ILLUSTRATED KEY FOR BLACK-TAILED GODWITS' COLOUR RING SCHEMES



N. CIDRAES-VIEIRA

VERSION 7 – MAY 2021

COVER PHOTOS

R6BYBY - Dutch. Photo: Jurgen Rotteveel
R8-YR - Icelandic. Photo: Les Foster 2012
BN-O//B - Scotish. Photo: Henk Hin 2013
ROG-RNR - Kent, UK. Photo: Russell Sherriff
RL-O= - Northern Ireland. Photo: Jonathan Clark
NY-OfY - French. Photo: Bryan Wright

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

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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 seventh 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 umbrella 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 2021 and 2022.

Several older schemes with no expected birds alive were excluded.

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, especially with poor light conditions. The most confusing colours are:

dark green - dark blue - black;

yellow - orange - red;

light blue (pale) - light green (lime)

Ring size - It's important to pay attention on the size and shape of rings. Most observers don't care about it, but in some cases this is a very good help to scheme identification.

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

Engraved rings – some have one or more letters and/or number on it. Dots and stripes are also used.

Tarsometatarsus rings - below ankle ("knee") rings are difficult to see, especially 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 legs. When absent, legs could be switched.

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

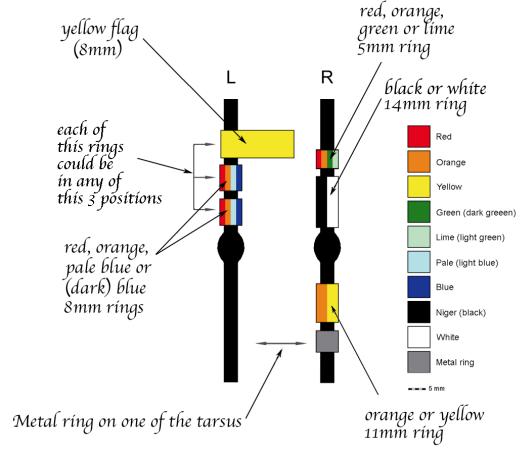


Figure 1 – drawing explanation based on a hypothetic scheme

REPORTING SIGHTS

WHERE TO SEND OBSERVATIONS

Information on sights should be sent to the **ringer** and to the **National Ringing Authority** 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</u>
<u>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. Usually grey rings are the metal ring from the National Ringing Authority also coded as "m".

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	Wн
DARK PINK (CARMIN)	С	
PURPLE (VIOLET)	V	М
LIGHT PINK	K	
BROWN (UMBER)	U	
GREY (SILVER)	S	

SYSTEMS OF REPRESENTING RINGS COMBINATIONS

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 help to understand the filling of webforms and by what we mean by *Above Knee*¹ and *Below Knee*. In this case, and <u>in opposition to</u> all others systems, rings are read down-up

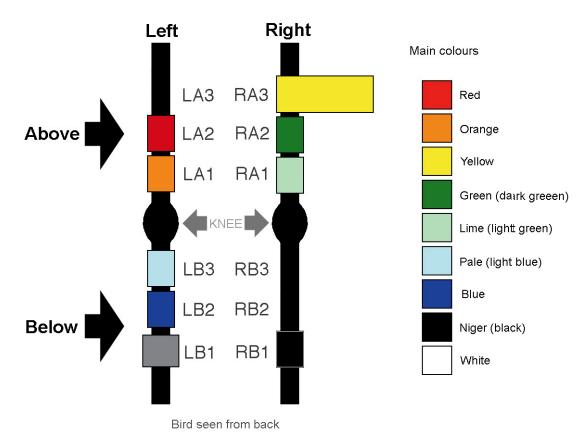


Figure 2 – Absolute positions explanation based on a hypothetic scheme. Each leg has 3 possible positions on tibia (above knee) and 3 possible positions on tarsus (below knee). But not all positions will have rings. Positions are numbered upwards and include metal rings. In this example there's only one ring on right tarsus (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)

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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. 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

French (Moeze-Oléron)

Always begin by left leg rings. Rings on left and right legs separated by two slash (//)

Each ring position separated by a slash (/)

Rings written from top to down

There is no symbol for knee once the birds ringed at Moeze-Oléron haven't rings on tarsus.

² Some people uses two slashes (//)

³ University of Groningen, Netherlands

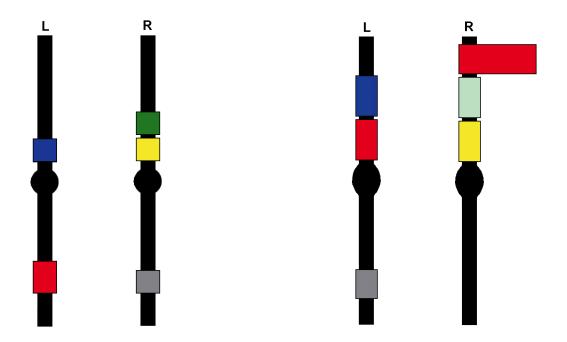


Figure 3 – examples on ring combinations. On left, example 1, from Pott's The Solent scheme. On right, example 2, a red flag (R2) from RUG's scheme.

