



Friends of Cooper Island

Monitoring a Changing Arctic since 1975

MAKE YOUR OWN COLOR-CODED BIRD BAND!

Adult Black Guillemots breeding on Cooper Island are given a unique set of three-color bands in addition to a metal band provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The color bands allow researchers to identify the birds with binoculars.

Our field codes for the colors are shown in the adjacent box. A band combination that has a “/” (slash) indicates that the color bands are on two separate legs instead of one; a band combination with only “-” (dashes) indicates all bands are on the same leg. Color names are abbreviated to simplify data recording. An field code example might be G/Y-W or O-B-G.

Band Colors	
B	Blue
Br	Brown
G	Green
Gy	Gray
K	Black
Lg	Light green
O	Orange
R	Red
W	White
Y	Yellow

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Draw a bird card and read about the unique characteristics of your Black Guillemot.
2. String the colored beads on an elastic to “band” yourself with the unique color combination of your bird. Make sure to include one silver bead.
3. Secure the ends of the elastic together.
4. Place the band on your arm!





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Bird Bands

White/Orange-Yellow



Came as an immigrant adult to Cooper Island.

White/Orange-Yellow bred for 16 years in the colony, fledging 10 chicks. White/Orange-Yellow also wore a geolocator to provide data about its winter range.

Blue/White-Blue



Fledged from Cooper Island in 2007 with a sibling

Green-White-Green. Returned in 2011 and has returned to Cooper to breed each summer since. Blue/White-Blue has fledged 11 chicks.

Green/Black-Red



Was one of the oldest breeding birds on Cooper Island. This bird came to Cooper as an immigrant in 1986 and bred for 27 years. Green/Black-Red has fledged 11 chicks.

Green/Yellow-White



Bred on Cooper Island for 22 years. This bird bred with the same mate (Green/Orange-Black) in the same nest box for 14 years, fledging 19 chicks!



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Green/Orange-Black



Bred for 14 years with the same mate (Green/Yellow-White). They returned to the same nest case each year to lay eggs and raise chicks.

White/Green-White



Fledged from Cooper Island in 1999. This bird returned in 2003 and bred for the next 13 years, fledging 15 chicks. Some of its offspring have also returned to breed on Cooper Island! White/Green-White also wore a geolocator for two years, providing data about its winter range.

Yellow/White-Yellow



Fledged from Cooper Island in 1989. This bird returned to Cooper in 1992 and successfully fledged 18 chicks for the next 22 years. Several of her offspring returned to breed on Cooper Island.

Orange-Black-Green



Fledged from nest case K-12 (called the “schoolhouse”) in 2006. This bird returned to Cooper and bred until 2018. At one time, this bird, its parents, and three siblings were all breeding on the island at the same time.



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Orange-Yellow-White



Fledged from Cooper in 2001 and returned in 2006. This bird continues to breed on Cooper Island each year and has fledged 13 chicks. Orange-Yellow-White wore a geolocator for two winters to provide information about its winter range.

Orange-Blue-Orange



Came to Cooper Island as an immigrant in 2006 and started breeding. Orange-Blue-Orange continues to return each summer, and has fledged 11 chicks over the years. This bird has worn a temperature depth recorder to provide information about the number, length and depth of dives while hunting for fish.

White-Orange-Red



Came to Cooper Island as an immigrant in 2006 and was banded. White-Orange-Red continues to return each summer, and has fledged 14 chicks. This bird has also worn a temperature depth recorder to provide information about the number, length and depth of dives while hunting for fish.



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Blue/Blue-Yellow



Came to Cooper Island as an immigrant in 2007 and was banded. Blue/Blue-Yellow continues to return each summer, and has fledged 14 chicks. This bird has worn a temperature depth recorder to provide information about the number, length and depth of dives while hunting for fish.

Green/Green-Red



Came to Cooper Island as an immigrant in 2008 and was banded. Green/Green-Red continues to return each summer and has fledged 8 chicks.

White-Red-White



Fledged from Cooper Island in 2005 and returned in 2009 to breed. White-Red-White continues to return each summer to lay eggs and fledge chicks on Cooper Island. In 2013, this bird wore a geolocator for the winter to help provide information about its winter range.



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Blue/Green-Blue



Arrived on Cooper Island in 2011 as an immigrant bird. Blue/Green-Blue has returned each summer since, using the same nest case each time. This bird has fledged 11 chicks in 8 summers! Blue/Green-Blue has also worn a temperature depth recorder to provide information about the time spent and depth in the water searching for prey.

Yellow/Grey-Green



Fledged from Cooper Island in 1996 to immigrant parents. This bird returned in 1999 and started breeding in 2001. Since then, Yellow/Grey-Green has fledged 17 chicks, 5 of which have returned to Cooper Island resulting in 24 grandkids. She was on the cover of Audubon Magazine in 2017.

Green/Blue-Blue



Came to Cooper Island in 2004 as an immigrant bird. This bird fledged 11 chicks over 11 years. During this time, Green/Blue-Blue also wore a temperature depth recorder one season to provide information about its number, length and depth of dives hunting for fish.



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Green/Orange-Orange



Came to Cooper Island as an immigrant in 2002 and has continued to breed each year since, fledging 15 chicks. Green/Orange-Orange has worn both a geolocator (winter range) and a temperature depth recorder (diving depth), providing valuable information about guillemots.

Blue/Orange-Blue



Fledged from Cooper Island in 2006. Blue/Orange-Blue (BOB!) returned in 2012 and several years after to fledge 7 chicks. This bird also wore a geolocator for two winters to provide information about its winter range.

Green/White-Orange



Fledged from Cooper island in 2007 and returned in 2011. This bird has bred on Cooper island each summer since, fledging 8 chicks. Green/White-Orange wore a temperature depth recorder one summer to help collect information about its depth of diving and time in the water while hunting for prey fish.