

# 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
	Kirtland's	670	KIWA	1	486
	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
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.