



Reporting a ringed bird...

The BTO relies on people reporting ringed birds, so if you do find a bird with a ring, please report it at www.ring.ac or send the following information.

Ring number

Please give the full ring number and, if you are writing and the bird is dead, please enclose the ring securely taped to your letter. If you wish to keep the ring it can be returned to you. If it is not a BTO ring (address does NOT start with 'BTO' or 'British Museum'), please give the address on the ring.

Where and when

Tell us where the bird was found, including the name of the nearest town or village and a grid reference, if possible. Also, please tell us the date on which you found it.

Circumstances

It is useful for us to know if the bird was alive or dead. If dead, please give the cause of death if known (eg hit by a car, brought in by a cat, or oiled on a beach). Also note if the bird was freshly dead or decomposed. If the bird is still alive, please say what happened to it. Remember though, if you see a healthy, wild bird wearing a ring, you must not try to catch it. In these situations you may be able to read the ring through a telescope.

Your details

Don't forget to give us your name and email and/or postal address so that we can tell you when and where the bird was ringed.



The Ringing Scheme

Want to know more about bird ringing?

Want to find out more?

For more information about ringing contact us at...

Ringing Scheme

British Trust for Ornithology,

The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

Tel: 01842 750050

Email: ringing@bto.org

Website www.bto.org/ringing

The BTO Ringing Scheme is funded by a partnership of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (on behalf of: Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage), The National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) and the ringers themselves.



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Registered Office: The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU.



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www.bto.org/ringing

Why ring birds?

Understanding population change

The main focus of the Ringing Scheme is to help us understand why populations are changing. Changes in survival rates, recruitment and the movements of birds can explain why numbers are falling or increasing. In addition, we are still learning about where birds go and when they move. To collect these data we put a lightweight, uniquely numbered, metal ring on a bird's leg - a reliable and harmless method of identifying them when they are encountered again. Some birds are also colour-ringed to allow them to be identified from a distance and others carry small devices that can track their movements from day to day.

Vital data for conservation

Data from ringing provide the only way we can tackle some important conservation questions, for instance they have shown:

- Many farmland species have declined as fewer individuals survive the winter, probably through reduced availability of weed seeds.



- Tree Sparrows showed an unexpected preference for grassy areas near wetlands, possibly because they are rich in insects to feed chicks.
- Many of our migrants are in trouble, but ringing has shown Willow Warbler populations are doing better in the north of Britain than the south.
- Swallows put on weight before they migrate south in autumn, but this varies across the country, influencing how far individuals can fly before refueling.

Understanding the reasons for population changes helps to target conservation.

Ringing in Britain & Ireland

Over a million birds are ringed in Britain and Ireland each year by over 2,500 highly trained volunteer ringers. Details of how many birds have been caught and where and when they have been found (split by country and county) are available on the BTO website at www.bto.org/ringing-report.

Most birds are caught in mist nets – fine nets set up between poles that catch the birds in flight. About 20% are ringed as chicks in the nest; this is valuable because their precise age and origin are then known. Information about the number of chicks and the outcome of the nest is collected by the Nest Record Scheme (www.bto.org/nrs).

OVER A
MILLION
BIRDS
RINGED EACH
YEAR

Taking part

Anyone finding a ringed bird can help by reporting where and when the bird was found and what happened to it – all reports are valuable, even if they are a common species found in a garden. Report ringed birds on www.ring.ac or by writing to us (see back cover).

New trainee ringers are always welcome - you have to get up early and it can be hard work, but enormously rewarding. More information is available on the BTO website and in our leaflet 'Training to ring'.

Oldest, furthest, fastest, strangest ...

Oldest – Manx Shearwater, 50 yrs 11 months.

Furthest – Arctic Tern from Wales to Australia 18,000 km.

Fastest – Gadwall Cambridgeshire to northern France – 352 km on the same day.

Strangest – Osprey ring found in the stomach of a crocodile in The Gambia.

