



# Delaware Bay Shorebird Banding



Since 2003, lime green engraved flags with a unique alpha-numeric combination have been used on shorebirds banded in the United States. These flags can be easily seen using a spotting scope or a good pair of binoculars. Each country in the Americas was assigned a different color flag code by the [Pan American Shorebird Program](#) (PASP), making it easier to identify the banders of marked shorebirds. The unique inscription make is possible to track the migratory movements of individuals without having to recapture them.

Below are several images of banded shorebirds. These birds were banded as part of a study to determine migration routes and body condition of shorebirds stopping over in Delaware Bay. Biologists from New Jersey and Delaware, along with an international team of scientists, have banded nearly 50,000 shorebirds in Delaware Bay since 1997.



Red knots resighted at Stone Harbor  
Photo by Bill Moses



Florida banded red knot  
Photo by Terry Wright



Chilean banded red knot  
Photo by Beverly Anderson-  
[Rookery Bay NERR](#)



Sanderling resighted at Stone Harbor  
Photo by Bill Buchanan



Ruddy Turnstones resighted in Puerto Rico  
Photo by Luis Silvestre



Semipalmated Sandpiper resighted in Guadeloupe  
Photo by Anthony Levesque