



Photo by Fred Roe

# Atlantic Puffins

*on an offshore island*

The Atlantic Puffin is a bird of the sea, returning to offshore islands only during the nesting season. Its bill, spectacular in shape and color, is an essential tool on water and on land. When a puffin chases after fish, it can clamp down on prey one at a time until its bill holds a dozen fish or more. On land, the puffin nests in a rock crevice or digs its own burrow. Biting and scraping into the soil with its powerful bill, the puffin can excavate a tunnel 3–6 feet long with a chamber at the end for a single egg.

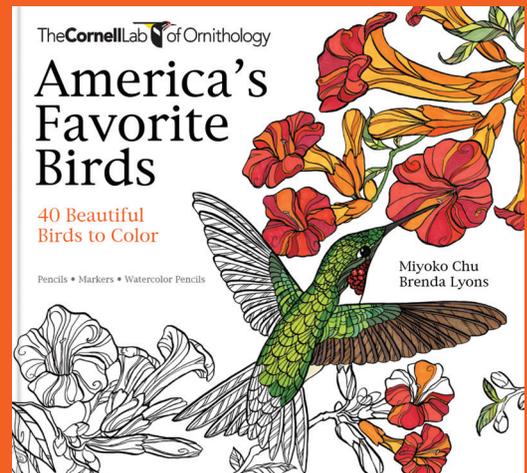
A puffin's bill changes colors with the seasons. It's brightest during spring and summer when it's time to court a mate and raise young. After breeding, colorful sheaths on the bill drop off, leaving the puffin with a plainer bill as it goes back to sea, where it will spend the next eight months.

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*America's Favorite Birds* is a very special coloring book, featuring 40 beautiful birds in their natural habitat settings with native flora, designed and vetted with ornithologists at the Cornell Lab to ensure scientific accuracy. Our selection of species involved our community of birders across North America and more than 250,000 votes cast by Cornell Lab Facebook fans!

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