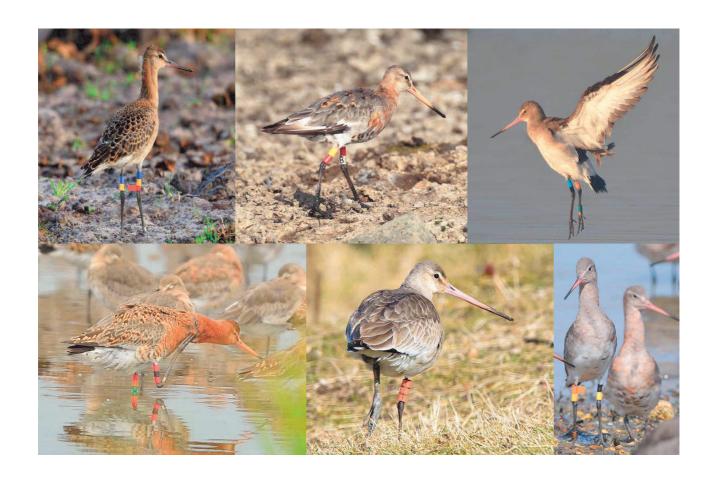
ILLUSTRATED KEY FOR BLACK-TAILED GODWITS' COLOUR RING SCHEMES



N. CIDRAES-VIEIRA

VERSION 6 - APRIL 2015

COVER PHOTOS

R6BYBY Dutch Photo: Jurgen Rotteveel 2010

R8-YR Icelandic Photo: Les Foster 2012 BN-O//B Scotish Photo: Henk Hin 2013

ROG-RNR Kent, UK Photo: Russell Sherriff 2014
RL-O= Northern Ireland Photo: Jonathan Clark 2013
NY-OfY French Photo: Bryan Wright 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Thanks to J. Alves, A. Cordeiro, A. Díaz, R. Duncan, S. Elisdóttir, S. Fasano, G. Gelinaud, J. Gill, J. Gómez-Pantoja, J. Gonin, N. Groen, T. Gunnarsson, L. Hatton, J. Hooijmeijer, H. van Huffelen, N. Karlionova, V. Lelong, P. Lourenço, A. Masero, J. Melter, R. Ottvall, M. Pavia, P. Pinchuck, P. Potts, F. Robin, M. Roodbergen, J. Smart, F. Santiago, S. Schmitt, G. Spanoghe, T. Svirodova, B. Thorisson, D. Turner, J. Valkama and J. Wilson for the information about the schemes.

To D. Raes for including a link to the key on the *European Colour-ring Birding* website.

CONTACT

New schemes, updates, corrections and new information on schemes please send it to limosalimosa(you know what to put here)sapo.pt

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PREFACE

This is the sixth edition of the *Illustrated key for Black-tailed Godwit colour ring schemes*. The information was updated, new schemes added, and names recoded – unique country schemes and centraly coordinated schemes were renamed with the two-letter country codes.

As on previous versions, schemes without confirmed information were not included. They will be included as soon as information about them became available from ringers and scheme coordinators.

This version includes some schemes with no ringed birds from programs expected to begin running on 2015.

Schemes with birds ringed only on XX century were removed, with exception of RSPB1 that is known to still have at least one bird alive.

NOTES ABOUT SIGHTS

(Things to have in mind when seeing a ringed bird)

Discoloured rings – some colours can change with time or became dirty. White is the most problematic colour, as it easily turns yellowish, or even reddish. On other hand, light-coloured rings can became whitish.

Some colours are difficult to distinguish, specially with poor light conditions. The most easily confusing colours are:

dark green - dark blue - black; yellow - orange – red; light blue (pale) - light green (lime)

Ring size & shape - It's important to pay attention on the <u>size and shape of</u> <u>rings</u>. Most observers don't care about it, but in some cases this is important to scheme identification.

Flags - From the wrong angle, flags-rings can appear as a normal colour ring (more easily than thought!)

Engraved rings – some rings have one or more <u>letters and/or numbers on it</u>

Tarsometatarsus rings - below ankle ("knee") rings are difficult to see, specially small dark rings.

Lost rings –not common, but some cases are known to happen.

Don't forget! Bird's left leg it's only on your left side if you are looking the bird from back

How to Interpret the Drawings

Each drawing indicates all possible combination of rings to the represented scheme. Figure 1 explains a hypothetic scheme.

Grey arrows – indicates rings that could have alternative positions and indicates the possible positions it can be.

A Multicolour ring represents a ring position that could receive several colours. The multicolour ring is painted with all possible colours for that particular position.

On drawings' right side is showing all possible colours to all positions. Metal ring is only present on right side if included as part of the scheme.

L and R refer to Left and Right bird's legs. When both L & R are on both legs, the leg on drawing's left side could be either the bird's left or bird's right leg and the same for the leg on drawing's right side.

Drawings were done on scale when information about ring size is available (drawings without the 5 mm scale symbol aren't on scale).

