

The Australian White Ibis research needs your help



Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) with individual colour bands

Research is currently under way that involves banding and tagging Australian white ibis within the Sydney region. The aim is to monitor ibis' movements, habitat preferences and survival. All banded ibis (see photo example) have been fitted with a metal band, which is individually numbered (e.g. 121-56349). Additionally, birds may be fitted with a site-specific colour band (e.g. blue or green from the above photo's) or tag (e.g. black or green from below photo's), which allows the banding location of a bird to be easily determined. If an ibis is not tagged it may be banded with two colour bands (e.g., pink/pink or yellow/pink), this allows easy identification of individual birds without having to read the numbers on the metal band. There are eleven colours (pictured from left to right): red, orange, pink, light blue, blue, pale green, yellow, green, white, black and purple.

Please report all observations of banded white ibis to John Martin at john.martin@austmus.gov.au. The critical information to record is the position of the bands and their colours. An easy way to do this is to note each part of the birds leg. For example, Left Upper (thigh) - nothing, Left Lower - Pink/Pink, Right Upper - Blue, Right Lower - metal. Alternately, it is important to record the tag number and colour.