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

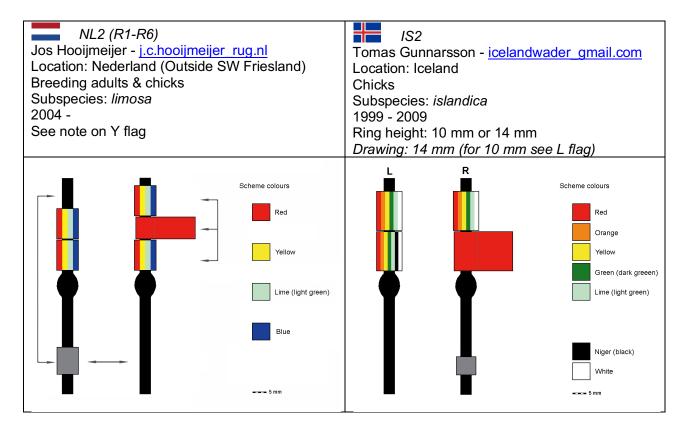
Example 2 - R2BRLY

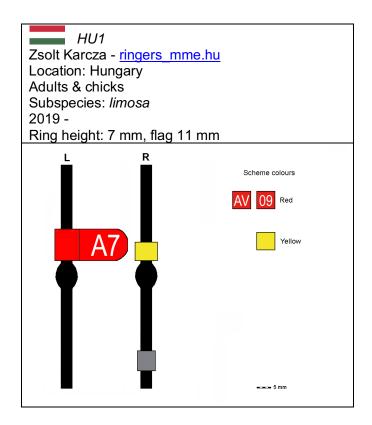
KEY TO RINGED BLACK-TAILED GODWITS

1	L. WITH FLAG	11
	1.1 - RED FLAG	11
	1.2 – CARMIN FLAG	12
	1.3 - Orange Flag	13
	1.4 – YELLOW FLAG	14
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	1.8 – PALE (BLUE) FLAG	17
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	3.4 – Five Rings (+ Metal Ring)	32
	3.5 – Six Rings (+ Metal Ring)	33