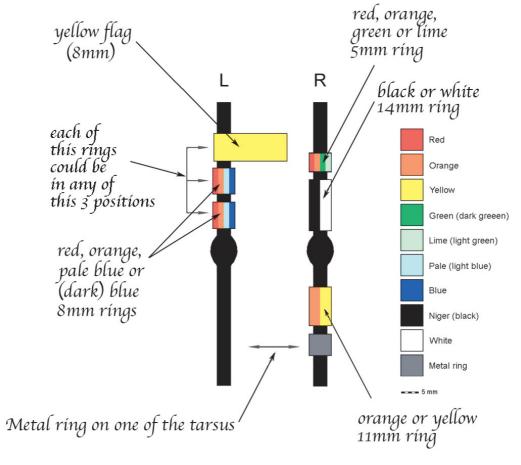


Figure 1 – drawing explanation based on a hypothetic scheme

REPORTING SIGHTS

WHERE TO SEND OBSERVATIONS

Information on sights should be sent to the **ringer** and to the **National Ringing Centre** of the country were the bird was observed. If you don't know which ringer should be contacted, you can send it to the <u>International Wader Study Group</u> (IWSG) or to the <u>EURING</u>.

COLOUR CODES

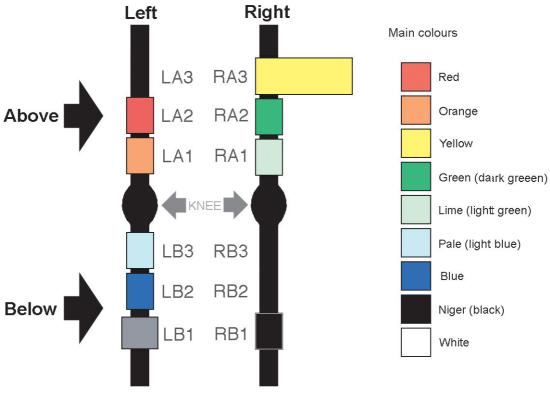
Colours are represented by letters. Most people use the coding from EURING but others codes are also used, which unfortunately can result in mismatches. Table below lists the codes for the 9 most commonly used colours and 5 barely used colours. Grey can be light or dark but there's no independent code.

Colour	INTERNATIONAL (EURING)	FRENCH
RED	R	R
ORANGE	0	0
YELLOW	Υ	J
GREEN (DARK GREEN)	G	V
LIME (LIGHT GREEN)	L	Р
PALE (LIGHT BLUE)	Р	
BLUE (DARK BLUE)	В	В
BLACK (NIGER)	N	N
WHITE	W	WH
DARK PINK (CARMIN)	С	
PURPLE (VIOLET)	V	M
LIGHT PINK	K	
BROWN (UMBER)	U	
GREY (SILVER)	S	

There are several ways to write ring combinations. This section described some of the ways used to report Black-tailed godwit sights.

Absolute positions

Figure 2 shows absolute positions of rings. This system is mainly used on databases but it could helps to understand the filling of webforms and by what we mean by Above Knee¹ and Below Knee. In this case, and in opposition to all others systems, rings are read down-up



Bird seen from back

Figure 2 – Absolute positions explanation based on a hypothetic scheme. Each leg has 3 possible positions on tibia (above knee) and 3 on tarsus (below knee), even not all positions must effectively have rings. Positions are numbered upwards and include metal rings. In this example there's only one ring on right tarsus, on position RB1, and 2 on left tibia, Orange on LA1 and Red on LA2, while left tarsus and right tibia have all 3 positions full.

¹ It's usually referred as knee or ankle but has no exact match on human's anatomy. It splits the leg in tibiatarsus (commonly referred as tibia) and tarsometatarsus (commonly referred as tarsus)

http://limosa.no.sapo.pt/Key.html

IWSG system

Always begin by left leg rings. Rings on left and right legs separated by a plus (+) or a minus (-)

Above and below knee rings are separated by a slash² (/) Each ring position separated by a comma (,) Rings written from top to down See figure 3 for examples

Simplified system

Same as before but with no commas. Usually rings on left and right legs separated by a minus (-)
See figure 3 for examples

Simplified computer friendly system

Same IWSG, without commas, always a minus (-) for legs and a plus (+), instead of splash (/), to knee
See figure 3 for examples

RUG³ system

Only applies to the RUG schemes (Netherlands). First letter is the flag colour followed by a number that gives flag position. Then all other 4 rings from downwards, first left then right leg.

See figure 3 for examples

² Some people uses two slashes (//)

³ University of Groningen, Netherlands

^{8 &}lt;u>http://limosa.no.sapo.pt/Key.html</u>

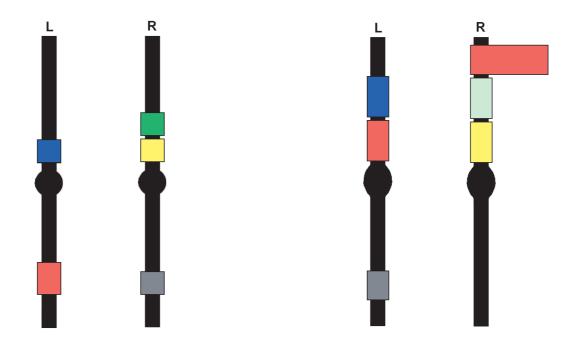


Figure 3 – examples on ring combinations. On left, example 1, from Pott's The Solent scheme. On right, example 2, a red flag (R2) from RUG's scheme.

