



## 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](http://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.



Want to ring?... here's how

# Want to find out more about training to ring?

## 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](mailto:ringing@bto.org)

**Website** [www.bto.org/ringing](http://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.



PHOTOS: JOHN HARDING / TOMMY HOLDEN / KATE RISEY / DAWN BALMER / IZ BLACKBURN / MARK GRANTHAM



[www.bto.org/ringing](http://www.bto.org/ringing)

## How to get involved...

### What is bird ringing?

Bird ringing involves the fitting of small, uniquely numbered, metal rings onto the legs of birds. Identifying birds as individuals helps us to gain an understanding of changes in the survival and movements of bird populations. In Britain and Ireland, the Ringing Scheme is organised by the BTO. Over 2,500 dedicated volunteer ringers ring and collect data on over a million birds each year.

### Who rings and what do sessions involve?

Bird ringers come in many guises, from individuals working in urban areas, to large groups working over a wide geographic area. Although most birds are caught in mist nets, this diversity does mean that there may also be opportunities to ring seabirds on Scottish islands or owl chicks in nest boxes, for example.



Most ringers catch birds when they're at their most active, which is often early in the morning, so sessions starting at or before 5 am are commonplace. A good morning's ringing may take you through to lunchtime, but there's always the possibility of catching birds coming to roost, or even of catching at night. You will also need to get involved in management of the ringing sites you use and maintaining equipment.

You'll find that ringing is a very satisfying activity. Not only will you be adding to a dataset used directly by conservationists, but also enjoying the privilege of seeing birds close up. Whether you want to train to ring birds in nest boxes, in your garden or at your local gravel pit, your contribution is vital.

### Do I need to be an expert birder?

Although you don't need to be a bird expert to ring, it does help if you have some prior bird knowledge. There's a lot to take in when you start training, so having to learn the difference between a Siskin and a Greenfinch at the same time can be taxing, but is still possible.

### How long does training take?

The length of time you'll spend training depends on what you would like to ring, how well you get on and how much time you spend ringing. If you want an unrestricted permit, this usually takes two to three years. However, if you're just interested in ringing nestling Blue Tits, or full grown Mute

FIND OUT  
HOW TO  
TRAIN TO  
RING

Swans, for example, then a couple of months' training may be sufficient. It is then up to your trainer to recommend you for your 'C' permit, which allows you to work alone, although your trainer guides you and is responsible for you.

### What do I need to do?

The best way to get in touch with a ringing trainer local to you is through the BTO website, where you can search a map using your postcode. A simple, online form then allows you to email a local trainer directly and see what activities you can join in with:

[www.bto.org/ringing/learn2ring](http://www.bto.org/ringing/learn2ring)

If after a few sessions, you're keen to carry on training, you can register as a trainee. Simply fill out an application form (available from the BTO website) and get your trainer to sign it. There is an annual permit fee and ringers contribute to the cost of the rings they use.