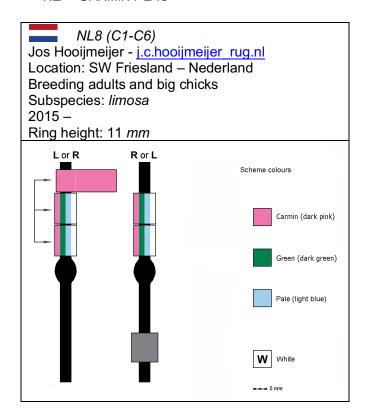
1. WITH FLAG

1.1 - RED FLAG

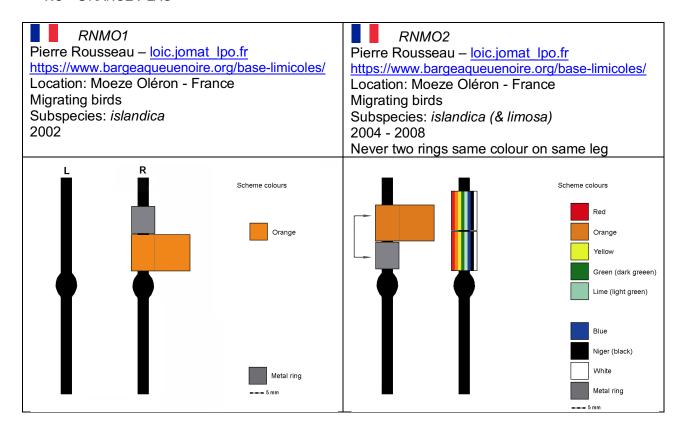


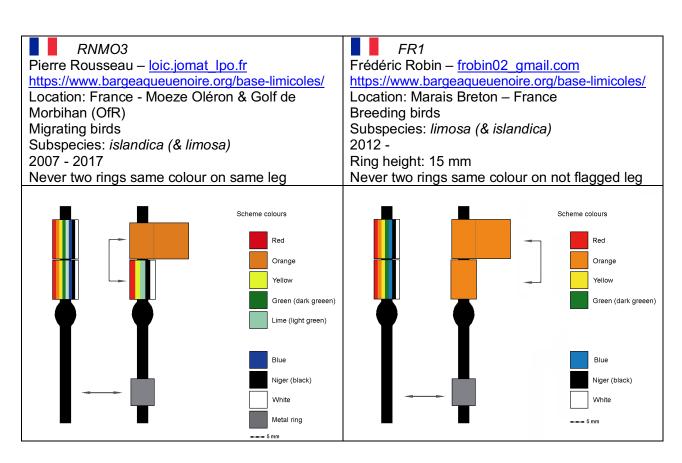


1.2 - CARMIN FLAG

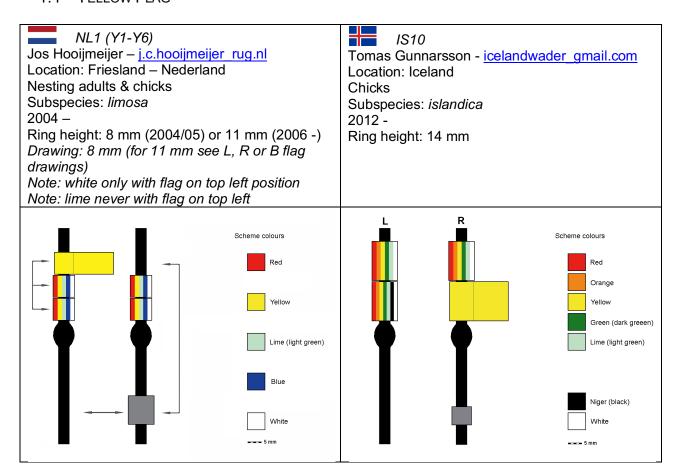


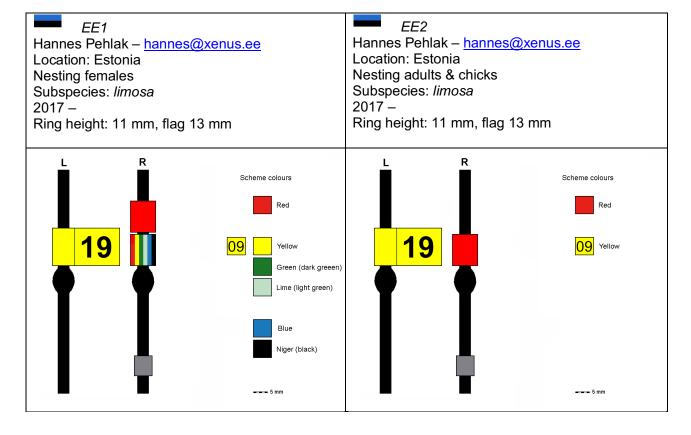
1.3 - ORANGE FLAG



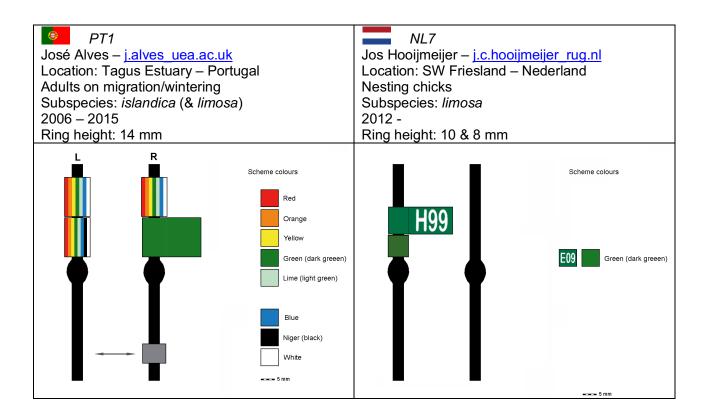


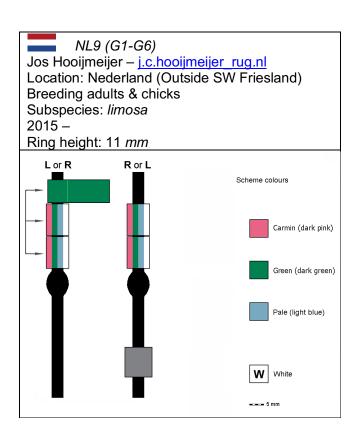
1.4 - YELLOW FLAG



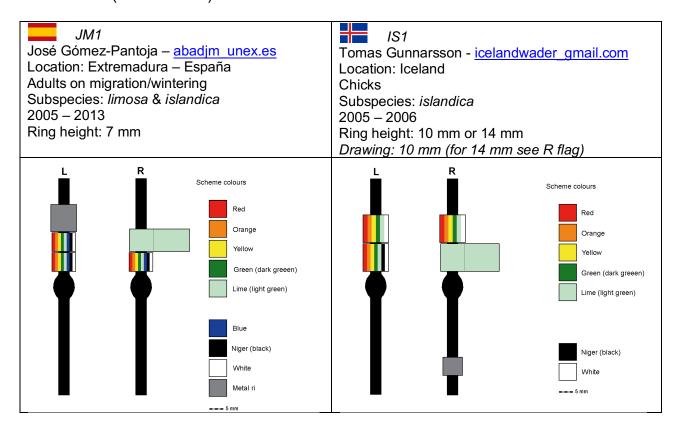