IWSG/EURING

example 1 - ,,B/,,R-,G,Y/,,m (or ,,B/,,R+,G,Y/,,m) example 2 - ,B,R/,,m-Rf,L,Y/,,, (or ,B,R/,,m+Rf,L,Y/,,,)

Simplified system

example 1 - B/R-GY/m

example 2 - BR/m-RfLY

Simplified computer friendly system

example 1 - B+R-GY+m

example 2 - BR+m-RfLY

RUG system

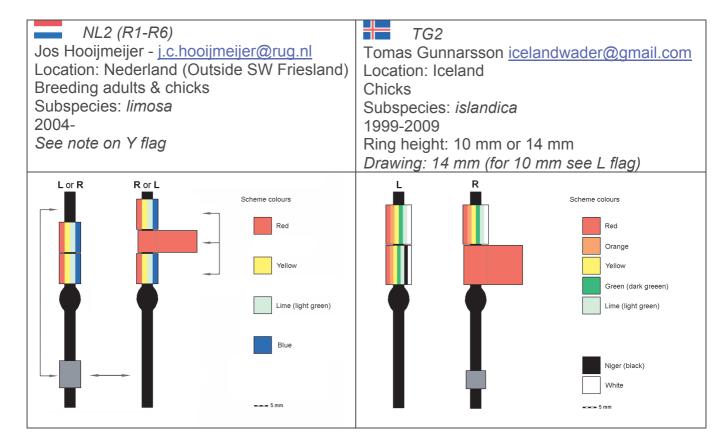
Example 2 - R2BRLY

KEY TO RINGED BLACK-TAILED GODWITS

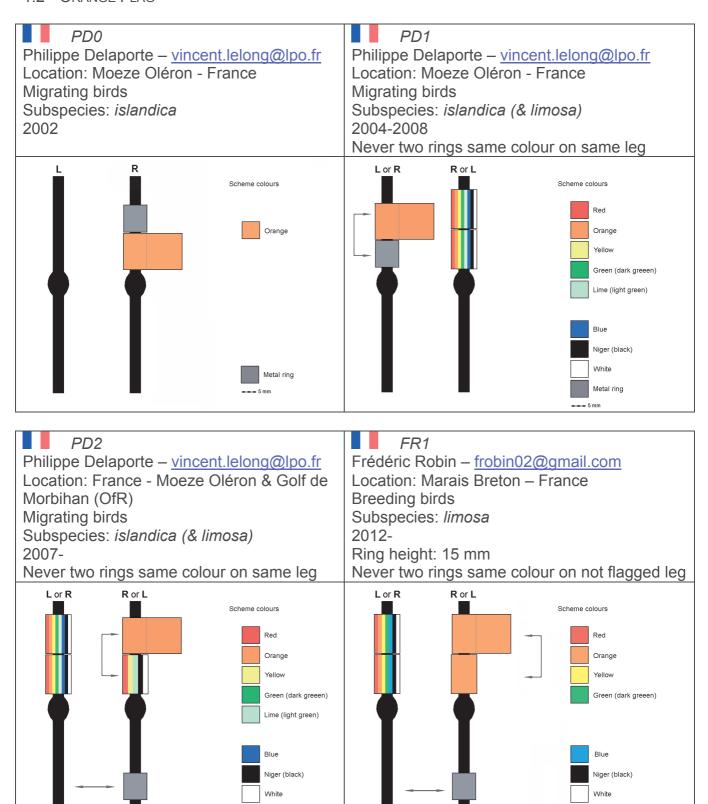
	Page
1. WITH FLAGS	11
1.1 RED	11
1.2 Orange	12
1.3 YELLOW	13
1.4 (DARK) GREEN	14
1.5 LIME (LIGHT GREEN)	15
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1.7 WHITE	16
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2. No Flag, With Engraved Rings	18
(WITH LETTERS, NUMBERS, LINES OR OTHER SYMBOLS)	
2.1 JUST ENGRAVED RINGS (& METAL RING)	18
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1. WITH FLAG

1.1 - RED FLAG



1.2 - ORANGE FLAG



Metal ring

1.3 - YELLOW FLAG

NL1 (Y1-Y6)

Jos Hooijmeijer — <u>j.c.hooijmeijer@rug.nl</u>

Location: Friesland - Nederland

Nesting adults & chicks Subspecies: *limosa*

2004 -

Ring height: 8 mm (2004/05) or 11 mm

(2006 -)

Drawing: 8 mm (for 11 mm see L, R or B

flag drawings)

