

Photographic Guide to Colour-ringed Red Knot

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Overview

- Yellow flags with black codes have been fitted in Norway or Iceland in May.
- Orange flags with black codes have been fitted across the UK and Ireland.
 - A single series of codes has been used for yellow flags, and many of the same codes are used on orange flags.
 - Therefore, all you have to do is to note flag colour and read the code to identify an individual bird.
 - However, if the code can't be read, recording the colour and position of ring and flag (*e.g.* which leg and whether it is upper (tibia) or lower (tarsus)) will be useful.
- Email contact for both yellow and orange flags is Jim Wilson jimwils@online.no
- The following pages show the various variations, and a few other schemes seen in UK.
- For one-letter codes for colours see: <https://www.waderstudygroup.org/projects/colour-marking/describing-combinations/>
- To match any colour-ringed wader to a scheme, use the International Wader Study Group Register at <https://www.waderstudygroup.org/projects/colour-marking/the-register/>

Norwegian Y-flags on Upper Leg

- These are from catches in May 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2016.
- Distinguishing features:
 - Upper left leg: yellow flag (Yf) with three letter code. The codes were imprinted into the plastic and inked in; some ink has faded (see photo) and these codes are readable only when close enough to see the imprint.
 - **OR** yellow flag with a two-character alphanumeric code. These codes are engraved into a yellow-black laminate, so cannot fade.
 - Upper right leg: red ring ('red on the right means Norway').
 - Lower right leg: metal ring (not visible in this picture). This is not an essential feature to see.



© Benjamin Gnep, DE

Yf CPX, September 2018, Griend, The Netherlands

Norwegian Y-flags on Lower Leg

- Catch in May 2019.
- Distinguishing features:
 - Upper right leg: red ring
 - Lower right leg: yellow flag (Yf) with a two or three character alphanumeric code. The flags are laminates so no fading.
 - Lower right leg: metal ring under the flag, holding the flag above the foot to make the flag easier to read and wear less. Metal ring is not an essential feature to see.



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Yf KA, December 2020, Meols, Cheshire, UK

Icelandic Y-flags on Upper Leg

- These are from catches in May 2011, 2014
- Distinguishing features:
 - Upper left leg: yellow ring.
 - Upper right leg: yellow flag (Yf) with three letter code. The codes were added with ink and some are faded, and thus are hard to read.

OR

- Upper left leg: red ring.
- Upper right leg yellow flag with two number code.
- Lower right leg: metal ring (not visible in the picture). This is not an essential feature to see.



Yf UVX, November 2020, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, UK



Yf 44, Stour Estuary, Essex, UK

Icelandic Y-flags on Lower Leg

- Catches in May 2017
- Distinguishing features:
 - Yellow ring over Yellow flag (**YYf**): yellow ring on upper right leg; laminated yellow flag with alphanumeric code on lower right leg with metal ring under it.
 - Yellow flag over yellow ring (**YfY**): metal ring on upper right leg; laminated yellow flag with alphanumeric code on lower right leg, with yellow ring under it.
 - Essential to note flag colour.
- Note the wear visible on bottom corner of flag: read with care! If possible read both sides of the flag to be sure of start and end of code.



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YYf 30H, December 2020, Meols, Cheshire, UK



© Howard Stockdale, UK

YfY 48C, February 2020, Heysham, UK

NW England – N Wales O-flags

- Main catches: Sept 2017 (pale blue ring, P), March 2018 (green ring, G), March 2019 (taller green ring), July 2020 (taller pale blue ring)
- Distinguishing features:
 - Lower *left* leg: laminated orange flag (Of) with alphanumeric code above pale blue or green ring. The codes are:
 - two alphanumeric codes (pale blue ring); 3 letters (taller pale blue ring)
 - two or three letters (green or tall green ring)
 - Essential to note flag and ring colour but not height of ring.
 - Lower right leg: metal ring. This is not an essential feature to see.



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OfP 74 and OfG AEV, March 2020, Meols, Cheshire, UK

Mid-Wales Ringing Group O-flags

- Orange flag (Of) over taller pale blue (P) ring on lower *right* leg.
- If you can't read the code it is useful to determine which leg the flag is on as this distinguishes Mid-Wales RG flags from NW England-N Wales flags.



OfP TAX, September 2020, Ribble Estuary, UK



OfP TAC, November 2020, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, UK

Irish O-flags

- Marker ring: orange for Ireland (OfO); yellow for Scotland (OfY)
- Colour marks on lower *right* leg



© George Dunbar, UK

OfO LCA, May 2020, Bardsey Island, Wales

Scottish O-flags



© Mike Williamson, UK

OfY HAL, September 2020, Aberlady Bay, Scotland

NIOZ - The Netherlands, France

- Distinguishing features:
 - Two colour rings and one *uncoded* flag on either left or right lower leg. Two colour rings on other lower leg.
 - Flag can be yellow (Y, current), black (N, recent), lime (L, older), green (G, rather old) or red (R, very old).
 - Flag can (rarely) be on the upper leg.
 - Essential to determine all the colours and all the positions on each leg as all possible combinations are used.
 - Note: flag and/or colour rings can be lost with age. Such birds are a likely source of Knot that don't match any of the schemes in this guide. They can sometimes be linked to a known bird, so are worth reporting.
 - The photos show GYfY+YR (left), and RN+YfRR and PR+PYNf (right)
 - Email contact: Job ten Horn at shorebirds@nioz.nl



Humber Ringing Group Scheme

- Four colour marks, all on left leg: Red flag (Rf) plus three rings
- Note: the red can fade to orange
- Email: Ian Nicholson ian.n1000@btinternet.com



Rf-BBR, Dec 2020 Dee Estuary, Cheshire, UK



R-RfOB, Oct 2020, Stour Estuary, Essex, UK

Wash Wader Ringing Group scheme

- Lime flag (Lf) with black lettering above a green (G) ring on lower left leg.
- Scheme started in August 2020.
- Email contact: sightings@wwrg.org.uk or <https://wwrg.org.uk/contact-us/report-a-colour-marked-bird>



LfG CAE newly ringed, August 2020, The Wash, UK



LfG CAE in the field, November 2020, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, UK

Polish flag scheme

- Yellow ring on upper left leg. Red flag (Rf) with white (W) letters on upper right leg.
- Email contact: w.meissner@ug.edu.pl or <http://ring.stornit.gda.pl>



Y+Rf A05, July 2020, Fanø, Denmark



(Y+)Rf A27, November 2019, Ribble Estuary, UK