



Colour Ringing in Chaddesley Woods – We Need Your Birds!

Following the completion of a successful breeding season in Chaddesley Woods, an exciting new colour ringing project was introduced as part of the University of Birmingham supplementary feeding study. Breeding adult Blue and Great Tits have been individually marked with combinations of plastic colour rings which will allow us to monitor their movements during the winter, with help from the local community. We are appealing for people in the Chaddesley Corbett area to keep an eye on their bird feeders and look out for birds wearing colour rings, as per the picture below. If you can report the location of the bird and the colour combination back to us at the Centre for Ornithology via email (slw710@bham.ac.uk) or telephone (0121 414 4090), we should be able to tell you whether the bird is male or female, who their mate is, and how many chicks they raised this year. Hopefully this will give us crucial information on how many of our blue and great tits move into the local villages during the winter, and should allow us to give you more information on the birds that are visiting your gardens!

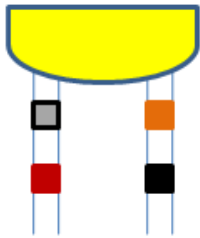
Reading Colour Combinations

Colour rings were placed on breeding adult blue and great tits in Chaddesley Woods during the 2010 breeding season and we're expecting some of these birds to move into the neighbouring villages during the autumn and winter. Below are the instructions for how to read the colour ring combinations, and a panel showing all the available colours. There is also a photo of one of the birds which shows a male just after being colour ringed and then describes his colour ring combination. Every bird has a BTO metal ring and this will usually be on the right leg.

The combination should be read from top to bottom right on the bird's **right** leg, and then from top to bottom on the bird's **left** leg. The rings should be read as if the bird is standing up, so the top right ring is the uppermost one, nearest the bird's belly, on the right leg. The first diagram below demonstrates a schematic view from the front of a great or blue tit, and the colour combination is BTO ring (M), red (R), orange (O), black (N).


Sightings can be reported back to the Centre for Ornithology via email (slw710@bham.ac.uk), via telephone 0121 414 4090 or via post addressed to Simone Webber, School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 0DE. A sample page of a sheet for recording sightings is included at the end of this document.


Colour Ringing Examples and Colour Palette





View from the front
BTO – Red – Orange – Black
(MRON)

Right Leg Left Leg


 BTO Ring (M)


 Yellow (Y)


 Pale Blue (P)


 Dark Blue (B)


 Pink (K)


 Silver Grey (S)


 Red (R)

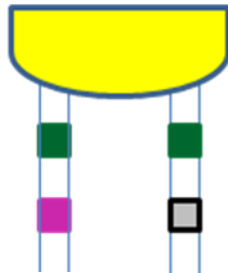
 Violet (V)

 Orange (O)

 Dark Green (G)

 White (W)

 Black Noir (N)



The bird in the photo is Green, Pink,
Green, Metal (GKGM)

Right Leg Left Leg