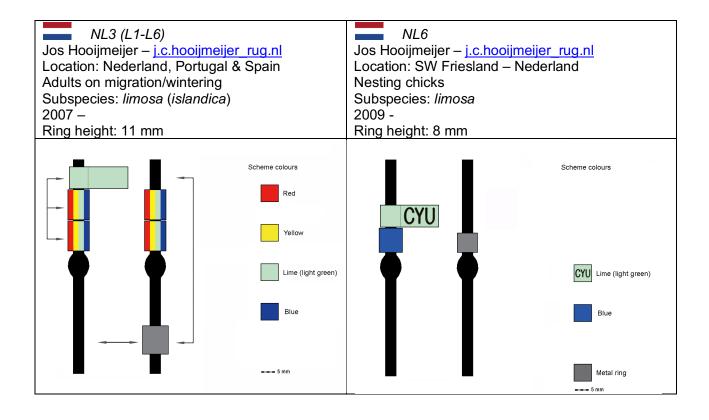
1.5 - (DARK) GREEN FLAG



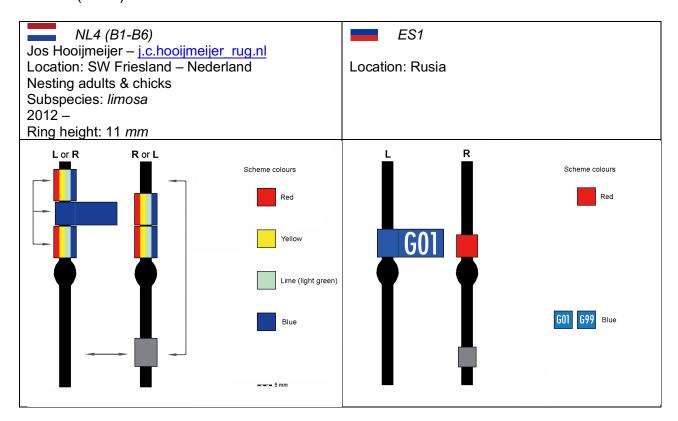


1.6 - LIME (LIGHT GREEN) FLAG

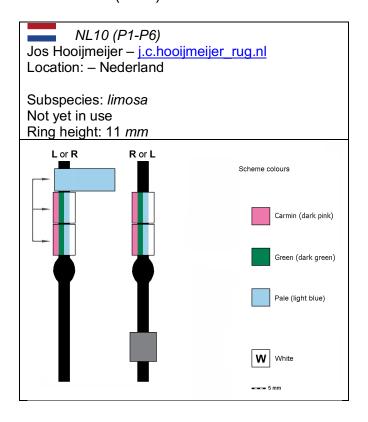




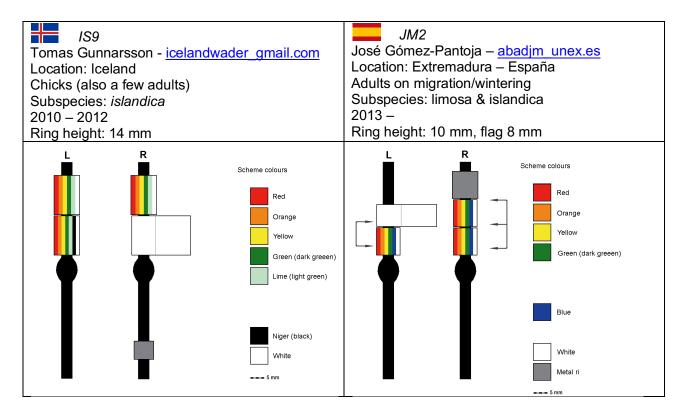
1.7 – (DARK) BLUE FLAG

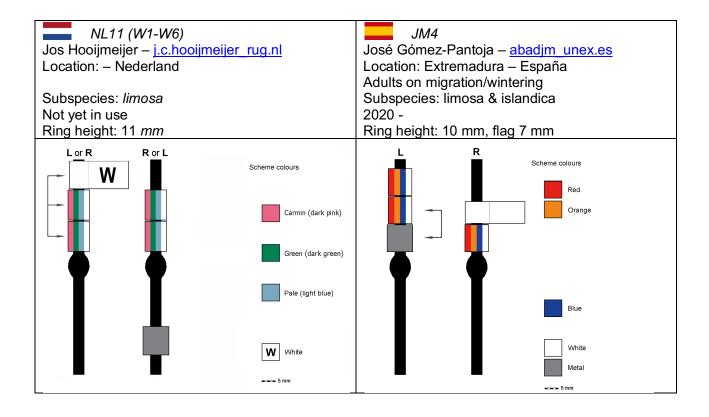


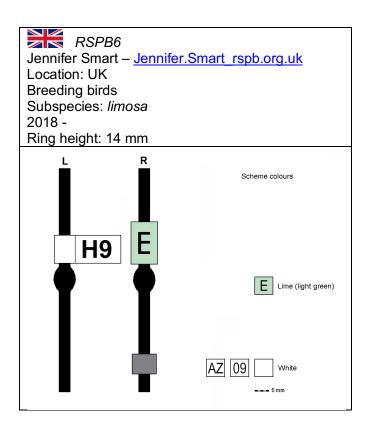
1.8 – PALE (BLUE) FLAG



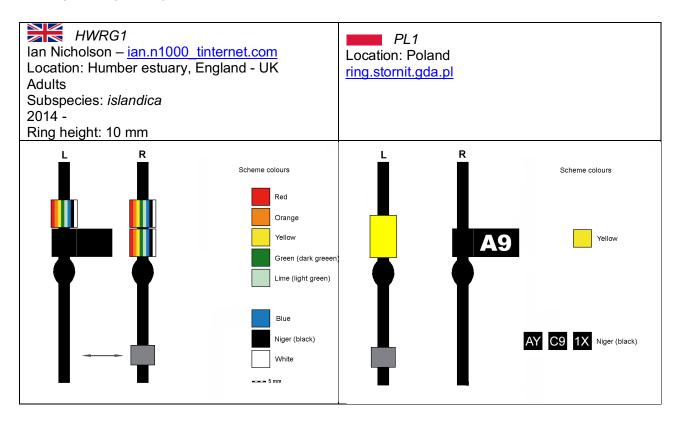
1.9 – WHITE FLAG





