

Osprey Leg Ring

Children can become their chosen osprey in World Osprey Week by making and wearing a “leg ring” showing the number of their chosen osprey.

Leg colour rings and numbers used to be more random, but are now standardised. UK ospreys have a blue leg ring with Rutland ospreys fitted to the right leg and Scottish birds the left leg with their own unique combination of letters and numbers. Other countries use their own specific colour. This gives an opportunity for some research!

Making a colour leg ring

This can be as simple as an appropriately coloured strip of paper on which they write the number and then fasten it with tape around their wrist. However this will clearly not last very long.

A more long-term ring could be made of appropriately coloured ribbon, fabric tape or a strip of felt onto which they write the leg ring number using a suitable fabric pen.

With help they could sew the letters or numbers onto the tape using thread and a simple “running stitch”.

It is important they are not too tight or made of any material which is too abrasive or cause irritation.



03 - White colour ring Left Leg

“Mr Rutland” A famous osprey which raised 33 chicks with three different females over a period of 16 breeding seasons at Rutland Water. He has proved to be the most important breeding male in the projects history, and his offspring are breeding in other parts of the UK



Osprey 30 - Blue colour ring Right Leg

Osprey 30(05) overwinters in Senegal about 100 miles south of Dacca. She has a GPS satellite put onto her in 2013, so we have been able to follow her movements and 6 migrations. She can fly from Senegal back to Rutland in just 11 days. Osprey 30's tracker stopped working in 2019



Osprey S1- Blue colour ring Right Leg

S1(15) is a male bird who was satellite tagged in August 2018. He hatched in Manton Bay in 2015, one of the first chicks parented by the current Manton Bay ospreys 33 and Maya. S1 overwinters in Guinea-Bissau.



Osprey 056 - Blue colour ring Right Leg

Fledged in 2019 at the Manton Bay nest, and son of Maya (no leg ring) and Osprey 33. He is famous as the 150th chick to fledge at Rutland water since the osprey re-introduction project began in 1996. He will spend a few years in West Africa and will hopefully return to Rutland in 2022.

