



THE USE OF COLOUR CHARTS IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY  
OF CAPTURED BIRDS

Rina Biggs

The mensural study of raptors (described in Safring News vol 7, no. 2) also involves a plumage study. Exact colour details are particularly important in the very variable brown eagles (e.g. Tawny Eagle Aquila rapax) and in the immature brown forms of most other eagles.

Lighting differs in routine photography, especially where different photographers are at work and where natural light is used. The worst problems occur when only one badly exposed shot of an unusual bird is taken, or when photos are taken late in the afternoon. To a lesser extent almost every good shot has its own slight colour bias too. To overcome the problem of comparing photos taken under these differing conditions, Dr Alan Kemp suggested the use of Kodak colour charts with colour and grey scales. When photos are compared and one wishes to establish more accurately what the true colour is, the colour charts are compared with actual colour charts, and plumage then compared on this basis.

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RINGS FOR WADERS

M. Waltner

Recently we trapped two Curlew Sandpipers Calidris ferruginea, which were ringed with stainless steel rings in 1972 and 1973 respectively. Both rings were unsoiled and clearly legible. The appearance of the outer surface did not differ much from a new ring. Inside wear is difficult to judge, but these two samples and various other retraps suggest that the life of the ring far outlasts the lifespan of this species.

Similarly we find the 4 series monel ring adequate for wader work. We use this size mainly to mark Knot Calidris canutus. So far we