



Australian Government
 Department of the Environment and Energy

Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme

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TRIAL OF BAND SIZE

Bander's Name: _____ Date: _____

Authority Number: _____

Species Name: _____ Species Number: _____

Sex: _____ How Sexed: _____ Age: _____ How Aged: _____

Locality: _____ State: _____

Location Code: _____ Check Code: _____

Details of Band Size Trials:

What band sizes have you tried on this species and what comments do you wish to make concerning the ideal band size? (for example; band size too tight, moves freely, is ideal, too loose, tarsus too short for this band).

Band Size	Metal	Number of birds/bats with this size band	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Other comments: _____

1. The aim is to determine which is the band size most suited to each species. Band trials are best done on adult birds/bats as it is the adult which must carry the band permanently.
2. For birds, the ideal band size is the one which allows the band to move freely along the tarsus without the risk of moving over the joints at either end and binding them. Similar principles apply when determining the ideal band size for thumb or fore-arm banding bats.
3. Only living or freshly dead specimens should be used to determine the ideal band size. Museum specimens are totally unacceptable as trial subjects.
4. Band size trials should not be attempted on live birds/bats if the bander does not have the appropriate pliers for removing the band should it prove unsuitable.
5. It is also important to know at what age young birds/bats can be banded with the size of band best suited to adult animals. Therefore, the age of the trial birds/bats should be carefully assessed and recorded. The method used to assess age should also be given.
6. Band size trials are conducted at the discretion of the bander in charge of the project who also holds responsibility for notifying the Banding Office of the results of the band size trial as soon as possible after the event.
7. This form must also be completed when the currently approved band size is not considered suitable for the individual birds/bats being handled and an alternative band size is used.