Note: white only with flag on top left

position

Note: lime never with flag on top left



Tomas Gunnarsson <u>icelandwader@gmail.com</u>

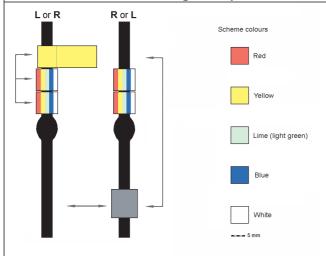
Location: Iceland

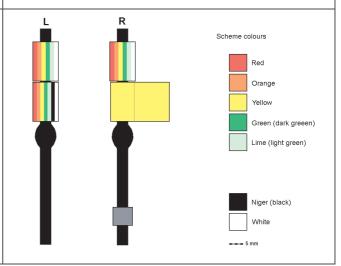
Chicks

Subspecies: islandica

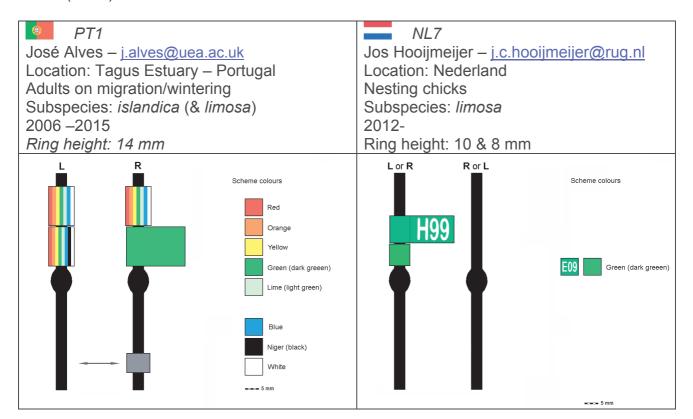
2012-

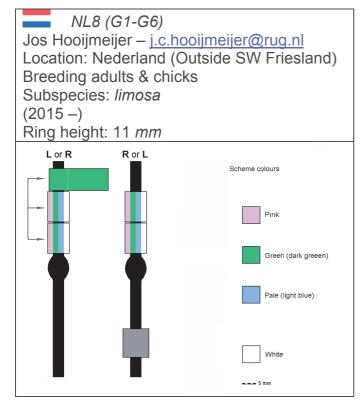
Ring height: 14 mm



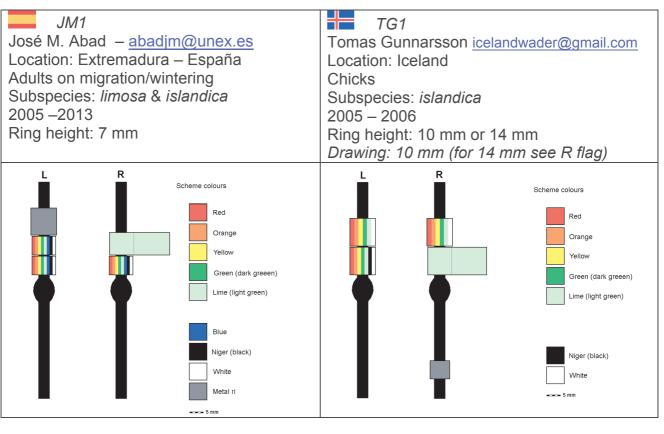


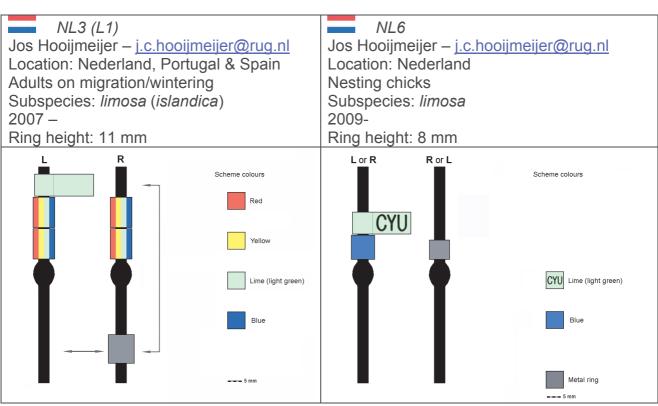
