



THE INSTITUTE FOR BIRD POPULATIONS

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Taking Open-wing Images from Captured Birds

The Institute for Bird Populations would like to help facilitate the collection and archiving of open-wing images from birds captured at banding stations. These images will eventually be housed on a web site and accessible by all researchers to study molt and ageing criteria, especially for resident Neotropical species. We request that, time permitting, banders operating banding stations obtain digital images from the species they capture.

Examples of holds for images taken by one person (left) or two (right) are shown below. In each case note that all or most of the secondary coverts (including all greater coverts), and all secondaries, primary coverts, and primaries (including the tips to the outer primaries) are visible for analysis. Best images are obtained with brightish but even lighting conditions (direct sun can produce glare on the feathers) and with a "neutral" or even background color and lighting. Avoid contrasting lighting (both sun and shade) on the wing or in the background. Experienced photographers may find alternate ways to obtain clear and sharp images.

Files should be named as follows:

<6-letter alpha code>_<age>_<sex>_<date>_<location>_<band-number>_<other info>.jpg

If age or sex is uncertain, square brackets can be used to designate uncertainty. Examples:

PABU_SY_M_Apr062006_SVIM_232014678_eccentric molt.jpg

SWWA_ASY_U_May122006_BRAG_236094576.jpg

RTTA_[SY]_M_Feb282006_TUX1_143166754.jpg

For larger digital projects entering the band number first might be preferable, to allow sorting of images based on the individual, including recaptures on different capture dates.

For more information, please contact Peter Pyle at ppyle@birdpop.org