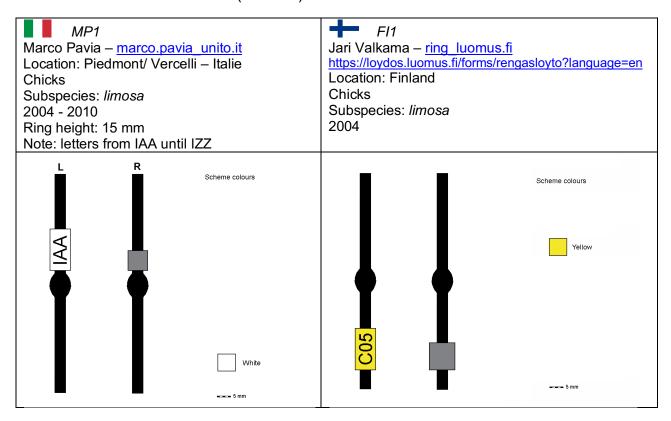


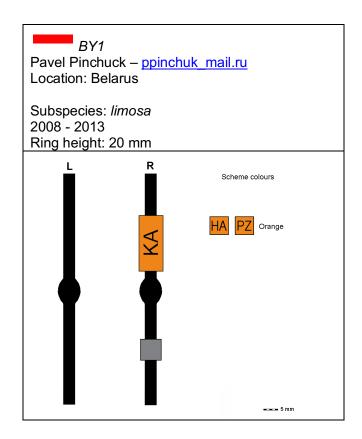
1.10 - BLACK FLAG



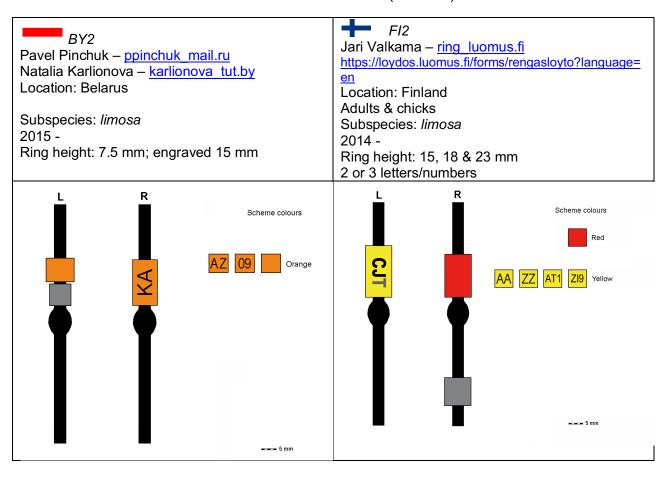
2. WITHOUT FLAG, WITH ENGRAVED RINGS

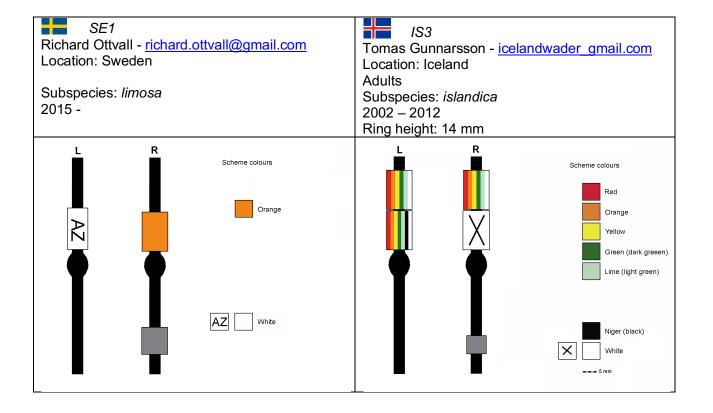
2.1 – ONLY ENGRAVED RINGS (& METAL)

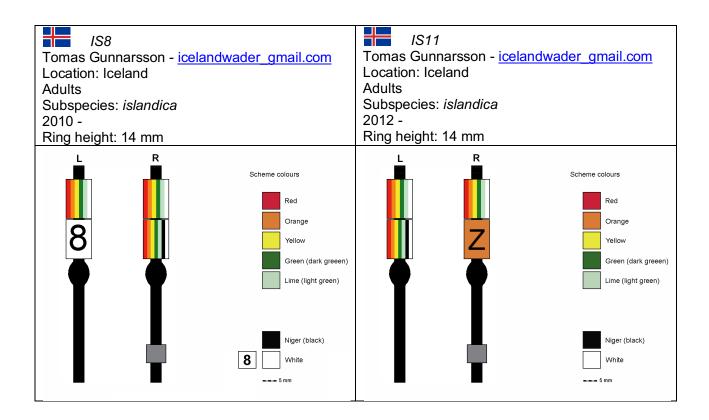


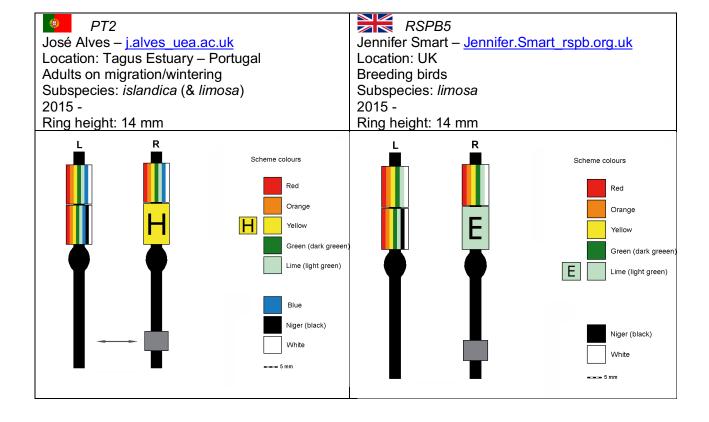


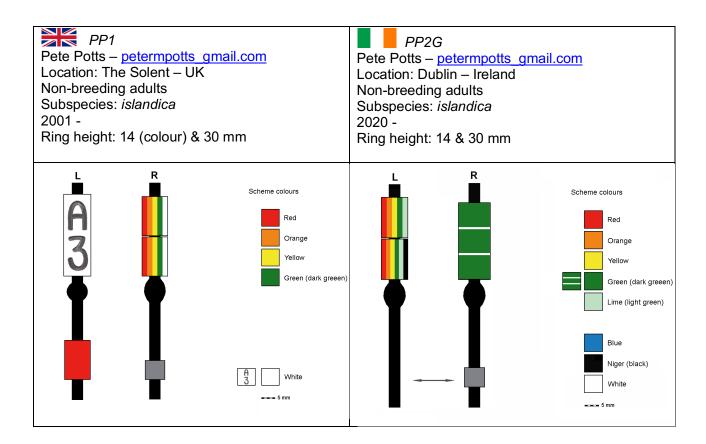
2.2 WITH ENGRAVED RINGS + OTHER COLOUR RINGS (& METAL)

