

Watch for Colour-banded Cooper's Hawks

A study on the ecology of Cooper's Hawks breeding in the urban environment of Greater Victoria has been underway since 1995. To date over 1,000 of these hawks have been banded at about 75 nest sites. You can greatly assist this research project by watching for and reporting observations of these banded hawks.

Colour-bands are uniquely coded with 2 vertical alphanumeric characters (i.e. letter over number or letter over letter) and are placed on the left leg (see illustration). To provide ease of visibility, these codes are repeated 3 times around the circumference of the band. Bands can be read at a distance of about 20 m with binoculars or up to 75 m using a spotting scope. Red bands were placed on females and black bands were put on males. If you observe one of these marked hawks, please record the band colour and code, date and time, whether it was in adult or juvenile plumage, as well as the location. **Please report all sightings, even if you were unable to determine the band code.**

To date >2,000 observations of these marked birds have been reported in southwestern BC from as far away as Parksville on Vancouver Island and Delta on the mainland coast. A few recoveries have also been reported from Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and California. However, over 95% of year-round sightings come from the Greater Victoria and Saanich Peninsula areas. Many of these hawks were observed in the vicinity of backyard bird feeders.

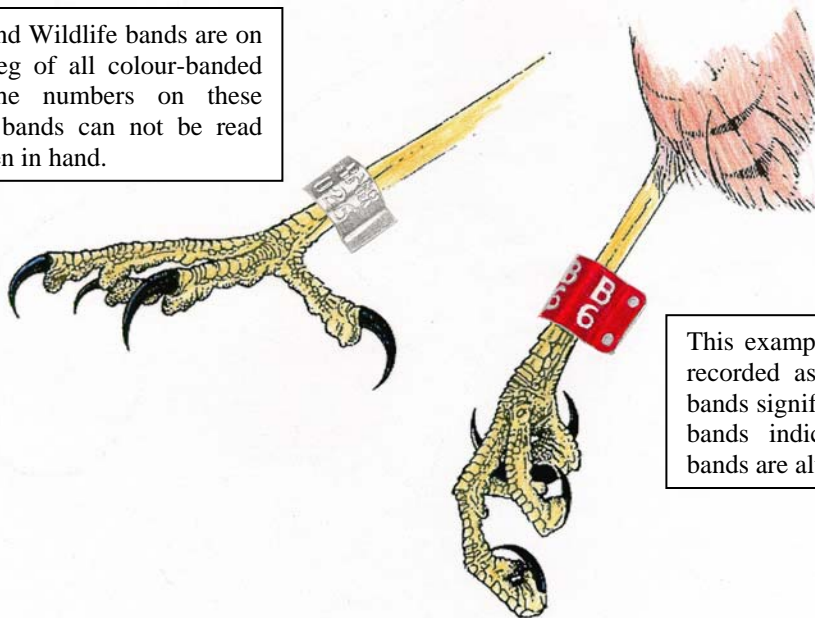
Please report Cooper's Hawk observations to:

Andy Stewart
Wildlife Biologist
3932 Telegraph Bay Road
Victoria, B.C. V8N 4H7

Phone: (250) 387-9780 or 477-1328

E-mail: andy.stewart@shaw.ca

U.S Fish and Wildlife bands are on the right leg of all colour-banded hawks. The numbers on these aluminum bands can not be read except when in hand.



This example colour-band would be recorded as "**Red B over 6**". Red bands signify it is a female and black bands indicate it is male. These bands are always on the left leg.