

Observer Number: _____

ONTARIO NEST RECORDS SCHEME CODING SYSTEM

March 2001

*Royal Ontario Museum, Canadian Wildlife Service
Bird Studies Canada*

Nest record cards will be scanned by computer. Please use the correct codes and print neatly using dark pencil or pen without touching the edges of the boxes on the form, so that your data will be correctly interpreted. You can write your observer number at the top of this card. At the end of each year, return your cards to:

ONRS-CBCB, Royal Ontario Museum,
100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6
T: 416-586-5523, FAX: 416-586-5553
E-mail: markp@rom.on.ca

For more information, contact George Peck, Coordinator, or check the web page to download the instruction manual and for on-line data entry:

<<http://www.birdsontario.org>>

VISIT STATUS CODES

Select up to 3 codes to describe the status of the nest on each visit.

NEST BUILDING STAGE

N0 = Nest site empty
N1 = 1/4 built
N2 = 1/2 built
N3 = 3/4 built
N4 = Complete, unlined
NL = Complete, lined

EGGS

CO = Cold
UN = Uncovered
FR = Fresh
HA = Hatching
WA = Warm
CV = Covered
DE = Developing embryo present
PI = Pipping/calling from egg

YOUNG

NA = Naked
TO = Egg tooth present
DO = Downy
BL = Blind
EY = Eyes open
IP = Primary feathers in pin
FS = Primary feathers short; less than 1/3 emerged from sheath
FM = Primary feathers medium; 1/3 – 2/3 emerged from sheath
FL = Primary feathers large; more than 2/3 emerged from sheath
RF = Ready to fledge
LB = Left naturally before fledging
YB = Young banded
AY = Audible young in nest

ADULT ACTIVITY

Combine codes (e.g. **AN** = adult on nest, **FF** = female feeding young)

A = Adult
M = Male
F = Female
P = Pair
D = Dead
F = Feeding young at nest
N = On/at nest
T = Trapped at/near nest
V = In vicinity of nest
B = Building nest or carrying nest material

NEST OUTCOME CODES

Select one or two outcome codes to indicate best evidence for success or failure of the nest. For partially successful nests, (i.e. where only part of brood fledges) write both success and failure codes.

OUTCOME: SUCCESS

AC = Adult carrying food near nest
EX = Young 'exploded' from nest when inspected
HS = Hatched shell fragments in empty nest (e.g. gamebirds, ducks, etc.)
MR = Banded young retrapped/resighted after fledging
NE = Nest empty, undisturbed with well-trodden lining containing feather scale and/or droppings
NN = Fledged young seen near nest
SL = Young seen leaving (fledging) naturally
VA = Adult visibly agitated or giving alarm calls near nest
YC = Young capable of leaving nest on previous visit
SY = Some young fledged, other live young still in nest

OUTCOME: FAILURE

Combine codes from left and right columns

(e.g. **EP** = predation at egg stage, **XF** = flooded at unknown stage)

E = At egg stage
J = At young stage
X = At egg or young stage
A = Eggs not hatched (infertile/added)
B = Injured/broken
C = Killed/thrown out by Cowbird
D = Deserted/starved/dead
E = Empty damaged nest
F = Flooded
I = Human causes – intentional
L = Livestock
M = Human causes – unintentional
O = Other/unknown
P = Predation
T = Thrown/fallen out
U = Usurped from nest by other bird species
W = Wind damage

OUTCOME: UNKNOWN = OU

HABITAT CODES

For each major habitat type, select one code each for "Class" and "Sub-class" and up to 4 codes each from "Structure" and "Modification". Human disturbance is included in several categories and refers to human activities that could disturb birds (e.g. off-road vehicles, hikers, boats, etc.).