1.4 – (DARK) GREEN FLAG



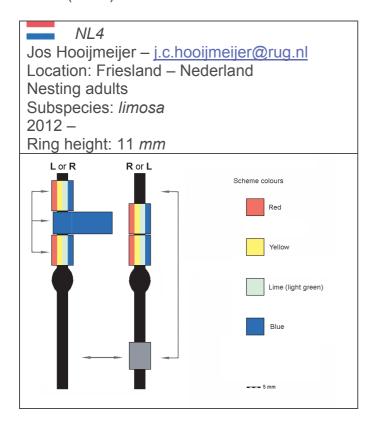


1.5 - LIME (LIGHT GREEN) FLAG

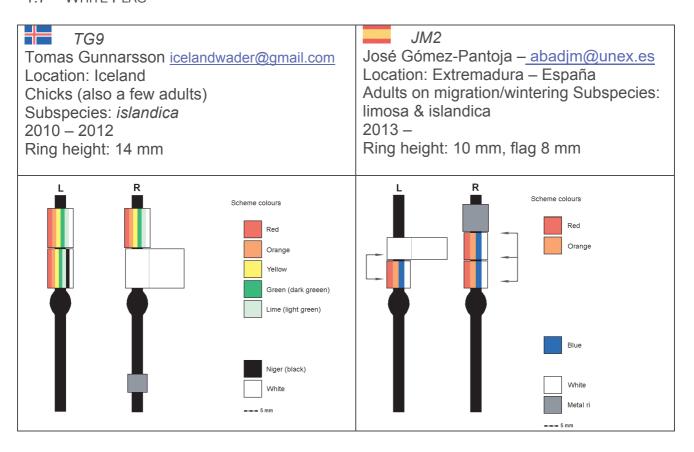




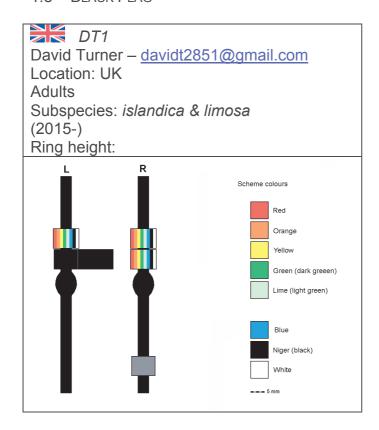
1.6 - (DARK) BLUE FLAG



1.7 – WHITE FLAG

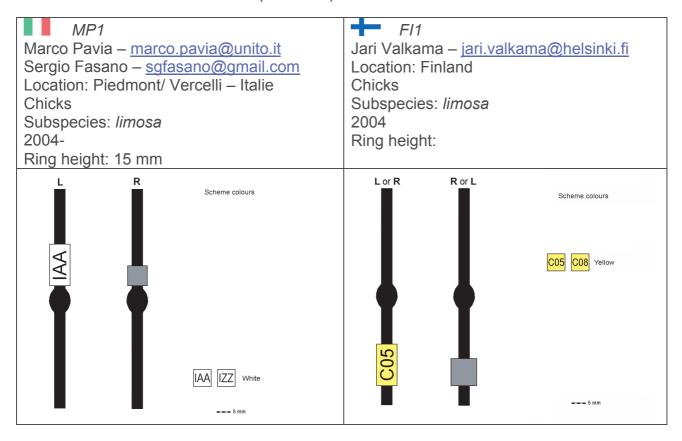


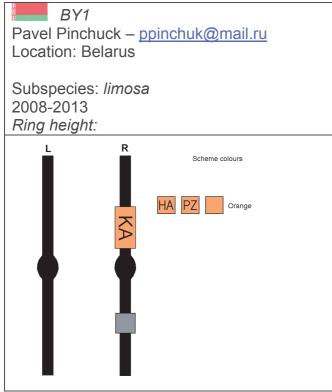
1.8 – BLACK FLAG



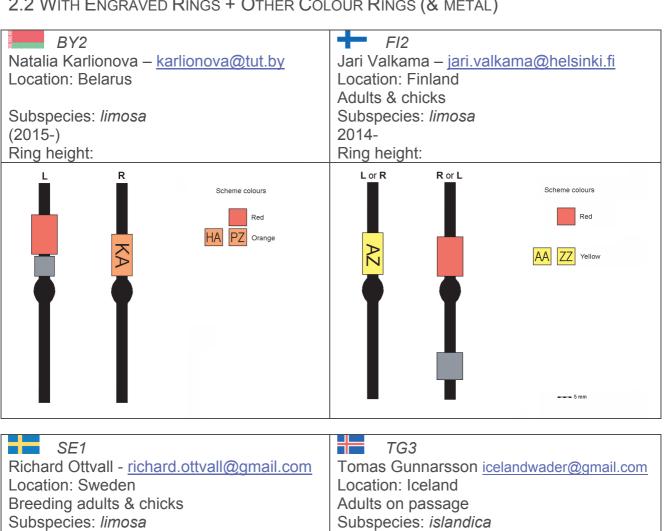
2. WITHOUT FLAG, WITH ENGRAVED RINGS

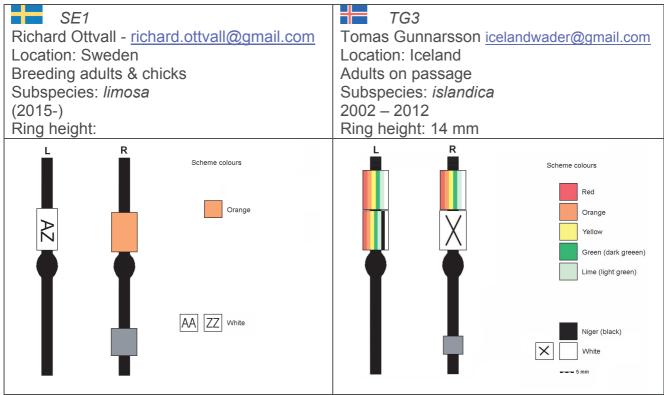
2.1 – ONLY ENGRAVED RINGS (& METAL)

