

## COLOUR-RING OBSERVATION PERCH

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In a colour-ringing project being carried out on birds that are not easily followed, it can be frustrating to observe only half of a colour-ringed bird's colour combination before the bird decides to buzz off.

A simple solution is to cause the bird to show all its colour rings (i.e. both legs) to the observer. This is accomplished by erecting special perches in the bird's flight path.

The perch consists of a piece of 8-gauge wire inclined at 10 to 20 degrees away from vertical and towards the observer. (See Diag. 1). This causes the bird to sit on the far side of the perch and because of the steepness of the perch it will perch sideways presenting both legs to the observer enabling him to see all colour rings. (See Diag. 2)

I have found this technique particularly useful in getting combinations on Bronze Mannikins Lonchura cucullata at a feed station. I am sure that it can also be put to use at nests or at any other attraction to the birds in question.