CLASS A. WOODLAND

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Deciduous	A. Young	1. No Human disturbance
2. Coniferous	B. Mature	2. Human disturbance light to moderate
3. Mixed (>10% each)	C. Mixed age	3. Human disturbance heavy
	D. Closed canopy	4. Plantation
	E. Open canopy	5. Clearcut
	F. Parkland (trees scattered in grassy areas)	6. Partially logged
	G. Wet / standing water present	7. No grazing
	H. Standing dead trees present	8. Grazing light to moderate
	I. Fallen dead wood present	9. Grazing heavy
	J. No understory	10. Human structure present
	K. Grass, fern or herb layer present	11. Recent burning
	L. Low (< 2m) shrub layer present	
	M. Tall (> 2m) shrub layer present	

CLASS B. GRASSLAND, SHRUBLAND, AND AGRICULTURE

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Grassland	A. Hedgerow with trees	1. No grazing
2. Shrubland	B. Hedgerow without trees	2. Grazing light to moderate
3. Tame (planted) grass	C. Tree line without hedge	3. Grazing heavy
4. Tilled land (crop)	D. Fence	4. Fallow
5. Overgrown / old field	E. Isolated group of trees	5. Grain crop
6. Orchard	F. Grass, fern, or herb layer present	6. Row crop
7. Vineyard	G. Low (< 2m) shrub layer present	7. Hay crop
	H. Tall (> 2m) shrub layer present	8. Other crop
	I. Wet / standing water present	9. Burned
	J. Waterbody present	10. Human structure present
	K. Predominately bare ground	11. Active farmyard
		12. Abandoned farmyard / homestead
		13. Power line corridor

CLASS C. TUNDRA / ALPINE

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Dry vegetated tundra / meadow	A. Tall shrub (e.g. willow)	1. No human disturbance
	B. Low shrub	2. Human disturbance light to moderate
	C. Sedge / grass	3. Human disturbance heavy
	D. Dwarf trees (e.g. spruce)	4. Human structure present
2. Wet vegetated tundra / meadow	E. Predominately heath-lichen	
	F. Predominately bare ground	
3. Mix of wet and dry tundra	G. Wet / standing water present	
4. Rock / gravel	H. Waterbody present	
5. Polygonal tundra		

CLASS D. HUMAN SITES

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Urban	A. Buildings	1. Industrial
2. Rural	B. Gardens	2. Residential
	C. Trees	3. Commercial (offices, stores)
	D. No trees	4. Agricultural
	E. Shrubs	5. Municipal park, cemetery, golf course
	F. No shrubs	6. Landfill site
	G. Natural vegetation patch	7. Bordered by grassland / farmland
	H. Near road (within 50m)	8. Bordered by woodland
	I. Near active railway (within 50m)	9. Bordered by urban area
	J. Abandoned railway	

CLASS E. WETLANDS DOMINATED BY VEGETATION

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Sedge / grass	A. Areas of open water	1. No human disturbance
2. Reeds / Cattail	B. Entirely vegetated	2. Human disturbance light to moderate
3. Shrub	C. Freshwater	3. Human disturbance heavy
4. Moss	D. Saltwater	4. Actively managed (dam or weir)
	E. Standing dead trees in water	5. Margin damaged
	F. Bog / muskeg	6. Human structure present
	G. Fen	7. Bordered by grassland / farmland
	H. Deciduous trees / shrubs present	8. Bordered by woodland
	I. Coniferous trees / shrubs present	9. Bordered by urban area

HABITAT CODES, *continued*

BIRD SPECIES 4-LETTER CODES

CLASS F. WETLANDS WITH MAINLY OPEN WATER

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Sheet water (shallow, temporary)	A. No visible water flow	1. No human disturbance
2. Pond / dugout (< 0.25 ha)	B. Slow running	2. Human disturbance light to moderate
3. Small lake (0.25- 5 ha)	C. Fast running	3. Human disturbance heavy
4. Lake (>5 ha)	D. Emergent vegetation rim or patches	4. Actively managed (e.g. dam or weir)
5. Stream (<3m wide)	E. Trees standing in water	5. Margin damaged
6. River (>3m wide)	F. Oligotrophic (clear, few weeds)	6. Human structure present
7. Ditch with water	G. Eutrophic (green, many weeds)	7. Bordered by grassland / farmland
8. Canal with water	H. Dystrophic (black, peat stained)	8. Bordered by woodland
	I. Sand shore	9. Bordered by urban area
	J. Rock shore	
	K. Mud shore	
	L. Bank / cliff	

