

Information on Banded Raptors Wanted



USGS Banded Osprey, Photo by DeeDee Gollwitzer



Color Banded and USGS Banded Red-shouldered Hawk, Photo by Trude Hurd

We Need Your Help Locating Banded Raptors in Orange County (Hawks, Osprey, Kites, Eagles, and Owls)

You can help by providing the following information:

1. Your name, address, phone number and email address
2. The date and specific location of the sighting
3. The species of hawk, if possible
4. Note which leg is banded and with what type of band(s) (see pictures above – USGS band and VID (Visual Identification Band) color band)
5. The color of the color band (VID) ~~Band~~ and its letters and/or numbers, as well as any marks before the letter(s) or number(s)
6. The location and proximity to any known raptor nests
7. Any information about behaviors observed, such as perched, foraging, with another hawk, courtship, nest building, territorial behavior and/or repeated vocalizations

If you observe a banded raptor, we ask that you report your observation with as much of the information listed above in two ways:

1. Send your information to:
Pete Bloom at petebloom@bloombiological.com and/or
Scott Thomas at redtail1@cox.net
2. Report the observation to the USGS Banding Laboratory at:
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/>

Local Raptor Banding Research Projects

Sea and Sage Audubon Society members Dr. Pete Bloom PhD and Scott Thomas have been studying and banding hundreds of raptors in Southern California for decades, with a focus on Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, but also including all species of raptors found in Southern

California. Pete Bloom is a world-renowned raptor biologist and long-time Sea and Sage Audubon leader who has published many important papers on Southern California raptors. Scott Thomas chairs the Sea and Sage Raptor Research Committee.

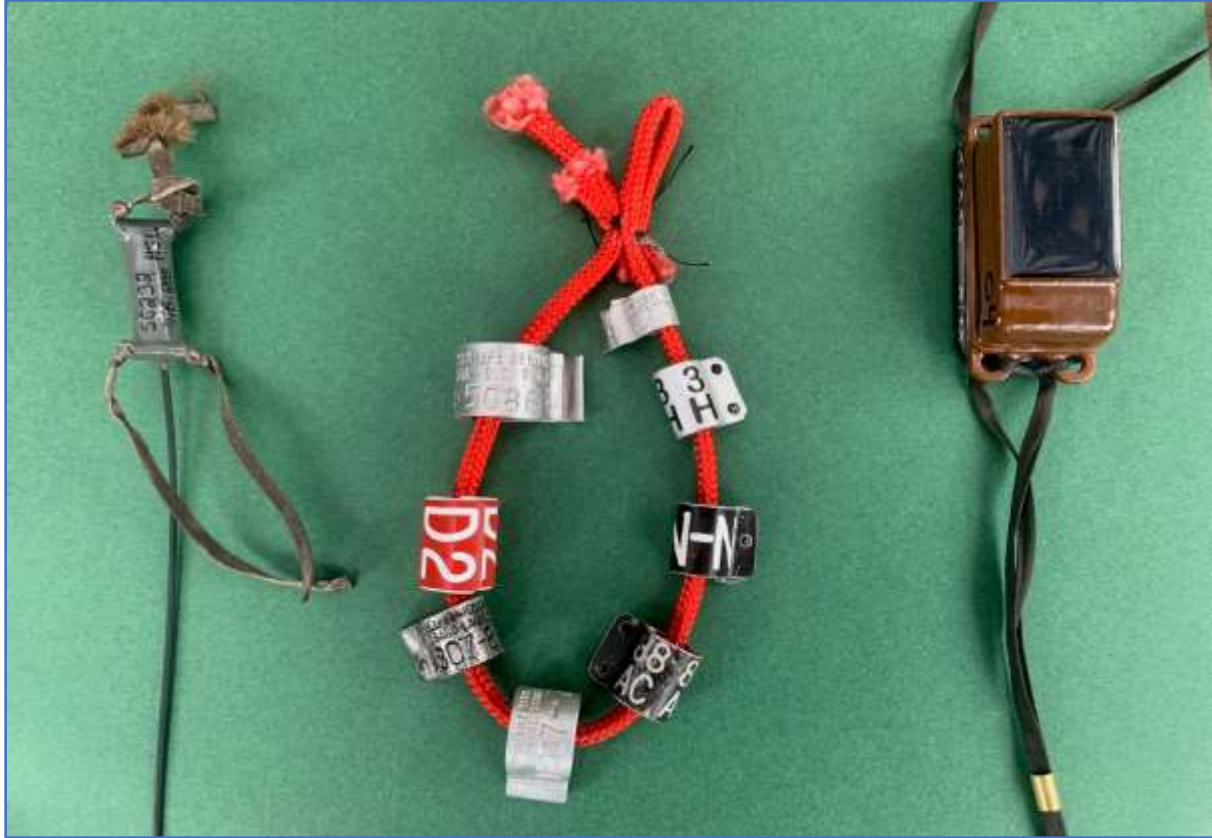
Banding (marking) raptors and other birds allows researchers to gather important data on dispersal, nesting success, philopatry (the tendency of a particular animal to breed close to where it was born), and life expectancy.

