

# VIRGINIA

## HISTORICAL BANDING INFORMATION

(as of Fall 2013)

### **Banding Schemes (past and present):**

**(Only provide information for schemes used prior to the duplicate 2-character engraved color bands if it is easily determined)**

**2013-present:** Duplicate black bands with white triangle-code configuration (three white engraved horizontally-oriented *letters* (no codes with numbers) with one character above two characters) on upper legs; single metal band on either lower leg

**2010–2013:** Duplicate Black bands with 2 White engraved *vertically*-oriented letters/numbers on upper legs

**2004–2012:** Duplicate Black bands with 2 White engraved *horizontally*-oriented letters/numbers on upper legs

**2003:** First started banding oystercatchers in Virginia in 2003. That was the only year when we banded and did not use the 2-character engraved bands. That year, we used a combination of plain, wrap around bands. From an old report: "Each chick received a red color band placed over a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued metal band on its lower right leg, a red color band placed over a blue color band on its upper right leg and either one color band on its upper left leg or a combination of color bands on its lower and upper left leg."

### **Approx. # of band codes used (as of Fall 2012):**

777

### **Approx. # of codes remaining (as of Fall 2012):**

74

### **Letters/numbers used in (and ones omitted from) codes:**

**(If different characters used/excluded in different schemes, please note which were used in which instances)**

Numbers used: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Letters used\*: A C E F H J K L M N P R T U W X Y

\*Ws only omitted for letter/letter combinations. Not number/letter.

Letters removed to reduce observer error: B D G I O Q S V Z

Mirrored codes used for all two-digit horizontal codes.

Vertical codes only use alpha-numeric codes (no numeric-alpha codes).

Currently (as of 2013) triangle bands codes only contain letters (no numbers).

### **Code orientation:**

**2013-present:** triangle and vertical (see banding schemes)

**2010–2012:** horizontal and vertical (see banding schemes). Used all possible alpha/numeric horizontal combinations. With vertical bands, have and will only use letter/number combination to avoid any questions regarding orientation or direction of band reading.

**2004-2009:** horizontal only

**Use of code delimiters:**

**(Designate which delimiters were used with which codes if possible)**

Delimiters on horizontal bands only.

Number/number codes: 01-64 have no delimiter. 65-99 have dots.

Number/letter codes: all have dots

Letter/number codes: all have underline

Letter/letter codes: A series has no delimiter (except AL which has a dot); C, E, F, H, J, K, L M, N, P, R, T series have dots (except CA which has nothing); U, X and Y series have underlines.

**# bands applied to each bird:**

**2004-present:** 2 identical color bands, one on each upper leg. Metal band.

**2003:** 4-7 plain wrap-around color bands, metal band