

Wild Raptor Leg Band Application Guide

General

The lock-on or “cable-tie” bands supplied by the Ontario Hawking Club are made to the same specifications as bands issued by the USFWS and other state/provincial governments in North America. They are intended for use on WILD RAPTORS ONLY. Black bands are used throughout North America to indicate a wild-taken raptor that is NOT legal for trade or sale. The band number consists of the prefix ‘ON’ followed by a sequential 3 digit number, e.g. **ON123**. In addition, the bands are stamped with a website URL owned by the Ontario Hawking Club. These bands have been in use for many years and are known to have a very low failure rate. However, if one of these bands should fail for any reason please contact the OHC immediately.

Application Instructions

1. Record the band number and species information in your raptor log. NOTE: The band numbers are of the form ‘ON123’. In the unlikely event that, on a very small bird, the ‘O’ is cut off, please record the number as ‘N123’.
2. Carefully cut a piece of the clear plastic tubing to the length indicated in the chart below, for the sex and species of raptor you are banding.
3. **The use of clear plastic tubing is very important** to protect the both the bird and the band. The tubing limits how tightly the band can close around the tarsus, prevents abrasion and protects the number.
4. Slip the tubing over the band until it is snug against the locking head as shown in Figure 1. **Do not lubricate** the tube or band.

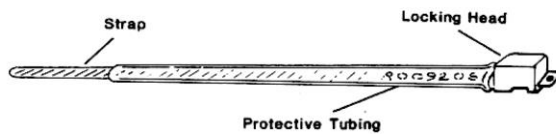


Figure 1: Band with tubing

Species	Length of Tubing (inches)	
	Male	Female
Sharp-shinned hawk	7/8	15/16
Merlin	15/16	1
Cooper’s hawk	1-1/4	1-3/8
Red-tailed hawk	2	2 1/4

5. Warm the band in your hand and **bend it into a circular form**. Position the band on the tarsus above the jess as shown in Figure 2. Ensure that the band is placed with the **serial number right side up!**



Figure 2: Placing the band



Figure 3: Removing excess strap

6. Insert the end of the strap into the locking head (Figure 3). Slowly close the band by pulling on the strap until both ends of the plastic tubing are touching the locking head. **Do not over tighten!**
7. Use fingernail clippers or wire cutters to cut off the excess strap. Cut the strap flush with the locking head to prevent the raptor from pulling at it

NOTE: a properly fitting band will move freely on the raptor’s leg but be tight enough to prevent removal from an un-jessed raptor.