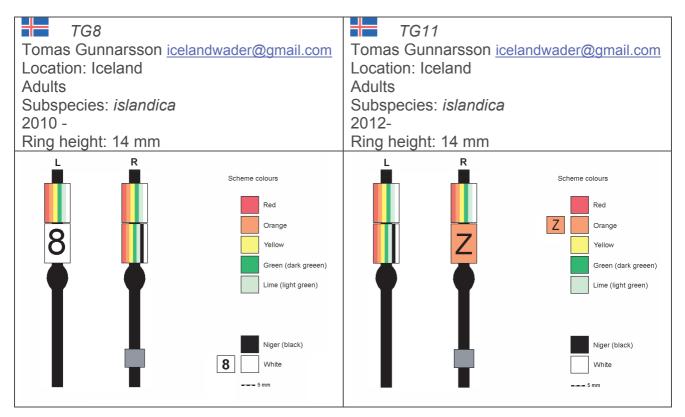


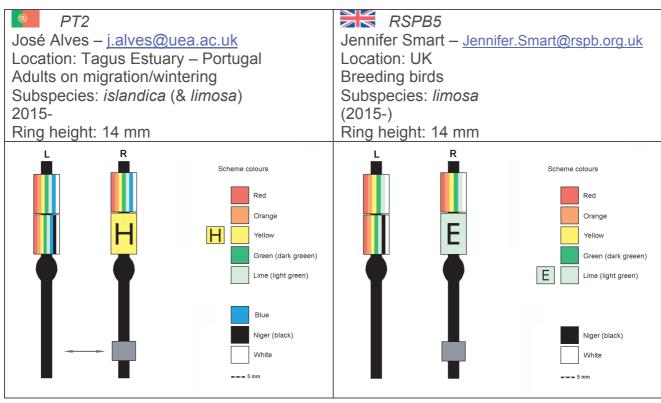


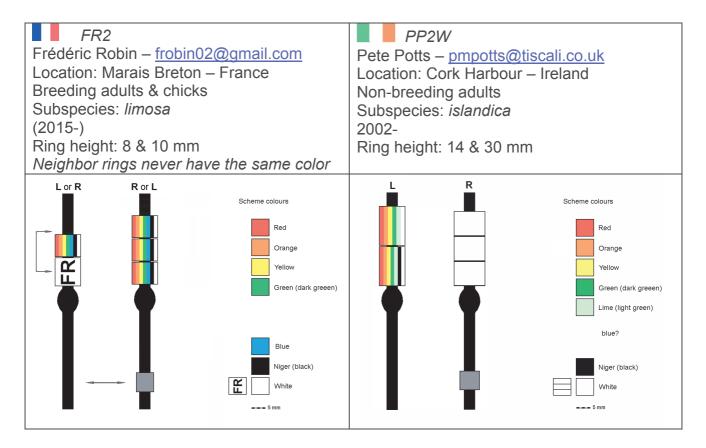
2.2 WITH ENGRAVED RINGS + OTHER COLOUR RINGS (& METAL)

