Darvic Colour Rings

When Ospreys are Ringed they are usually fitted with two rings, a metal BTO ring which has a unique number and an address so that finders can send finding details to the BTO as part of the national bird ringing scheme, and a plastic ring known as a Darvic Ring which can be viewed from at a distance with either binoculars or telescope.
Darvic Rings are usually referred to by their two colours, e.g., Blue/White, where Blue is the colour of the ring and White the colour of the lettering. Initially rings had one character, then two characters and since approximately 2012 three, these characters are a combination of numerals and letters (Alpha-Numeric).. You will also sometimes hear rings referred to just by their colour e.g., 'Red 8T' which is really 'Red/White 8T'. Rings should be fitted so that they read from the foot up although you will sometimes find one fitted the wrong way round. In recent years, colour rings in Scotland have been placed on the left leg and those in England and Wales on the right leg. Most of Europe has now adopted a particular colour Ring for ospreys. The UK is Blue, Germany/Black, France/Orange,Portugal and Corsica/Green and Spain are Yellow. Translocated Birds are ringed in accordance with their translocation destination and practices.





Examples of Darvic Colour Bands

Roy Dennis Foundation, to whom all sightings of colour banded ospreys should be reported, is always interested in hearing about them, preferably with a photo.
You will find more information on his website at:
https://roydennis.org/osprey/

Darvic Rings first used at Loch Garten in 1966.

HOW RINGING WORKS.

The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, issues a batch of Darvic Coloured Rings (currently Blue)to individual ringers, who then use them along with B.T.O.Rings when ringing individual birds.

The ringers then keep their own handwritten records of rings used and the details of the birds.

Subsequently when a coloured ringed Osprey is sighted and reported to the RDWF, the ringer concerned is contacted, they then release the information relating to that Darvic ring to both RDFW and the original observer.

There is no central database of used rings, only of batches issued. A very high percentage of Ring Numbers used never receive a sighting or subsequent enquiry. An example of this being the B.T.O. recorded ringing 217 birds in 2021, we have managed to record the sighting of 36 of those birds returning in 2023.

UKOspreyInformation and OspreyInfo.Azurewebsites.Net Both keep unofficial Databases of known Darvic Ring Numbers, However, We cannot stress enough the importance of reporting all sightings of Colour Ringed Ospreys to the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, just because it is on our lists does not negate the need to report, there is a link for reporting in the footnote of virtually every page on the UKOI Website.