APPENDIX E. THE BANDER'S REPORT CARD

Not all categories need to be checked for a certification. Some categories are usually considered fundamental, however, and will probably need to be assessed for all prospective banders. These are identified by an asterisk (*). Items with double asterisks are likely to be essential elements.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL
* **Understand the ethics of banding birds**
* **Understand how banding fits into scientific studies**

CHECKLIST OF PRACTICAL SKILLS

PROCESSING
Identification and handling
* Recognize all target species and release a bird unbanded if identification cannot be made with virtual certainty
* Appreciate the importance of minimizing handling time while not compromising safety
* Use the Bander's Grip on a variety of species
* Use the Photographer's Grip safely
* Safely transfer a bird from hand to hand
  Open a bird's bill reliably
* Handle a variety of "awkward" species
* Correctly release a variety of species
  Effectively deal with escaped birds in an enclosed space

Banding
* Select correct band size
* Read band numbers correctly
* Apply a band correctly
  Correctly apply a lock-on band (if appropriate)
  Correctly apply a color band (if appropriate)
* Recognize when and how to correct an improperly applied band
* Know when and how to remove a band safely

Storing and carrying birds
* Use the appropriate method of storage for particular species
* Place birds in bags and carry and hang them correctly
* Recommend when bags or boxes need cleaning

Field data collection
* Record data clearly, legibly, and accurately on field sheets
* Be able to recognize and take descriptions of or photograph rarities or unusual birds
* Maintain complete and accurate daily logs

Biometrics
* Use and accurately read measuring devices (wing rule, balances, calipers, dividers)
* Correctly and accurately measure various anatomical features
  Assess simple wing formulae
  Accurately assess and record molt on a molt card
  Accurately score fat deposits

Ageing and sexing
* Correctly use guides for ageing and sexing
  Accurately score skull pneumatization (if appropriate)

Correctly use other characteristics for age determination
Understand and assign correct age codes
Correctly use color, size, brood patch, and cloacal protuberance for sex determination

*SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR MIST NETTING
Erecting, opening, and closing nets
Choose an appropriate netting site and appropriate net
Correctly set up nets unaided
Properly furl and unfurl nets
Properly take in and store nets and associated equipment

Operation and extraction
Judge how many nets to use safely and check them frequently and carefully
Demonstrate an astute, accommodating approach to extraction
Extract a variety of species quickly and safely
Deal proficiently with tricky situations
Recognize and repair nets that are in poor condition

TRAPS
Have knowledge of range of traps and their target species
Operate traps properly and safely, if appropriate

NESTLINGS (IF APPROPRIATE)
Follow species and date and age guidelines in Banding Manual
Approach nests responsibly and remove, handle, band, and replace nestlings safely

ETHICS AND INJURIES
* Know and practice the Bander's Code of Ethics
* Show excellent awareness of injury prevention
* Show familiarity with the most common injuries and their causes
* Demonstrate ability to treat minor injuries
* Recognize and demonstrate the necessity for euthanasia
* Assess whether a specimen is worth preserving
* Record details of all injuries and casualties

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF BANDERS
* Demonstrate a responsible attitude towards potential injuries from birds
* Demonstrate a responsible attitude towards physical hazards in the banding area

DATA MANAGEMENT
* Proof and correct banding sheets
  Know how to complete banding schedules properly
  Handle other paperwork correctly and promptly

PUBLIC RELATIONS
* Communicate effectively with the public about banding
  Communicate effectively using banding data (reports, articles, etc.)

OTHER SPECIAL AUTHORIZATIONS
Demonstrate proficiency in special authorizations (such as color marking):