CLASS G. SALTWATER COASTAL SITES

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Marine shore (open)	A. Mud or silt shore	1. No human disturbance
2. Marine shore (cove, inlet)	B. Sand shore	2. Human disturbance light to moderate
3. Estuarine shore	C. Gravel shore	3. Human disturbance heavy
4. Brackish lagoon shore	D. Rock shore	4. Grazing evident
	E. Fully vegetated	5. Margin damaged
	F. Partly vegetated	6. Human structure present
	G. Cliff / bank	7. Bordered by grassland / farmland
		8. Bordered by woodland
		9. Bordered by urban area

CLASS H. ROCK

<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Modification</i>
1. Cliff	A. not applicable in Ontario	1. No human disturbance
2. Scree / boulder slope	B. not applicable in Ontario	2. Human disturbance light to moderate
3. Rock outcrop	C. Bare rock	3. Human disturbance heavy
4. Quarry	D. Mosses, low vegetation	4. Active quarry, mine, etc.
5. Mine / spoil / slag heap	E. Grasses present	5. Disused quarry, mine, etc.
	F. Shrubs present	6. Human structure present
	G. Trees present	7. Bordered by grassland / farmland
	H. Waterbody present	8. Bordered by woodland
		9. Bordered by urban area

RTLO	Red-throated Loon
PALO	Pacific Loon
COLO	Common Loon
PBGR	Pied-billed Grebe
HOGH	Horned Grebe
RNGR	Red-necked Grebe
EAGR	Eared Grebe
AWPE	American White Pelican
DCCO	Double-crested Cormorant
AMBI	American Bittern
LEBI	Least Bittern
GBHE	Great Blue Heron
GREG	Great Egret
SNEG	Snowy Egret
CAEG	Cattle Egret
GRHE	Green Heron
BCNH	Black-crowned Night-Heron
YCNH	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
TUVU	Turkey Vulture
SNGO	Snow Goose
ROGO	Ross's Goose
CAGO	Canada Goose
MUSW	Mute Swan
TRUS	Trumpeter Swan
TUSW	Tundra Swan
WODU	Wood Duck
GADW	Gadwall
AMWI	American Wigeon
ABDU	American Black Duck
MALL	Mallard
BWTE	Blue-winged Teal
CITE	Cinnamon Teal
NSHO	Northern Shoveler
NOPI	Northern Pintail
GWTE	Green-winged Teal
CANV	Canvasback
REDH	Redhead
RNDU	Ring-necked Duck
GRSC	Greater Scaup
LESC	Lesser Scaup
KIEI	King Eider
COEI	Common Eider
SUSC	Surf Scoter
WWSC	White-winged Scoter
LTDU	Long-tailed Duck
BUFF	Bufflehead
COGO	Common Goldeneye
HOME	Hooded Merganser
COME	Common Merganser
RBME	Red-breasted Merganser

