

# Ring the Changes

## Activity 3

Where has that bird been?



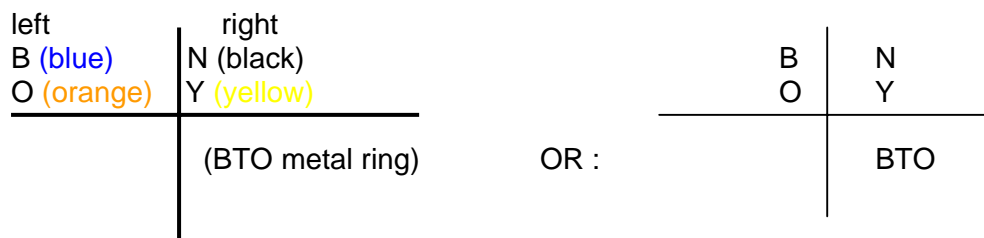
This Greenshank project is possible because birds can be fitted with 4 coloured rings on their legs. 8 different colours are used;

red, dark green, black, lime green,  
orange, blue, white, yellow.

The colour combinations are arranged so that any individual bird can be distinguished. Colour-rings can be on the upper leg (tibia) as well as on the lower leg (tarsus).

As well as colour rings, every bird should have a lightweight, uniquely numbered, metal ring from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Each metal ring also bears an address so that anyone finding a ringed bird can help by reporting its whereabouts and fate. These rings can only be read if the bird is caught whereas the colour rings can be seen with binoculars.

When a bird is caught or sighted the rings can be recorded like this, with the cross showing where the knee joint is.

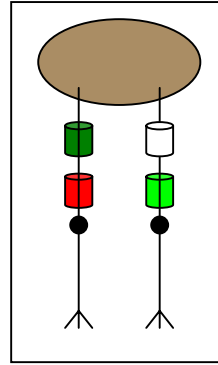


### Activity 3 – where has that bird been?

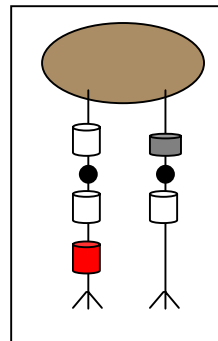
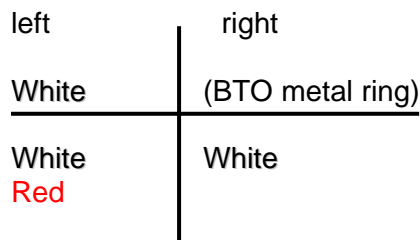
Another way of recording the ring combinations is like this:  
W//WR + BTO//W

Black and dark blue rings are distinguished by using N for black (or niger) otherwise a B can be either!

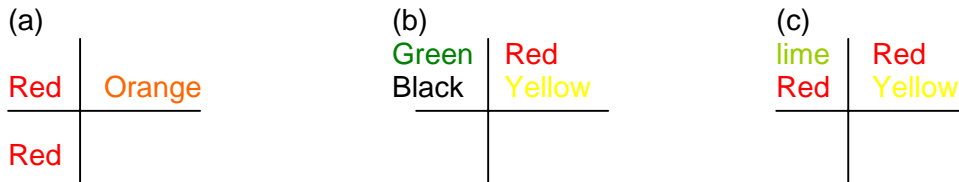
The left leg is recorded first e.g. -  
GR WL is green over red on left tibia  
and white over lime on right tibia.



W//WR + BTO//W is white on left tibia (upper leg) and white above red on left tarsus  
opposite BTO metal ring on right tibia and white on right tarsus. The double line  
represents the "knee" or leg joint.



Which of these birds has been to France? Look on the table below.



Go to meet the birds and see what you can find out about them. ([add link](#))

Ring	Where bird was ringed	Where is has been seen
G NRY	Thorney	Helland, Norway
R//R OY	Farlington	Surnadal, Norway
N & RN	Farlington	Waghausal, Germany
N//R NN	Farlington	Oviedo, N Spain
GR RY	Thorney	Caceres, Spain
LR RY	Thorney	LeCrotoy, France
R//R O	Farlington	Morocco
R//R LG	Farlington	Taw-Torridge Estuary, UK
GY RG	Thorney	Staines, UK
OL LY	Thorney	Hicking, Norfolk UK