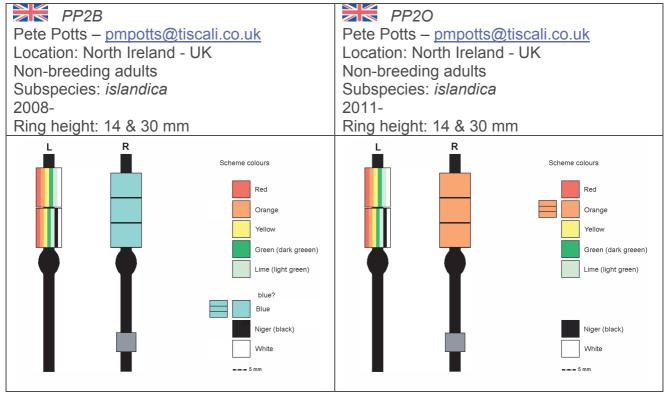


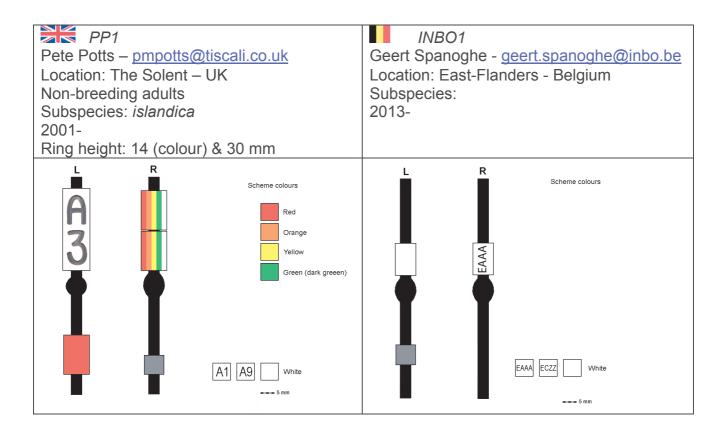






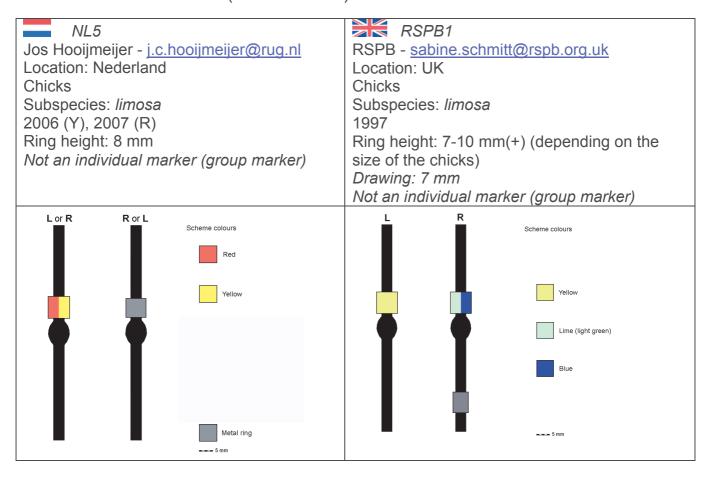






3. No Flag & No Engraved Rings (By Number Of Rings)

3.1 – ONE OR TWO RINGS (+ METAL RING)

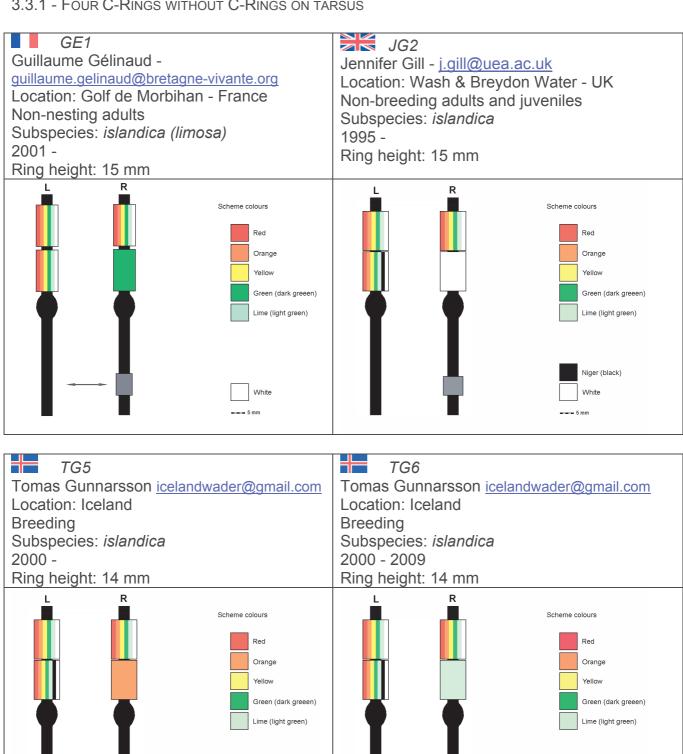


3.2 – THREE RINGS (+ METAL RING)



3.3 - Four Colour Rings (+ Metal Ring)

