

South Florida/Caribbean Network

National Park Service
Inventory and Monitoring Division



Standard Operating Procedure CNB01

Personnel Training—Version 1.1

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Summary

This SOP describes basic training of staff performing the Biscayne National Park Colonial Nesting Bird Monitoring Program. Training for the bird monitoring program can be divided into three sections, an office portion, a flight preparedness portion, and a field portion.

Revision Log

Revision Date	Author(s)	Changes Made	Reason for Change	New Version #
3/19/2020	Judd Patterson & Robert Muxo	The SOP name changed from SOP A to SOP CNB01. Verbiage was updated in the Flight Preparedness section.	The original protocol was published with bundled SOPs. When these were split out, the names were updated to reflect modern usage of numbers instead of letters. The Flight Preparedness was changed to add aviation training resources and updated renewal timing for training courses.	1.1

Office Training

The office portion of the training will be provided by SFCN staff on site and covers:

1. Bird identification, characteristics, and nesting habits. Field guides and pertinent publications are excellent sources of information coupled with field trips in the area. Personnel should be able to identify both adult and juvenile versions of:
 - a. Double-crested cormorant (DCCO)
 - b. Anhinga (ANHI)
 - c. Cattle Egret (CAEG)
 - d. Great White Heron (GWHE)
 - e. Great Blue Heron (GBHE)
 - f. Great Egret (GREG)
 - g. Little Blue Heron (LBHE)
 - h. Reddish Egret (REEG)
 - i. Snowy Egret (SNEG)
 - j. Tricolored Heron (TRHE)
 - k. Roseate Spoonbill (ROSP)
 - l. White Ibis (WHIB)
 - m. Bald Eagle (BAEA)
 - n. Osprey (OSPR)
2. Location of colony sites and general park information.
3. Overview of field and data sheets used.
4. Analyzing and processing of data. We use specific photos located at:
(Z:\SFCN\Vital_Signs\Colonial_Nesting_Birds\Training\Training_photos) for training new personnel in the analysis portion of gathering data from photos. Using training photographs allows us to check for consistency between personnel analyzing photographs.
5. Familiarity using the camera for bird flights. Instruction from a prior mission photographer and practice using the camera before flying is recommended. The project leader and the SFCN Community Ecologist will determine when new personnel have acquired proficient abilities to participate on flight missions.

6. Following procedures for data entry and quality assurance and quality control.

Flight Preparedness

Since safety is the top priority, all SFCN personnel participating on bird monitoring flights are required to stay current with required flight aviation training courses. Refer to the Standards for Helicopter Operations (SHO) book and the NPS Aviation Reference Manual 60 (RM-60) for guidance on required courses. Listed below are examples of pertinent courses:

- A-107, Aviation Policy and Regulations I (online)
- A-100, Basic Aviation Safety
- S-271, Helicopter Crewmember
- A-110, Aviation Transport of Hazardous Material (if applicable and online)
- A-200, Aviation Mishap Review
- A-312, Water Ditching and Survival

Field Training

The field portion of training takes place in flight, on-the-job. Using the training as mentioned previously, the new crew member has to apply lessons learned. It is important for the two SFCN crew members to communicate during flight to collect the best data possible. Prior to the flight, the SFCN flight crew will determine their assignments on board the helicopter; this may be based on an individual's preference or abilities. It is recommended that all flight personnel become familiar performing both roles (observer and photographer) thus providing the greatest flexibility of flight crews.

When bringing a new technician into the project, it is necessary to perform several hours of on-the-job training. It is beneficial for the new technician to have familiarity with photo analysis and processing before going on a flight. Knowing how the data is utilized will aid in the data collection. Reviewing previously processed data sheets and photographs with new personnel will provide guidance for the monitoring process. Step-by-step instructions for processing photos are covered in the following SOPs.