RUDU	Ruddy Duck
OSPR	Osprey
BAEA	Bald Eagle
NOHA	Northern Harrier
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk
COHA	Cooper's Hawk
NOGO	Northern Goshawk
RSHA	Red-shouldered Hawk
BWHA	Broad-winged Hawk
RTHA	Red-tailed Hawk
RLHA	Rough-legged Hawk
GOEA	Golden Eagle
AMKE	American Kestrel
MERL	Merlin
PEFA	Peregrine Falcon
GRPA	Gray Partridge
RIPH	Ring-necked Pheasant
RUGR	Ruffed Grouse
SPGR	Spruce Grouse
WIPT	Willow Ptarmigan
STGR	Sharp-tailed Grouse
WITU	Wild Turkey
NOBO	Northern Bobwhite
YERA	Yellow Rail
KIRA	King Rail
VIRA	Virginia Rail
SORA	Sora
COMO	Common Moorhen
AMCO	American Coot
SACR	Sandhill Crane
AMGP	American Golden-Plover
SEPL	Semipalmated Plover
PIPL	Piping Plover
KILL	Killdeer
AMAV	American Avocet
GRYE	Greater Yellowlegs
LEYE	Lesser Yellowlegs
SOSA	Solitary Sandpiper
SPSA	Spotted Sandpiper
UPSA	Upland Sandpiper
WHIM	Whimbrel
HUGO	Hudsonian Godwit
MAGO	Marbled Godwit
SESA	Semipalmated Sandpiper
LESA	Least Sandpiper
PESA	Pectoral Sandpiper
DUNL	Dunlin
STSA	Stilt Sandpiper
SBDO	Short-billed Dowitcher
COSN	Common Snipe