Many raptors are originally banded with a single aluminum USGS band fitted on the right leg (see the Osprey photo above). Others, particularly older and local birds, are more often banded with two bands, a silver USGS band on one leg and a unique color band (Visual Identification Band - VID) on the other leg (as with the Red-shouldered Hawk in the picture above).

Re-sighting these raptors and recording the band information are critically important to Pete's "Mark and Recapture" studies of raptors. The color bands allow for observation and study of these birds without the stress of recapturing them. Gathering data in this fashion vastly increases the understanding of raptors, contributing to their conservation.

Pete uses other tracking methods, including the deployment of radio and satellite tracking transmitters on raptors. Pete and his associates gather information through telemetry and focused monitoring of banded raptors. The public also contributes valuable information to Pete's information database by reporting banded raptors. Public re-sighting of banded (marked) hawks, owls, kites, vultures, eagles, and Osprey greatly increases the understanding of raptor ecology. The success of the local studies has been enhanced by many contributions from Sea and Sage Audubon members. We need your continued help in order to locate and record further observations of banded raptors in urban areas, parks and in our open spaces in Southern California.

More about Banding and Marking Raptors



Radio Transmitter, USGS Bands (silver aluminum), Color Bands, Satellite/Cellular Transmitter

Most marked raptors fall into two banding categories:

Category 1: Birds that were banded as nestlings. These birds will usually have one aluminum USGS band which is silver in color and which will most likely be on the right leg. Most of these birds were born in nests somewhere in Southern California and banded as chicks. We need to attempt to recapture them in order to identify them.

Category 2: Birds that have two bands, one on each leg. These birds will have an aluminum USGS band on either the right or left leg. The other leg will have a color band made of either metal or plastic. These color bands may have either a number or a letter, or both, that is large enough to read with an average spotting scope or a very good pair of binoculars.

Special Circumstances:

When we band resident adult hawks, we often put the bands on in a specific arrangement in order to more easily distinguish the male from the

female. Example: On females, we often put the aluminum band on the left leg with the color band on the right.

Bands:

The aluminum bands (silver) are issued to researchers by the United States Geological Service (USGS). A USGS band typically has a unique, two-part numeric code separated by a hyphen, is issued only once and will identify the bird both to the USGS and to us. The VID color bands are purchased by the bander for the bander's use only. They are usually installed placed only on local raptors that have a high chance of being re-sighted. A color band will have some sort of highly visible alphanumeric code, for example a red "+ P +".

Send all reports of banded raptors to Pete Bloom and/or Scott Thomas and to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory at: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/>

Transmitters and Telemetry:

Raptor researchers utilize radio and satellite transmitters to track raptors locally in their home ranges and over long distances during migration. Early transmitters used radio signals that were tracked by biologists with handheld receivers. Radio technology worked quite well for short-distance home range studies. Satellite transmitters using accurate GPS technology and even cellular technology can track birds locally and over very long distances more accurately, making them the preferred choice for modern studies.