

Nest check data sheet

Use this form to describe your nest site and to record data from each visit. Use a separate sheet for each nest monitored and each new nesting attempt. See back side for explanations of codes and fields. When finished, please enter completed sheets online at: www.NestWatch.org.

Year _____ Species _____

1. NEST SITE LOCATION	2. SITE DESCRIPTION <small>(see key on back)</small>
Nest Site Name _____	Nest is located (circle one): IN ON UNDER
Nearest address _____ _____ _____	Nesting substrate _____
- OR -	Cavity orientation (N,E,S,W) _____
Latitude (decimal degrees; ex. 47.67932) N _____	Cavity opening width (in. or cm.) _____
Longitude (decimal degrees; ex. -76.45448) W - _____	Habitat within 1 arm length _____
	Human modified description _____
	Habitat within 1 football field length _____
	Human modified description _____
	Elevation (ft. or m.) _____
	Height above ground (ft. or m.) _____

3. BREEDING DATA If eggs or young are present but not countable, enter "u" for unknown.

Visit #	DATE & TIME		HOST SPECIES			STATUS & ACTIVITY CODES				COWBIRD ACTIVITY			MORE INFO	
	Month / Day (1-12)/(1-31)	Time (am/pm)	Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young	Nest Status	Adult Status	Young Status	Mgmt. Activity	Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young	Obs. Initials	Notes Below
Ex.	5 / 6	2pm	1	0	0	cn	aa	no	no	0	0	0	BB	X
1	/													
2	/													
3	/													
4	/													
5	/													
6	/													
7	/													
8	/													
9	/													
10	/													

4. NESTING ATTEMPT SUMMARY *Fill in information for HOST SPECIES below after the nesting attempt is complete.

IMPORTANT DATES:		HOST SPECIES TOTALS:				
First Egg Date		Visits to nest	Clutch Size	Unhatched Eggs	Live Young	Fledglings
Hatch Date						
Fledge Date						

NEST FATE:
 COMMENTS:

1 & 2 - NEST SITE LOCATION & SITE DESCRIPTION

Nest site name — Create a unique name or number for each nest site.

Nearest address — Enter the closest street address and city.

Latitude/Longitude — Enter exact coordinates of nest in decimal degree format.

Nesting substrate — Enter if the nest is in, on, or under one of the following:

Nest box/birdhouse	Building or dwelling
Post/Pole or platform	Cavity in snag/dead tree
Cavity in live tree	Live tree branch
Dead tree branch	Bush or shrub
Cliff or rock	Ground
Floating vegetation	Other

Cavity orientation — For cavity nests only, specify the orientation that the entrance hole faces.

N - North	S - South	NE - Northeast	SW - Southwest
E - East	W - West	SE - Southeast	NW - Northwest

Cavity opening — For cavity nests only, enter width of entrance hole; specify inches (in.) or centimeters (cm.)

Habitat — From the list below, enter habitat type within 1 arm length of nest and dominant habitat type within 1 football field length of nest.

Human modified	Agricultural area
Woodland/Forest	Natural Grassland and prairie
Shrubland and chapparal	Desert
Fresh Water	Salt Water
Beach	Tundra
Other	

Habitat modified description — If you chose "Human modified" for either habitat type, choose one of the following:

Yard, residential area	Public park/green space
Roadside	Golf course
Landfill/gravel pit/strip mine	Cemetery
Industrial/commercial area	Powerline corridor
Airport	Campground
Christmas tree farm	Orchard/vineyard
Recently clear cut area	Recently burned area
Campus/school yard/church/hospital	

Elevation above sea level — Specify feet (ft.) or meters (m)

Nest height above ground — Specify feet (ft.) or meters (m)

3 - BREEDING DATA

Date & Time — Record month, day, and time (to nearest hour) of each nest visit.

Eggs* — Record the number of host eggs counted. **

Live young* — Enter the number of live young of host species in the nest. **

Dead young* — Enter the number of dead young of host species in the nest. **

Nest status — Describe the status of the nest at each visit.

no = cavity, nest box, or platform with no nest present, or use for species that do not build nests
in = nesting materials present, but nest incomplete
cn = nest structurally complete, with an obvious central cup
dn = damaged nest
fn = flattened nest with fecal matter
an = a new avian nest found in same site (begin new attempt)
nn = non-avian nest found (describe in comments)
rn = nest disappeared for unknown reason

Adult activity — Describe activity of adults seen or heard near the nest for each visit.

no = no adults seen or heard
ba = building nest or carrying nest material
ra = remained on the nest during check
aa = leaves nest and flies from vicinity during check
va = remained in vicinity during check
fa = feeding young at nest, or seen carrying food
da = dead adult(s) at or near nest site

* If eggs or young are present but not countable, enter "u" for unknown.

** Enter Brown-headed Cowbird nesting data under the Cowbird Activity columns.

Young status — Describe the appearance of young birds.

no = no young present in nest
hy = at least one chick hatching or has just emerged from egg
ny = nestlings naked and pink; eyes typically closed
py = wing feathers emerging; some skin still visible; eyes open
fy = body feathers completely cover skin, tail feathers stubby
vy = vocal young, heard only

Management activity — Describe any human management activities at the nest site for each visit.

no = no management activities conducted
am = avian competitor nest/eggs/young removed (House Sparrow & European Starling only)
bm = banded adults or young at nest (only to be done by a permitted individual)
em = unhatched host eggs removed
nm = nest box management (cleaning, plugging, unplugging, replacing boxes; removing old nesting material, etc.)
pm = non-avian competitors (wasps, ants, mice, etc.) removed

Cowbird activity — Record evidence of cowbird parasitism. Include number of cowbird eggs, and live and dead cowbird young. For information on how to identify cowbirds, please visit www.nestwatch.org/learn/general-bird-nest-info/brown-headed-cowbirds

Observer initials — Record initials of nest monitor.

Notes below — Check box if comments are noted and record them in the space provided at the bottom of the page.

4 - NESTING ATTEMPT SUMMARY (host species only)

IMPORTANT DATES - In the table provided record:

- 1) Estimated or observed date the first egg was laid
- 2) Estimated or observed date that the first egg hatched
- 3) Estimated or observed date that the first young fledged from the nest

NEST FATE - What was the outcome of the nesting attempt

TOTALS - In the table provided record:

- 1) Total number of times this nest was checked
- 2) Maximum clutch size (# of eggs)
- 3) Total # of unhatched eggs
- 4) Total # of live young in the nest
- 5) Total # of young that fledged (survived to leave the nest)