

How to read the colors on a color-banded bird



All of our banded birds wear a unique combination of 4 bands. Three of the bands are plastic color bands and one of the bands is the federally issued metal band. We call it the color “silver.” To identify a bird that is wearing bands, we start reading the bands from the top-most band on the Left Leg to the bottom-most band on the Right Leg. For example, the bird above is called “Green over Silver, Yellow over Red.” Note that the designation of Left and Right leg is from the bird’s perspective, not ours. You will also perhaps notice the microchip or PIT tag taped to the color bands on one leg. The color of tape we use corresponds to the color bands underneath.

Below is a list of the birds we have banded so far this winter. If you see one of our birds at your feeder, and would like to report it to us, please keep track of the following information:

Date, Time, Location, Observer, Species, Color combination, and any notes you wish to make about behavior (feeding at feeder, roosting, singing...)

Thanks for your help with this project and keep checking back for more information and how to be involved!

List of House finches banded as of 2/17/12

Species	Color Combo for Left Leg		Color Combo for Right Leg	
House finch	Green	Purple	Orange	Silver
House finch	Green	Silver	Green	Red
House finch	Green	Red	Silver	Purple
House finch	Green	Yellow	Silver	Orange
House finch	Green	Silver	Orange	Red
House finch	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Silver
House finch	Orange	Green	Silver	Yellow
House finch	Orange	White	Silver	Yellow
House finch	Orange	Yellow	Red	Silver
House finch	Purple	Yellow	Silver	Red
House finch	Purple	Silver	Orange	Purple
House finch	Purple	Silver	Purple	Green
House finch	Purple	Red	Silver	Green
House finch	Purple	Silver	Red	Green
House finch	Purple	White	Silver	White
House finch	Purple	Red	White	Silver
House finch	Purple	Silver	White	Green
House finch	Purple	Red	Green	Silver
House finch	Red	Purple	Silver	Orange
House finch	Red	Yellow	Orange	Silver
House finch	Red	Silver	White	Green
House finch	Red	Purple	Green	Silver
House finch	Red	Purple	Silver	White
House finch	Red	Silver	Red	Yellow

Species	Color Combo for Left Leg		Color Combo for Right Leg	
House finch	Silver	Purple	White	Green
House finch	Silver	Orange		
House finch	Silver	Red	Purple	Yellow
House finch	Silver	Purple	Green	Orange
House finch	Silver	Orange	Red	White
House finch	Silver	Orange	Green	White
House finch	Silver	Yellow	Yellow	Green
House finch	Silver	Red	Purple	Red
House finch	Silver	Purple	Purple	Orange
House finch	Silver	Yellow	Red	Orange
House finch	Silver	Orange	Red	Green
House finch	Silver	Red	Green	Purple
House finch	Silver	Yellow	Yellow	Purple
House finch	Silver	White	Purple	Red
House finch	White	Purple	Red	Silver
House finch	White	Silver	Red	Orange
House finch	White	Orange	Orange	Silver
House finch	White	Silver	Yellow	Red
House finch	White	Orange	Silver	Yellow
House finch	White	Green	Green	Silver
House finch	White	Orange	Silver	Red
House finch	White	Yellow	Silver	Yellow
House finch	White	Purple	Yellow	Silver
House finch	Yellow	Purple	White	Silver
House finch	Yellow	Silver	Orange	Green
House finch	Yellow	Silver	Green	White

Species	Color Combo for Left Leg		Color Combo for Right Leg	
Mountain Chickadee	Blue	Silver	Green	Red
Mountain Chickadee	Green	Silver	Red	Green
Mountain Chickadee	Green	Silver	Yellow	Orange
Mountain Chickadee	Orange	Silver	Green	Orange
Mountain Chickadee	White	Green	Blue	Silver
Mountain Chickadee	White	Green	Silver	Blue
Mountain Chickadee	White	Yellow	Silver	White
Mountain Chickadee	White	Blue	Silver	Red
Mountain Chickadee	Yellow	Silver	Red	White
Mountain Chickadee	Yellow	Blue	Green	Silver