BIRD SPECIES 4-LETTER CODES, *continued*

AMWO	American Woodcock	WIFL	Willow Flycatcher	NOMO	Northern Mockingbird	LASP	Lark Sparrow
WIPH	Wilson's Phalarope	LEFL	Least Flycatcher	BRTH	Brown Thrasher	SAVS	Savannah Sparrow
RNPH	Red-necked Phalarope	EAPH	Eastern Phoebe	EUST	European Starling	GRSP	Grasshopper Sparrow
PAJA	Parasitic Jaeger	GCFL	Great Crested Flycatcher	AMPI	American Pipit	HESP	Henslow's Sparrow
LIGU	Little Gull	WEKI	Western Kingbird	BOWA	Bohemian Waxwing	LCSP	Le Conte's Sparrow
BOGU	Bonaparte's Gull	EAKI	Eastern Kingbird	CEDW	Cedar Waxwing	NSTS	Nelson's Sh.-tailed Sparrow
RBGU	Ring-billed Gull	LOSH	Loggerhead Shrike	BWWA	Blue-winged Warbler	FOSP	Fox Sparrow
CAGU	California Gull	NSHR	Northern Shrike	GWWA	Golden-winged Warbler	SOSP	Song Sparrow
HERG	Herring Gull	WEVI	White-eyed Vireo	LAWA	Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)	LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow
GBBG	Great Black-backed Gull	YTVI	Yellow-throated Vireo	BRWA	Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)	SWSP	Swamp Sparrow
CATE	Caspian Tern	BHVI	Blue-headed Vireo	TEWA	Tennessee Warbler	WTSP	White-throated Sparrow
COTE	Common Tern	WAVI	Warbling Vireo	OCWA	Orange-crowned Warbler	HASP	Harris's Sparrow
ARTE	Arctic Tern	PHVI	Philadelphia Vireo	NAWA	Nashville Warbler	WCSP	White-crowned Sparrow
FOTE	Forster's Tern	REVI	Red-eyed Vireo	NOPA	Northern Parula	DEJU	Dark-eyed Junco
BLTE	Black Tern	GRAJ	Gray Jay	YWAR	Yellow Warbler	LALO	Lapland Longspur
BLGU	Black Guillemot	BLJA	Blue Jay	CSWA	Chestnut-sided Warbler	SMLO	Smith's Longspur
RODO	Rock Dove	BBMA	Black-billed Magpie	MAWA	Magnolia Warbler	SNBU	Snow Bunting
MODO	Mourning Dove	AMCR	American Crow	CMWA	Cape May Warbler	NOCA	Northern Cardinal
BBCU	Black-billed Cuckoo	CORA	Common Raven	BTBW	Black-throated Blue Warbler	RBGR	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
YBCU	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	HOLA	Horned Lark	YRWA	Yellow-rumped Warbler	INBU	Indigo Bunting
BNOW	Barn Owl	PUMA	Purple Martin	BTNW	Black-throated Green Warbler	DICK	Dickcissel
EASO	Eastern Screech-Owl	TRES	Tree Swallow	BLBW	Blackburnian Warbler	BOBO	Bobolink
GHOW	Great Horned Owl	NRWS	N. Rough-winged Swallow	PIWA	Pine Warbler	RWBL	Red-winged Blackbird
NHOW	Northern Hawk Owl	BANS	Bank Swallow	KIWA	Kirtland's Warbler	EAME	Eastern Meadowlark
BDOW	Barred Owl	CLSW	Cliff Swallow	PRAW	Prairie Warbler	WEME	Western Meadowlark
GGOW	Great Gray Owl	BARS	Barn Swallow	PAWA	Palm Warbler	YHBL	Yellow-headed Blackbird
LEOW	Long-eared Owl	BCCH	Black-capped Chickadee	BWA	Bay-breasted Warbler	RUBL	Rusty Blackbird
SEOW	Short-eared Owl	BOCH	Boreal Chickadee	BLPW	Blackpoll Warbler	BRBL	Brewer's Blackbird
BOOW	Boreal Owl	TUTI	Tufted Titmouse	CERW	Cerulean Warbler	COGR	Common Grackle
NSWO	Northern Saw-whet Owl	RBNU	Red-breasted Nuthatch	BAWW	Black-and-white Warbler	BHCO	Brown-headed Cowbird
CONI	Common Nighthawk	WBNU	White-breasted Nuthatch	AMRE	American Redstart	OROR	Orchard Oriole
CWWI	Chuck-will's-widow	BRCR	Brown Creeper	PROW	Prothonotary Warbler	BAOR	Baltimore Oriole
WPWI	Whip-poor-will	CARW	Carolina Wren	OVEN	Ovenbird	PIGR	Pine Grosbeak
CHSW	Chimney Swift	BEWR	Bewick's Wren	NOWA	Northern Waterthrush	PUFI	Purple Finch
RTHU	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	HOWR	House Wren	LOWA	Louisiana Waterthrush	HOFI	House Finch
BEKI	Belted Kingfisher	WIWR	Winter Wren	KEWA	Kentucky Warbler	RECR	Red Crossbill
RHWO	Red-headed Woodpecker	SEWR	Sedge Wren	CONW	Connecticut Warbler	WWCR	White-winged Crossbill
RBWO	Red-bellied Woodpecker	MAWR	Marsh Wren	MOWA	Mourning Warbler	CORE	Common Redpoll
YBSA	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	GCKI	Golden-crowned Kinglet	COYE	Common Yellowthroat	HORE	Hoary Redpoll
DOWO	Downy Woodpecker	RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	HOWA	Hooded Warbler	PISI	Pine Siskin
HAWO	Hairy Woodpecker	BGGN	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	WTWA	Wilson's Warbler	AMGO	American Goldfinch
TTWO	Three-toed Woodpecker	EABL	Eastern Bluebird	CAWA	Canada Warbler	EVGR	Evening Grosbeak
BBWO	Black-backed Woodpecker	MOBL	Mountain Bluebird	YBCH	Yellow-breasted Chat	HOSP	House Sparrow
NOFL	Northern Flicker	VEER	Veery	SCTA	Scarlet Tanager		
PIWO	Pileated Woodpecker	GCTH	Gray-cheeked Thrush	EATO	Eastern Towhee		
OSFL	Olive-sided Flycatcher	SWTH	Swainson's Thrush	ATSP	American Tree Sparrow		
EAWP	Eastern Wood-Pewee	HETH	Hermit Thrush	CHSP	Chipping Sparrow		
YBFL	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	WOTH	Wood Thrush	CCSP	Clay-colored Sparrow		
ACFL	Acadian Flycatcher	AMRO	American Robin	FISP	Field Sparrow		
ALFL	Alder Flycatcher	GRCA	Gray Catbird	VESP	Vesper Sparrow		