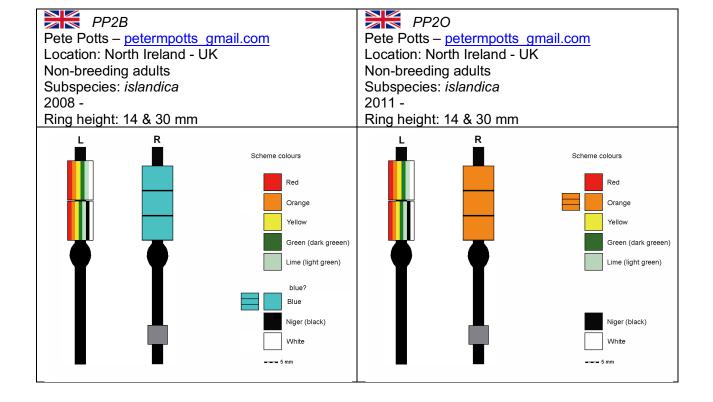


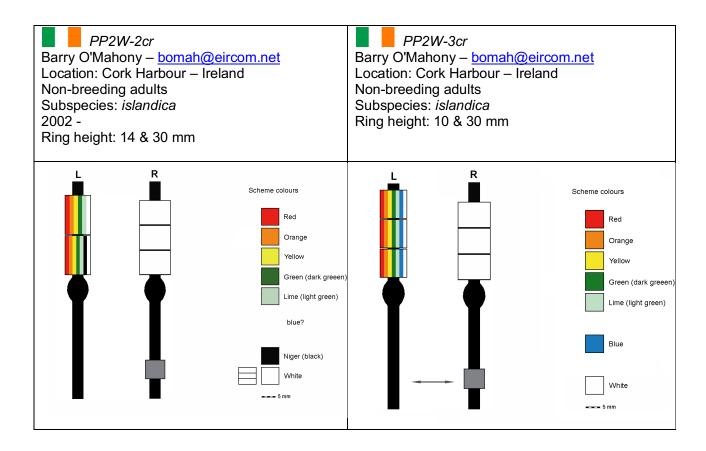


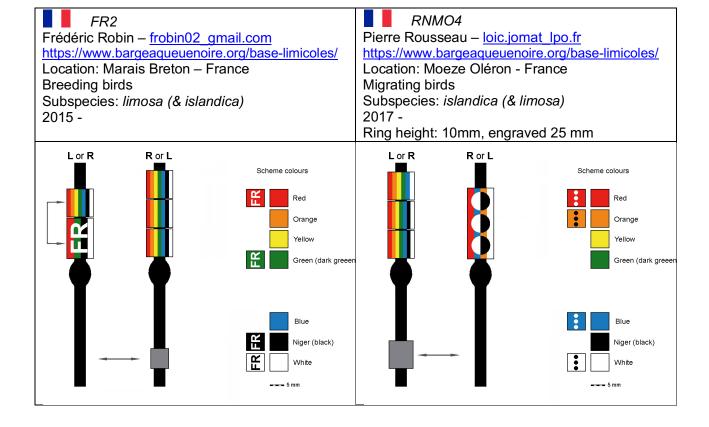


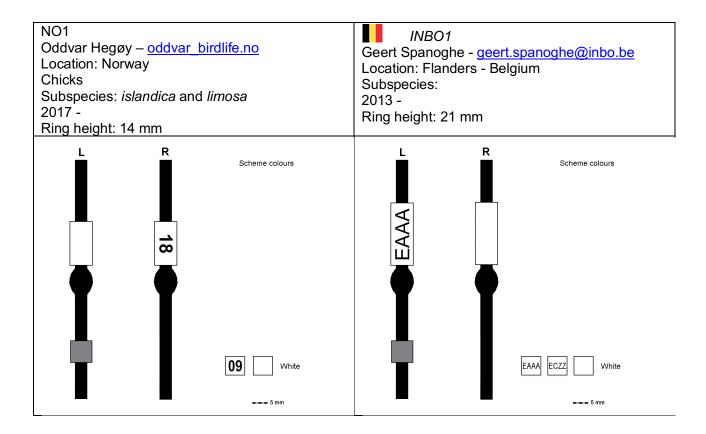


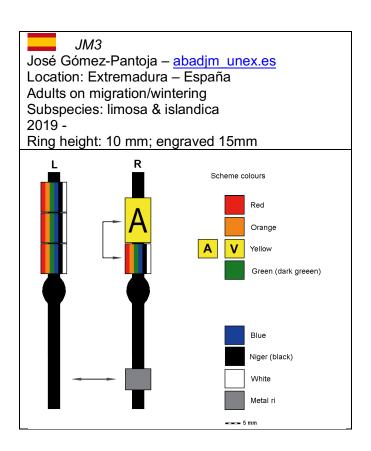






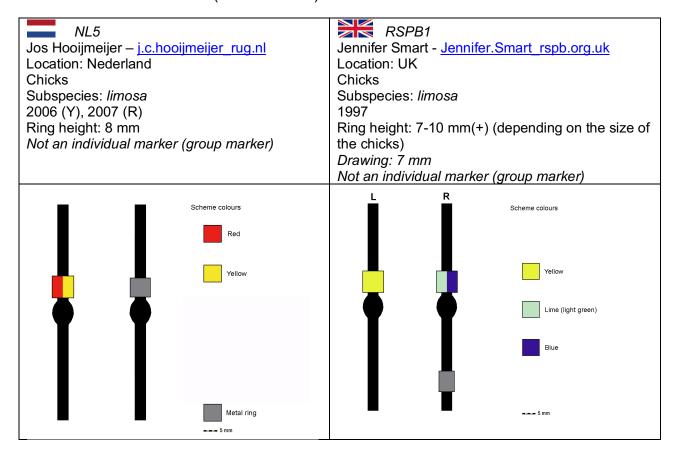




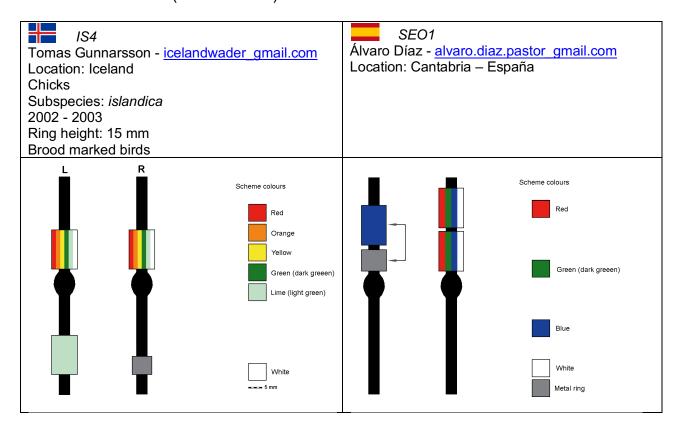


3. No Flag & No Engraved Rings (By Number Of Rings)

3.1 – ONE OR TWO RINGS (+ METAL RING)

