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## Turkey Vulture Banding Problem

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claimed the tree in I get the bird died after I can't get, I see the big ring and their legs. So cant writing you. Sir please excuse me because don't know how speak English because I am a cultural-minorities or Igorots or natives peoples So excuse me. THATS ALL and God Bless you always and merry Christmas to you all.

T.T.

(Ed. note: Dr. McClure was president of W.B.B.A. in 1949 and 1950. He comments: "Glad to see that the North American Bird Bander is finally an actuality. A combined journal of the banding associations was a subject of considerable discussion when I was president of WBBA 27 years ago, so it took a quarter of a century to realize it.")

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## Turkey Vulture banding problem

*Ranger Ed Henckel*

Band size 7B, recommended by the Bird Banding Laboratory, has been proved to be detrimental to the legs and feet of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*).

Because of Turkey Vultures' unusual manner of excreting down their legs, the 7B band (which fits well on initial installation) will, after a period of six to eight weeks, load-up with excrement which solidifies. Swelling of the lower leg and foot ensues, compounding the restriction, leading to loss of the use of the leg and/or foot.

Since size 8 bands are deemed to be too large, cut-down 8 bands are being tested until the issuance, by the Banding Lab., of a band size between 7B and 8. (Ed. note: see NABB Vol. 1:2, p. 89). It may be proved, for the sake of the birds, that Turkey Vultures should not be leg-banded because of their manner of excreting.

This report is based on personal observations made during the past year in which more than seventy Turkey Vultures were banded and four-

teen were recaptured. The fourteen birds recaptured all showed restrictions so were rebanded with cut-down 8 bands on the opposite leg. The 7B bands were removed and the legs successfully treated with Betadine.

Observations of known 7B-banded birds in flight have shown birds with feet so swollen that they were unable to tuck the foot against their bodies, out of the slipstream, undoubtedly hindering their flight. The roost capabilities of these birds was not observed.

A bird banded with a 7B band at Stanhope, N.J., 13 June 1975 was recaptured in Grant, Florida, 30 November 1975 with such a badly damaged foot that amputation was done. The bird was found on the ground.

All of these Turkey Vultures were also tagged with a numbered red streamer on the right wing and sighting reports would be appreciated. Reports will be forwarded to the Bird Banding Laboratory.

Waterloo Rd., Stanhope, NJ 07874 (EBBA)

