

# NEST DATA FORM

Participant Sitecode: \_\_\_\_\_ Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Nest Location (circle one): Nestbox Shrub Tree Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Nest Height (feet): \_\_\_\_\_ Nest tree or shrub species (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you maintain a feeder? \_\_\_\_\_

Average # of outdoor cats seen per week: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, during which months of the year? \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional paper if needed – see reverse for helpful hints)

## Nest Visits:

Date	# of Eggs	# of Nestlings

## Nest Visit Summary:

Number of eggs	
Number of nestlings	
Number of fledglings	
Estimated date clutch complete	
Estimated hatching date	
Estimated fledging date	

## Fate:

Successful	
Successful but parasitized	
Failed – predated	
Failed – weather-related	
Failed – human activity related	
Failed – parasitized	
Failed – unknown	

## Stage of Failure:

Didn't fail	
Building	
Laying	
Incubation	
Hatching	
Nestling	
Unknown	

## Helpful Hints to Successful Nest Monitoring

### Nest Finding

Carefully watch adult birds to see if they pick up nesting material, such as dead leaves, spider webbing, plastic strips, moss or small twigs. If a bird does pick up nesting material, put down your binoculars and observe it with your eyes until it flies. Note the direction and exactly where it flies. Does it fly into a bush, under the eave, into the grill? You may be able to follow it to the nest site. If a nest is already active, watch for adult birds carrying food material, such as insects or worms, or listen for the sound of peeping nestlings.

If you are able to distinguish between the male and female bird (e.g. northern cardinals), following the female can help you more quickly locate a nest. Sometimes the male will follow along or even actively chase the female to the nest area. Again, look for adults that apparently disappear. Then, make a quick perusal of the area after they leave. If you can't find the nest, back off and try tracking them again. Be patient!

### Nest Monitoring

Visitation frequency: The most sensitive periods during a nest attempt are nest-building and incubation. During these periods, limit your visits to the nest site to **once every three days**. During the nestling stage, visit **once every two days**.

Duration of visit: Make visits as brief as possible, preferably when adults are away from the nest. Use different routes to approach and depart from the nest site. This helps prevent leaving human scent trails, which nest predators might utilize. Spend as little time as possible at the nest.

How long to monitor: Try, as much as possible, to follow a nesting attempt through to its fate. If a nest has made it to the late nestling stage, try to make visits at or as close to the estimated fledge date as possible. We want enough recorded information to determine if a nest has definitely failed or successfully fledged young.

A nest is considered successful if it produces at least one young which fledged the nest. Parasitized nests are those in which brown-headed cowbirds have laid eggs. Nestlings and fledglings from these eggs are reared by the host parents, which can result in the death of some or all of the host's nestlings.

### Online Data Entry

In addition to entering data for re-sightings of color-banded birds, you can enter nest data online (address on bottom of page). As always, paper forms may be mailed to us at:

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National Zoological Park  
PO Box 37012 MRC 5503  
Washington, D.C., 20013-7012