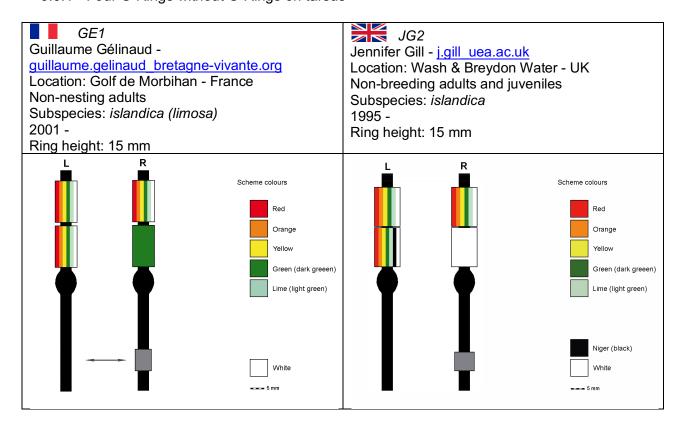


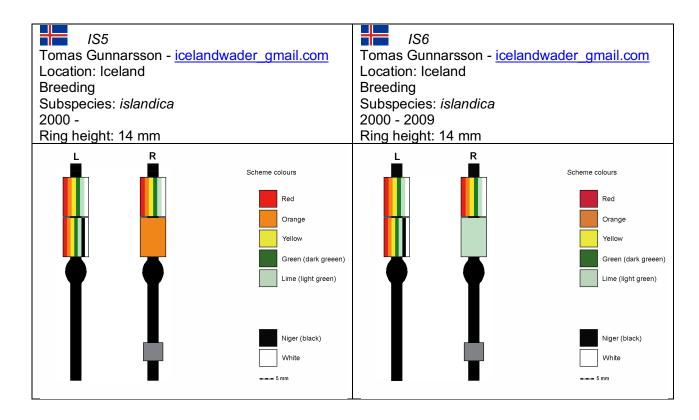
3.2 – THREE RINGS (+ METAL RING)

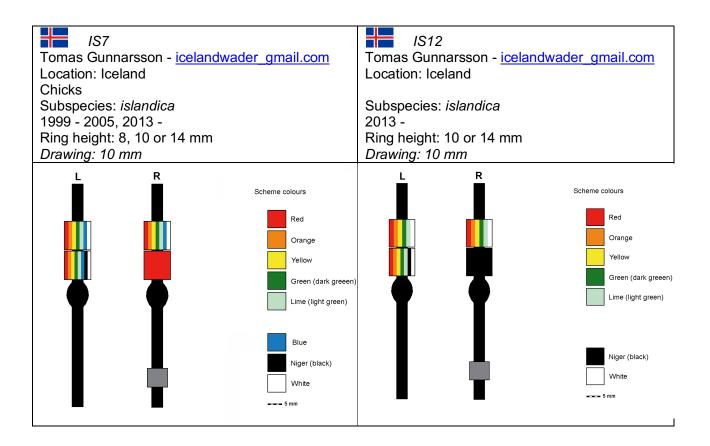


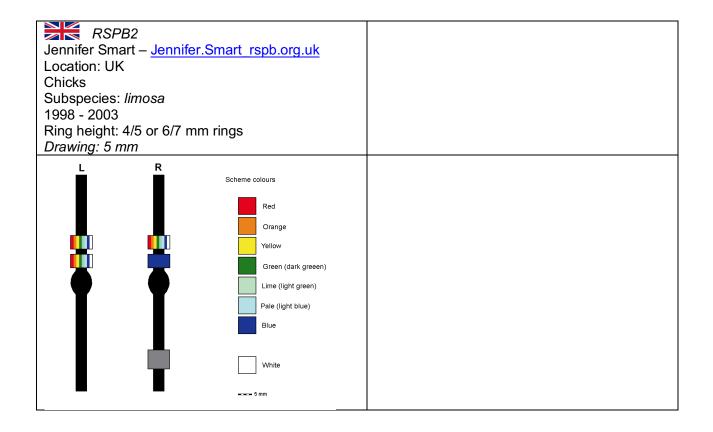
3.3 – Four Colour Rings (+ Metal Ring)

