needs identified by the Black Duck Joint Venture and various species committees of the Atlantic Flyway Council Technical Section.

Procedures: 1. The Atlantic Flyway Banding Committee, Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Provincial Wildlife Departments will prepare detailed operational plans for each banding station annually. This will include the assignment of field supervisors.

2. Drive traps, night lighting, airboats, and conventional traps will be used.

3. Crew leaders will prepare summary banding reports for the Banding Committee upon termination of the field program.

4. The Banding Committee will prepare by July 1 a complete summary of each year's program.

Location and Schedule of Work: Eastern Canadian Provinces, Baffin Island, Bylot Island, Southampton Island, and other adjacent lands of the eastern Arctic. Period of field operation will be July 1 to September 30.

Name of Technical Personnel and Man-days Required: Personnel to be determined annually, man-days will be the number necessary to meet goals.

Job Duration:	Calendar Year 2016	July 1 - September 30
	Calendar Year 2017	July 1 - September 30
	Calendar Year 2018	July 1 - September 30
	Calendar Year 2019	July 1 - September 30
	Calendar Year 2020	July 1 - September 30

Cost: \$8,800 per state per year (\$8,000 Program Cost+\$800 WMI Fee).

Principal Investigator: Game Bird Technical Section Chairman, Atlantic Flyway Council Banding Committee.

JOB DESCRIPTION

State:

Project Number:
Study Number:
Job Number: I-B

Study Title: Atlantic flyway Cooperative Waterfowl Banding Program

Job Title: Waterfowl Banding Data Analysis

Job Objective: To analyze banding data using appropriate methods.

- Procedures:
1. To analyze banding data to meet the objectives listed in the North American Duck Banding Program: A Revised Approach. 1989 (currently being revised), published by the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
 2. To conduct periodic on site reviews of banding operations in eastern Canada.

Location and Schedule of Work: This work will be accomplished under contract by colleges, universities, or qualified individuals when deemed necessary.

Name of Technical Personnel and Man-days Required: Personnel and man-days will be determined at issuance of contract.

Job Duration: Determined at issuance of contract.

Cost: Determined at issuance of contract. All contracts will be approved by the Banding Committee, the Atlantic Flyway Council Game Bird Technical Section, and the Atlantic Flyway Council.

Principal Investigator: Determined by contract