



**Environment  
Canada**

**SEMARNAT**  
SECRETARÍA DE  
MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



## **LETTER OF INTENT TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF A COORDINATED APPROACH FOR BIRD BANDING IN THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND CANADA**

### **BACKGROUND**

The United Mexican States (Mexico), the United States of America (USA), and Canada share a large number of migratory species of birds that require cooperation to ensure appropriate management for their long term protection and conservation. Effective, well-coordinated bird banding programs are necessary to generate reliable information for the design, implementation and evaluation of management and conservation actions to protect migratory bird populations.

The United States Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) and the Bird Banding Office (BBO) of Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service have operated under various agreements, with the most recent signed January 13, 2012, that provide the administrative framework for both offices to coordinate bird banding activities across the United States and Canada.

The Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos (SEMARNAT) has conducted extensive coordination activities with different sectors designed to define the structure and function of a Mexican Bird Banding Program and is taking the initial steps towards developing an operational program.

As the Mexican Bird Banding Program develops into an operational program, Mexico can benefit from the experiences of the BBL and BBO who have been managing a national bird banding program for nearly a century. Knowledge and information provided by BBL and BBO on a variety of technical issues associated with the implementation and operation of a national bird banding office can expedite the establishment of the Mexican Bird Banding Program. These cooperative efforts will also facilitate development of compatible data management processes that will allow for transferring banding data and other information among the banding offices. Building long-term partnerships will promote and enhance the development of coordinated bird

banding and marking activities and promote the conservation and management of North American bird communities.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Letter of Intent is to provide a specific framework for SEMARNAT, through its Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS), and la Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) from Mexico, the Bird Banding Laboratory of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) from the United States Department of the Interior, and the Bird Banding Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (EC) (collectively called “the Agencies”) to cooperate on the development of the Mexican Bird Banding Program, coordinated and compatible with other established bird banding programs in North America. With guidance and assistance from the USGS and EC, the intent is to ensure compatibility among the Mexican, USA, and Canadian banding programs so that bird banding, marking, and encounter data can be readily used for the conservation and management of bird populations in each country.

## **FORMS OF COOPERATION**

The Agencies intend to engage in cooperative activities to promote and expand dialogue, exchange experiences and information, and provide technical assistance to develop platforms, databases and websites to ensure that the Mexican bird banding program will be comparable and compatible with existing programs in the USA and Canada.

In the development of specific cooperative activities pursuant to this Letter of Intent:

1. The USGS intends to provide technical guidance and assistance to SEMARNAT and CONABIO in the development of a data management system for the Mexican Bird Banding Program. The intent is to develop a data management system that will be compatible with the existing USGS system that is used by both the BBL and the BBO and allow for the smooth transfer of data between the two systems.
2. Upon request, USGS and EC intend to advise and assist SEMARNAT and CONABIO in the establishment of the Mexican Bird Banding Program, by providing:
  - a. information related to the purchasing of bird bands, such as the specifications for band sizes and types and lists of potential manufacturers;
  - b. copies of documents, electronic form letters, and related materials that may be helpful for establishing operational procedures in a national bird banding program;

- c. other available information such as recommended band sizes for North American migratory birds, accepted bird names, and other types of information useful for establishing an operational bird banding program;
  - d. information on the use of software for the electronic submission of banding data and recapture data; and
  - e. guidance on developing web applications related to banding programs including applications for reporting bird bands by members of the public.
3. The Agencies intend to discuss topics related to training requirements for bird banders and the development of processes to certify bird bander skill levels.
4. All activities between the Agencies are subject to the availability of funds and to the applicable laws and regulations of the respective governments, on the understanding that:
  - a. Each Agency is expected to provide for its own expenses;
  - b. This Letter of Intent is not legally binding and cannot give rise to any liability or claim for damages by the Agencies or any third party;
  - c. This Letter of Intent does not obligate funding or allocation of resources or personnel by the Agencies; and
  - d. There is no obligation on the Agencies to enter into any agreements or contracts.
5. The Agencies intend that all non-proprietary technical information obtained through their cooperation be available to the public to the extent permissible under their respective laws and regulations.
6. Cooperation under this Letter of Intent will commence upon execution by representatives of the Agencies and may continue indefinitely. Any agency may discontinue its cooperation at any time by notification in writing to the other Agencies.
7. The Letter of Intent may be amended by joint determination of the agencies in writing.

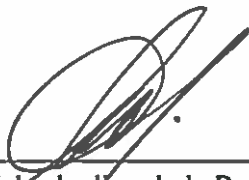
Signed in San Diego, California, United States of America, Thursday, the sixteenth day of the month of April of the year two thousand fifteen, in triplicate, in the Spanish and English languages.

**FOR ENVIRONMENT CANADA**



/s/ Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Director General,  
Canadian Wildlife Service

**POR LA SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS**



/s/ Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette  
Director General de Vida Silvestre

**POR LA COMISIÓN NACIONAL PARA EL CONOCIMIENTO Y USO DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD**

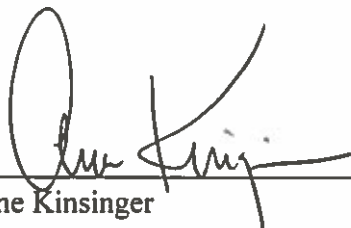


/s/ Patricia Koleff Osorio  
witness



/s/ Humberto Berlanga García  
witness

**FOR THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



/s/ Anne Kinsinger  
Associate Director for Ecosystems