3.3.1 - FOUR C-RINGS WITHOUT C-RINGS ON TARSUS

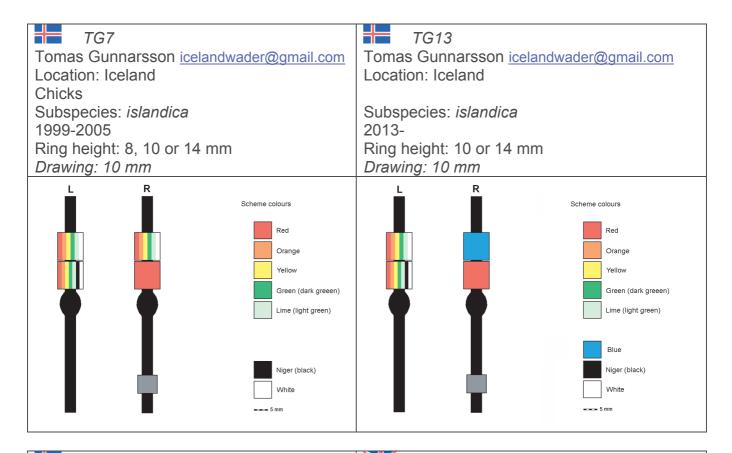


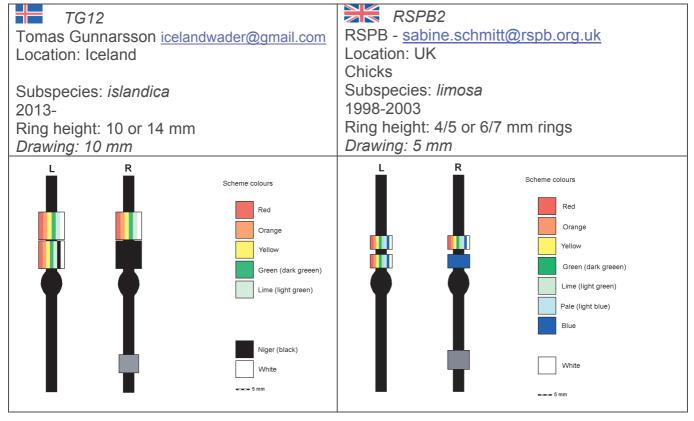
Niger (black)

White

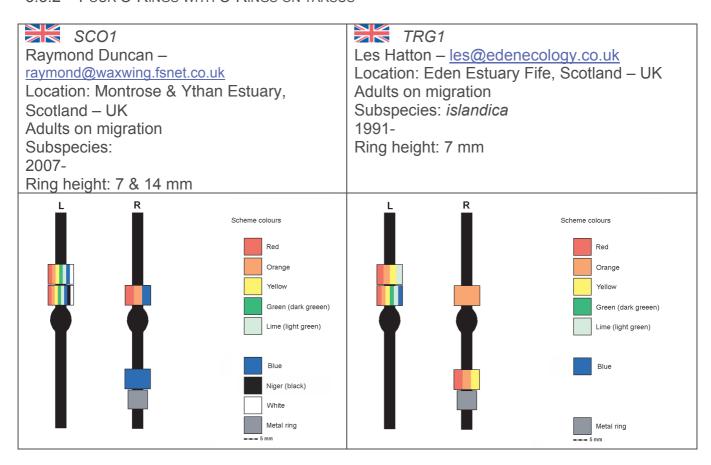
Niger (black)

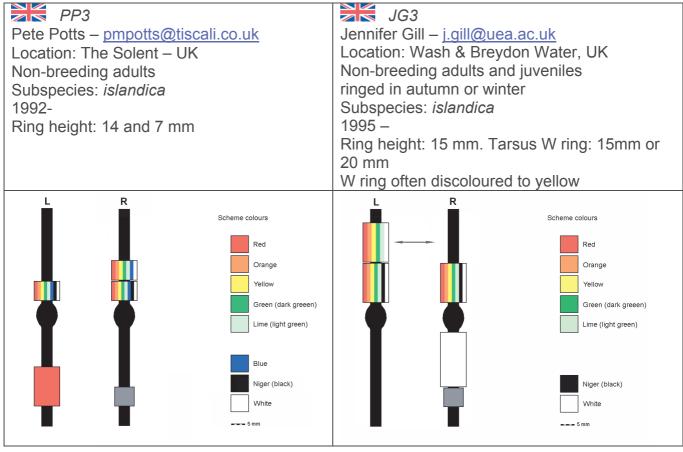
White

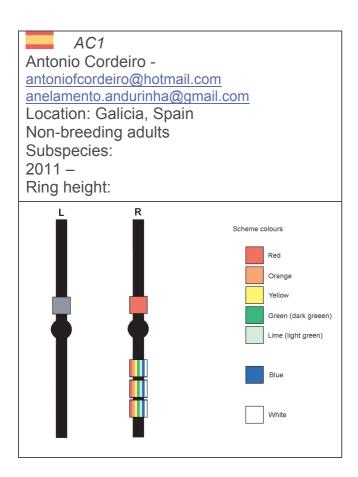




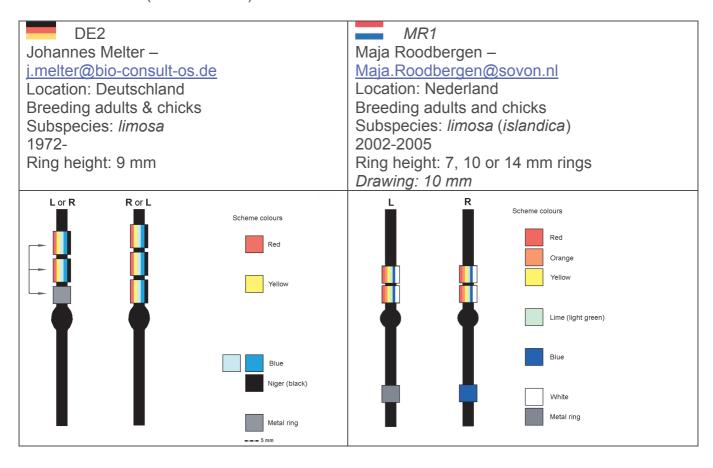
3.3.2 - Four C-Rings with C-Rings on tarsus







3.5 – FIVE RINGS (+ METAL RING)



3.6 – SIX RINGS (+ METAL RING)

