

Banders' Guide to ALPHA Codes and Band Sizes

Revised 4/4/2020
Black Swamp Bird Observatory

FAMILY NAME	SPECIES NAME	AOU #	ALPHA CODE	BAND SIZE	PYLE PG #
BLACKBIRDS	Common Grackle	511	COGR	3	639
	Red-winged	498	RWBL	♂2 ♀1A	626
	Rusty	509	RUBL	2	637
BLUEBIRD	Eastern	766	EABL	1B	388
BOBOLINK		494	BOBO	♂1A ♀1B	625
BUNTING	Indigo	598	INBU	1	618
	Snow	534	SNBU	1A	603
CARDINAL	Northern	593	NOCA	1A ss	607
CATBIRD	Gray	704	GRCA	1A	408
CHICKADEE	Black-capped	735	BCCH	0	334
	Carolina	736	CACH	0	333
CHAT	Yellow-breasted	683	YBCH	1B	521
COWBIRD	Brown-headed	495	BHCO	♂1A ♀1B	646
CREEPER	Brown	726	BRCR	0A	356
CUCKOO	Black-billed	388	BBCU	2	54
	Yellow-billed	387	YBCU	2	56
DICKCISSEL		604	DICK	1B	623
DOVE	Mourning	316	MODO	3A	47
FINCHES	House	519	HOFI	1B	670
	Purple	517	PUFI	1	668
FLYCATCHERS	Acadian	465	ACFL	0A	222
	Alder	466.1	ALFL	0A	224
	Great Crested	452	GCFL	1A	247
	Least	467	LEFL	0A	228
	Olive-sided	459	OSFL	1B	213
	Traill's	466.9	TRFL	0A	224
	Willow	466	WIFL	0A	224
	Yellow-bellied	463	YBFL	0A	220
GNATCATCHER	Blue-gray	751	BGGN	0A	378
GOLDFINCH	American	529	AMGO	0	686
GROSBEAKS	Blue	597	BLGR	1B	614
	Rose-breasted	595	RBGR	1A ss	609
HAWKS	Broad-winged	343	BWHA	5 lock-on	(Pt2) 430
	Cooper's	333	COHA	♂4 ♀5 lock-on	(Pt2) 415
	Red-shouldered	339	RSHA	6 lock-on	(Pt2) 426
	Red-tailed	337	RTHA	7B lock-on	(Pt2) 444
	Sharp-shinned	332	SSHA	♂2 ♀3A	(Pt2) 415
HERON	Green	201	GRHE	5	(Pt2) 361
HUMMINGBIRDS	Ruby-throated	428	RTHU	X	136
JAY	Blue	477	BLJA	2	297
JUNCO	Dark-eyed (Slate-colored)	567	SCJU	0	593
KESTREL	American	360	AMKE	3B	(Pt2) 460
KINGBIRD	Eastern	444	EAKI	1B	263
KINGLETS	Golden-crowned	748	GCKI	0A	374
	Ruby-crowned	749	RCKI	0A	375
LARK	Horned	474	HOLA	1B	316
LONGSPUR	Lapland	536	LALO	1B	598
MARTIN	Purple	611	PUMA	1D	320
MEADOWLARK	Eastern	501	EAME	♂3 ♀2	632

