

## 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, the band should fail for any reason please contact the OHC immediately.

### Application Instructions

1. Record the band number and species information in your raptor logbook. 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.

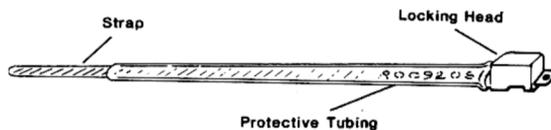


Figure 1: Band with tubing

Species	Length of Tubing (inches)	
	Male	Female
Sharp-shinned hawk	7/8	15/16
Merlin	15/16	1
Cooper’s hawk	1.25	1 3/8
Red-tailed hawk	2	2.25
Goshawk	1.5	1.75

5. Warm the band in your hand and **bend it into a circular form**. Position the band on the tarsus **above the jesse/anklet** 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. Over for more information →

**Please handle your band carefully.**

Only one band will be issued to you annually. If your bird chews off the band or if you install it incorrectly and need to cut it off and re-install it, you will need to return the old band in order to get a replacement.

You may not transfer the band to any other person.

You may not use the band for anything other than a raptor caught under your Falconry License or Goshawk Wild Capture Authorization. It cannot, for example, be used on an unreleasable rehab bird or a captive bred bird that was not banded with a seamless band.

If the band is accidentally removed or lost, you must act in accordance with MNR regulations:

- the band shall be affixed to the leg of the bird in a manner that prevents the band from being removed without destroying it.
- A person shall mark a specially protected raptor or other bird of prey kept by the person within three weeks of it being hatched.
- **If the band is lost or accidentally removed**, the loss or removal and its date shall immediately be noted in the falconer's log book
- The person who keeps a bird whose band has been lost, accidentally removed or destroyed shall immediately affix a new band of the proper type in the proper manner
- The MNRF shall be notified in writing within five working days of the loss or removal of a band and of the number of a new band affixed