3.3.1 - Four C-Rings without C-Rings on tarsus

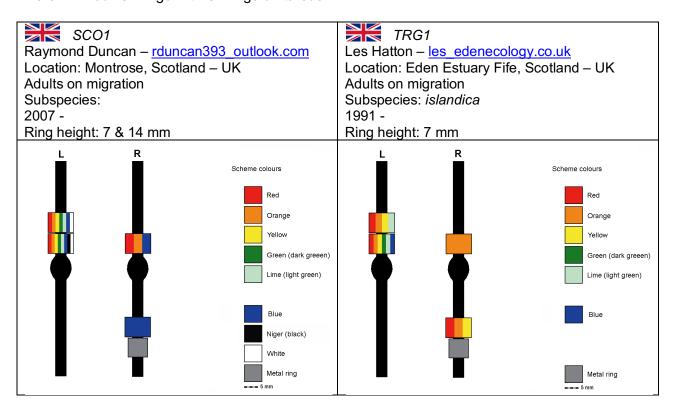


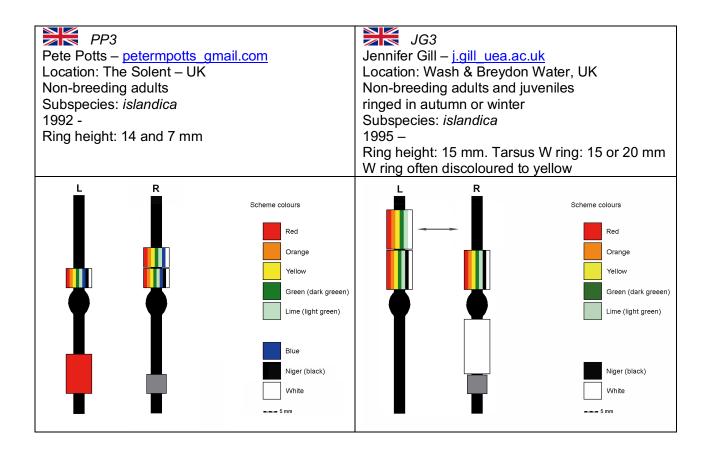


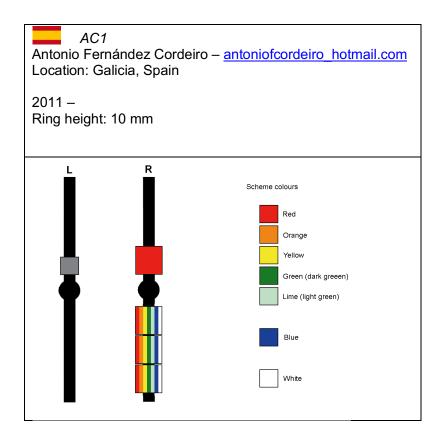




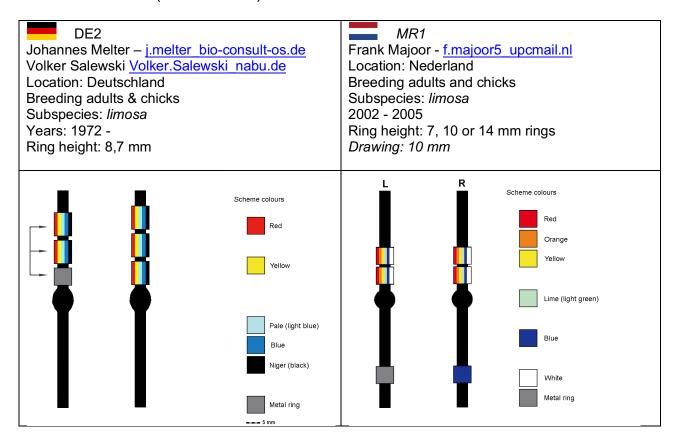
3.3.2 - Four C-Rings with C-Rings on tarsus



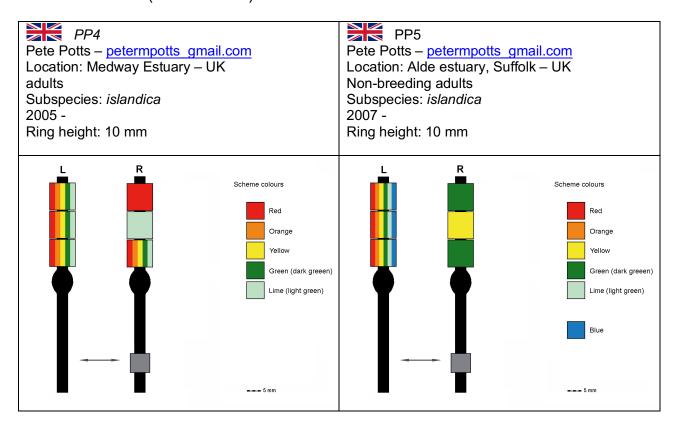


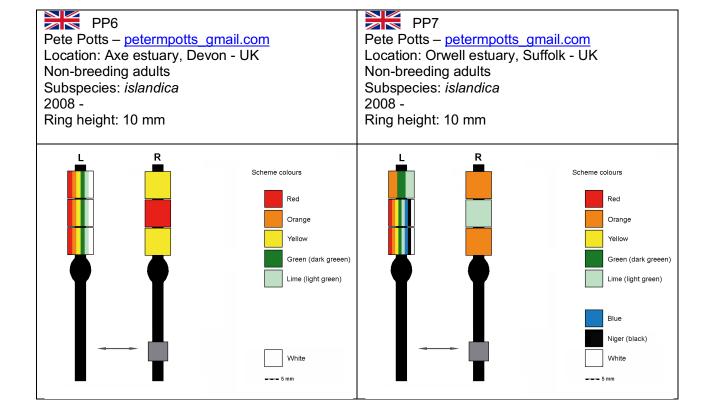


3.4 – FIVE RINGS (+ METAL RING)



3.5 – SIX RINGS (+ METAL RING)







Pete Potts – <u>petermpotts gmail.com</u> Location: Swale estuary, Kent - UK

Non-breeding adults Subspecies: *islandica*

2008 -

Ring height: 10 mm



Pete Potts – <u>petermpotts gmail.com</u> Location: Poole Harbour, Dorset - UK

Non-breeding adults Subspecies: *islandica*

2013 -

Ring height: 10 mm

