

RINGING A CHICK

The closed coded ring should be placed on the bird's leg when it is between five and ten days old. It is better to put the ring on early and risk having it come off and need to be put back on again, than to leave it until the foot is too big for the ring to slip over and thus risk hurting the chick.

It is important that your hands are kept warm when ringing chicks because they have been taken from beneath a hen in a warm nest box and the shock of being held in freezing cold hands could be fatal. Those who suffer from cold hands should have hot water, a hot radiator or even a hot water bottle available

for warming their hands before beginning to carry out the task of ringing chicks.

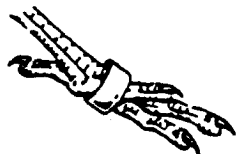
Two methods of ringing a chick :

- 1) with two toes facing forward and two facing back.
- 2) with three facing forward and one facing back.

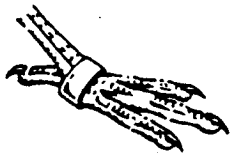
1. The two forward, two back method.



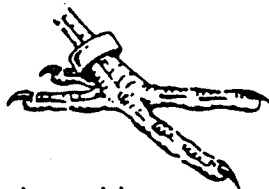
- a) place ring over two front toes.



- b) Pull the long rear toe through with a toothpick or pointed matchstick.



- c) Pull short rear toe through leaving ring just above ankle joint.



- d) Ring in position

2. The three forward method.



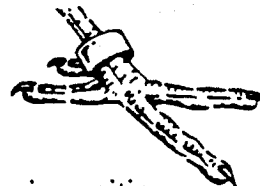
- a) Gather the three long toes together.



- b) Place ring over three long toes and gently push ring over ball of foot.



- c) Carefully pull the short toe through to clear the ring.



- d) Ring in position