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MOCKINGBIRD	Northern	703	NOMO	2	409
NUTHATCHES	Red-breasted	728	RBNU	0	351
	White-breasted	727	WBNU	1B	352
ORIOLES	Baltimore	507	BAOR	1A	656
	Orchard	506	OROR	1B	648
OWLS	Barred	368	BDOW	7B lock-on	90
	Northern Saw-whet	372	NSWO	4 short	98
	Eastern Screech-	373	EASO	5	71
PEWEE	Eastern Wood-	461	EAWP	0A	217
PHOEBE	Eastern	456	EAPH	0	240
REDPOLL	Common	528	CORE	0	677
ROBIN	American	761	AMRO	2	403
SHRIKE	Loggerhead	622	LOSH	1A	273
	Northern	621	NSHR	2	271
	Pine	533	PISI	0	680
SPARROWS	Chipping	560	CHSP	0	550
	Clay-colored	561	CCSP	0	552
	Field	563	FISP	0	555
	Fox	585	FOSP	1A	577
	Grasshopper	546	GRSP	1	569
	Henslow's	547	HESP	0	570
	Lincoln's	583	LISP	1	584
	Savannah	542	SAVS	1	565
	Song	581	SOSP	1B	579
	Swamp	584	SWSP	1	585
	American Tree	559	ATSP	0	549
	Vesper	540	VESP	1B	558
	White-crowned (Eastern)	554.1	EWCS	1B	589
	White-throated	558	WTSP	1B	587
STARLING	European	493	EUST	2	421
SWALLOWS	Bank	616	BANS	0	327
	Barn	613	BARS	1	328
	Northern Rough-winged	617	NRWS	0	325
	Tree	614	TRES	1	322
TANAGERS	Scarlet	608	SCTA	1B	527
	Summer	610	SUTA	1A	524
THRASHER	Brown	705	BRTH	2	411
THRUSHES	Gray-cheeked	757	GCTH	1B	394
	Hermit	759	HETH	1B	399
	Swainson's	758	SWTH	1B	397
	Wood	755	WOTH	1A	401
	TITMOUSE	Tufted	731	TUTI	1B
TOWHEE	Eastern	587	EATO	♂2 ♀1A	535
VEERY		756	VEER	1B	392
VIREOS	Blue-headed	629	BHVI	1	281
	Philadelphia	626	PHVI	0	287
	Red-eyed	624	REVI	1	288
	Warbling	627	WAVI	0	285
	White-eyed	631	WEVI	0	275

FAMILY NAME	SPECIES NAME	AOU #	ALPHA CODE	BAND SIZE	PYLE PG #
VIREOS	Yellow-throated	628	YTVI	1	282
WARBLERS	American Redstart	687	AMRE	0A	496
	Bay-breasted	660	BBWA	0	490
	Black-and-white	636	BAWW	0	495
	Blackburnian	662	BLBW	0A	480
	Blackpoll	661	BLPW	0	491
	Black-throated Blue	654	BTBW	0A	467
	Black-throated Green	667	BTNW	0A	477
	Blue-winged	641	BWWA	0A	444
	Canada	686	CAWA	0	517
	Cape May	650	CMWA	0A	466
	Cerulean	658	CERW	0A	493
	Chestnut-sided	659	CSWA	0A	462
	Common Yellowthroat	681	COYE	0	510
	Connecticut	678	CONW	1	505
	Golden-winged	642	GWWA	0A	446
	Hooded	684	HOWA	0	514
	Kentucky	677	KEWA	0	504
	Magnolia	657	MAWA	0A	464
	Mourning	679	MOWA	0	506
	Nashville	645	NAWA	0A	450
	Northern Parula	648	NOPA	0A	455
	Orange-crowned	646	OCWA	0A	448
	Ovenbird	674	OVEN	1	501
	Palm (Western)	672	WPWA	0	488
	Pine	671	PIWA	0	484
	Prairie	673	PRAW	0A	487
	Prothonotary	637	PROW	0	498
Tennessee	647	TEWA	0A	447	
Wilson's	685	WIWA	0A	515	
Worm-eating	639	WEWA	0	499	
Yellow	652	YEWA	0	459	
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle)	655	MYWA	0	469	
Yellow-throated	663	YTWA	0A	482	
WATERTHRUSHES	Louisiana	676	LOWA	1	503
	Northern	675	NOWA	0	502
WAXWING	Cedar	619	CEDW	1B	437
WOODCOCK	American	228	AMWO	3	(Pt2) 621
WOODPECKERS	Downy	394	DOWO	1B	187
	Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	412	YSFL	3	200
	Hairy	393	HAWO	1A	189
	Pileated	405	PIWO	4	204
	Red-bellied	409	RBWO	2	175
	Red-headed	406	RHWO	2	168
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	402	YBSA	1B	177	
WRENS	Carolina	718	CARW	1B	362
	House	721	HOWR	0	365
	Marsh	725	MAWR	0	369
	Winter	722	WIWR	0A	366

Adapted from HBRCNET Cheat Sheet by T.K. Tolford.



Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Banders' Guide to ALPHA Codes and Band Sizes

Birds are listed alphabetically within each family for most Ohio inland birds.

ALPHA Codes are established four-letter codes that allow bird banders to easily write down a bird's common name without taking up much space on a data sheet.

Bird bands come in many different sizes to accommodate many different legs, with males and females sometimes taking different band sizes.

This is a condensed version of recommended band sizes for the purposes of BSBO's Birding at Home Series.