

# Nest check data sheet

Use this form to describe your nest site and to record data from each visit. Use a separate form for each nest monitored and each new nesting attempt. See back for explanations of codes and fields. When finished, please enter completed forms online at: [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org).

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Species \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. NEST SITE LOCATION

Nest site name  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: Nearest street address **OR**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Latitude (decimal degrees; ex 47.67932)  
 N \_\_\_\_\_  
 Longitude (decimal degrees; ex -76.45448)  
 W \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. DESCRIPTION (see key on back)

Nest is located (circle one) IN ON UNDER  
 Nesting substrate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cavity orientation (circle one) N, S, E, W, NE, SE, NW, SW  
 Cavity opening width \_\_\_\_\_  in. or  cm  
 Predator guard  None or  Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat within 1 arm length \_\_\_\_\_  
 Human modified description \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat within 1 football field length \_\_\_\_\_  
 Human modified description \_\_\_\_\_  
 Height above ground \_\_\_\_\_  ft. or  m

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

	DATE	HOST SPECIES			STATUS & ACTIVITY CODES				COWBIRD ACTIVITY			MORE INFO	
	Month / Day (1-12)/(1-31)	Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young	Nest Status	Adult Status	Young Status	Mgmt. Activity	Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young	Obs. Initials	Notes (or mark X for notes below)
Ex.	05/06	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 TOTALS below after the nesting attempt is complete.

IMPORTANT DATES

First Egg Date	
Hatch Date	
Fledge Date	

HOST SPECIES TOTALS

Visits to nest	Clutch Size	Unhatched Eggs	Live Young	Fledglings

NEST FATE:

NOTES:

## 1 & 2 - NEST SITE LOCATION & SITE DESCRIPTION

**Nest Site Name** – Create a unique name or number for each nest site.

**Address** – Enter the closest street address and city (Nearest address) **or** enter exact coordinates of nest in decimal degree format (Latitude and Longitude)

**Nest Substrate** – Which of the following substrates is the nest in, on, or under:

Nest box/birdhouse	Building or dwelling
Post/Pole or platform	Cavity in 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 Width** – For cavity nests only, enter the width of entrance hole; specify inches (in.) or centimeters (cm.)

**Predator Guard** – If present, specify stovepipe baffle, Noel guard, metal cone, hole extender, other.

**Habitat** – From the lists below, enter habitat type within 1 arm length (approximately 1 m) of nest and dominant habitat type within 1 football field (approximately 100 meters) 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, write in one of the following:

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

**Nest Height Above Ground** – Specify feet (ft.) or meters (m.)

## 3 - BREEDING DATA

**Date** – Record month and day 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 this code 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 = New avian nest found in same site (new attempt)  
nn = Non-avian nest found (describe in “NOTES”)  
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 = Left nest and flew from vicinity during check  
va = Remained in vicinity of the nest during check  
fa = Feeding young at nest, or seen carrying food  
da = Dead adult(s) at or near nest site

**Young Status** – Describe the appearance of young birds.

no = No young present at nest  
hy = At least 1 chick hatching or 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, or replacing boxes; removing old nesting material, etc.)  
pm = pest management (wasps, ants, mice, etc.)

**\*\*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](http://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.

\* Enter “u” if eggs or young are present but exact number is unknown. Leave blank if you cannot determine if eggs or young are present.

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

## 4 - NESTING ATTEMPT SUMMARY (HOST SPECIES ONLY)

**IMPORTANT DATES** – In the table provided record:

**First egg date** – Date the first egg was laid  
**Hatch date** – Date that the first egg hatched  
**Fledge date** – Date that the first young fledged from the nest

**HOST SPECIES TOTALS** – In the table provided record:

**Visits to nest** – Total number of times this nest attempt was monitored  
**Clutch size** – Maximum clutch size (number of eggs)  
**Unhatched eggs** – Total number of unhatched eggs  
**Live Young** – Total number of live young in the nest  
**Fledglings** – Total number of young that fledged (left the nest)

**NEST FATE:** Record the outcome of the nesting attempt

Please enter data online at [www.NestWatch.org](http://www.NestWatch.org)