

Colour-ringing projects in Hampshire

The BTO ringing strategy encourages species-specific projects and many Hampshire ringers participate in a number of important studies. Many of these projects involve colour-ringing so that individuals can be identified in the field and other birders can make important contributions by reporting any colour-ringed birds that they see. Care should be taken to record the colour and position of the rings accurately and photographs can be extremely helpful to scheme organisers in verifying the colours. Please report sightings to the organisers listed below. For other species, sightings can be reported at www.cr-birding.org.

The following schemes are currently known to be operating in Hampshire:

Honey-buzzards are marked with a single colour-ring at various sites in England and Wales, including Hampshire. In recent years the rings used are white with black letters but older birds could have other colours. The colour ring can be on either leg but will be on the opposite leg from the metal ring. Sightings to sjroberts100@hotmail.com.

Waders and wildfowl: Farlington Ringing Group is undertaking a series of long-term shorebird colour-ringing studies in The Solent and welcomes sightings of marked Brent Geese, Wigeon and waders. Birds are marked with unique colour-ring combinations enabling them to be tracked throughout their lives. The projects are designed to provide detailed information on the birds' use of The Solent, helping us to understand their breeding, wintering locations and migration routes. The expanding datasets involving large numbers of re-sightings allow survival analysis to be undertaken. This helps us to monitor and assess the importance of The Solent's estuaries in a national and international context, comparing our mudflats with other intertidal areas. Several of the projects are being undertaken in collaboration with shorebird ecologists and researchers across Europe.

Brent Geese are colour-marked in Southampton Water, Langstone & Chichester Harbours using darvic colour-rings. Sightings can be entered directly on the Dutch goose website: www.geese.org where life histories and maps of sightings can be seen on-line for each bird entered. Alternatively, sightings can be sent to Pete Potts at petermpotts@gmail.com

Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers, Dunlins, Curlews, Redshanks and Turnstones are colour-ringed in Southampton Water, while **Black-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks** (www.greenshank.info/), **Ringed Plovers** have been marked primarily in Langstone and Chichester Harbours and **Sanderling** have been marked on Hayling Island. Colour-ring sightings of any of these species should be sent to Pete Potts at petermpotts@gmail.com. Sanderling sightings can also be entered direct on <https://animaltrack.org/>.

Avocet chicks have been ringed in Hampshire with green over blue on the left tibia and two other colours on the right. A yellow flag may also be present. Sightings to grahamgiddens@googlemail.com.

Lapwings are marked at various sites in north-west Hampshire. Birds have four colour rings plus a black flag. Sightings should be sent to ahoodless@gwct.org.uk.

Birds with a green ring on the right tibia and an orange ring with a black two letter code on the left tibia should be reported to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

Common Sandpipers are being colour-ringed at Farlington Marshes under a ten-year project. Sightings to duncan.bell5@ntlworld.com.

Woodcock are marked in the New Forest with a single colour ring plus metal ring. Sightings to nfwg@newforestgateway.org.

Redshank are marked in the Avon Valley. Birds have 4 colour-marks, all above the knee, one of which will be a black flag. Sightings to lgrayshon@gwct.org.uk.

Black-headed Gulls are marked at Blashford Lakes with an orange ring on the right leg. The rings have black characters in the format 2nnA or 2nnC, where the n's are numbers. Sightings to kevs866@gmail.com.

Birds with the same type of ring but with characters in the format 2nnB should be reported to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

Mediterranean Gulls are ringed in Langstone Harbour with a yellow ring with four digits. Sightings to medgullring@gmail.com.

Kestrels are colour-ringed across Hampshire (except the New Forest and extreme south-west of the county) as well as neighbouring areas of Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey and West Sussex. The colour rings are dark blue and engraved with three white digits (letters/numbers). Sightings to matt@hawkconservancy.org.

Peregrines are marked at various sites in the county with an orange ring on the left leg. The rings have a two or three alpha-numeric code in black. Sightings to nigelrjns@aol.com.

Woodlarks are marked mainly in the north-east of the county. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wood Warblers are marked in the New Forest. Note that some birds have a striped ring as well as plain colours. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wintering **Blackcaps** are marked in Drayton, Portsmouth gardens, sightings to graham.c.m.roberts@btinternet.com and in Chilbolton, sightings to hantsbto@hotmail.com.

Dartford Warblers are marked near Fawley with two colours on the left leg and one colour plus metal ring on right leg. Sightings to oreilly_sharon@hotmail.com.

Starlings are the subject of a number of studies. Birds marked in Sway have orange rings with two black letters on the right leg or white rings with three black letters on the left leg. Sightings to brenda.e.cook@googlegmail.com.

Charlotte Foot in Totton uses a single dark blue ring on the left leg with a white three-digit combination. Sightings to charlotteannef@gmail.com.

Trevor Codlin and Simon Ingram use dark green rings with three white letters in the Funtley and Allbrook areas. Sightings to trevor.codlin@gmail.com or simon@itchevalleystructures.co.uk.

Nightingales are marked in Botley Wood. Sightings to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

House Sparrow have been marked at Manor Farm CP using a yellow ring carrying one letter and two numbers. Sightings to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

Linnets are marked at Keyhaven. Sightings to marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk.

Lesser Redpolls are marked in the New Forest. Sightings to marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk.

Bullfinches are marked in Winchester with a white ring on the left leg with three black numbers commencing 001. Sightings to tim.walker14@btinternet.com.

Hawfinches are marked in the New Forest with a yellow ring bearing two digits which are a mixture of letters and numbers. Sightings to marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk.