

# Nest Record Scheme

## quick start guide



Welcome to the Nest Record Scheme (NRS), the British Trust for Ornithology's nationwide survey of nesting birds. NRS participants find and monitor over 30,000 nests for the BTO every year, gathering information to help us determine the impact of changes in habitat and climate on the productivity of the nation's birds. Anybody can become a nest recorder for the BTO—it is a unique and exciting way to learn more about birds and a great opportunity to aid their conservation.

This booklet is designed to show you how to find and monitor your first few nests. For more detailed information about the NRS, please contact us (page 6) to register for the survey and receive your free NRS Handbook.

### Which nests should I record?

We are interested in records of nests that are in use and can be inspected for contents. Nests in your garden or local green space are a great starting point—there may well be a Blackbird nest only yards from your home!

### How do I record a nest?

Once you've found a nest, the most important pieces of information to collect are what species is using it, where it is and what's in it. These observations should be recorded on a Nest Record Card—please contact us if you do not have one. Start by completing the location and habitat sections shown in the pictures below and then see page 2 for instructions on recording the contents. For more detailed guidance, please request a NRS Handbook.



Species (Code)		Country/Region Code		BTO Ref.	
Observer Code		Locality (Place-Name)		Altitude	
Day	Mth.	Hour	Number of Live Eggs	Number of Live Young	Grid Reference
			States Codes	Male Parent Age	Female Parent Age
			Comments	Nesting Ring Numbers	
<b>HABITAT</b>					
Refer to Nest Record Scheme Coding Card for Habitat codes. Choose one letter for the main habitat type (H1/H2) and then one number from column A. More than one number may be chosen from columns B and C.					
<b>FIRST HABITAT</b>		<b>SECOND HABITAT</b>			
H1	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column C	Column C
<b>NEST SITE</b>					
Tree	Bush	Deaf Shrub	Creeper	Roofs	Hedges
Dead Veg	Fleeting Veg	Waldens	Ditch	Wall	Building
Bridge	Earth	Sand	Shingle	Stone/Rock	Vertical Growth
Steep Growth	Flat/Gentle Slope	Other Human Artifact	Other	Over Water	Net
Walled	Part Hidden	Exposed			
Give details of plant species and any extra comments on Nest Site					
FIRST HABITAT		SECOND HABITAT		NEST SITE	
OTHER BIRD/ANIMAL NEST USED					

Front of card

Reverse of card

**Must I complete all the sections?** The most important sections are 1–3 and 7–9, as they specify where the nest is and what's in it. While completing the other sections is not compulsory, extra information will increase the value of your record.

- Species Code** Codes for common species are listed on page 5. For a full list of species codes, please request a NRS Handbook.
- County Code** Choose from the list on page 4.
- Year** Year in which the nest was monitored.
- Observer code** You will be given a code after submitting your first records. If you do not yet have one, leave this section blank.
- Locality** Name of the nearest village, town or landmark.
- Altitude** Altitude of the nest site in metres.
- OS Grid Reference** To six figures where possible, e.g. TL872823. Please visit webpage [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/taking-part/information-surveyors](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/taking-part/information-surveyors) for guidance on finding a grid reference.
- Visit details** Information about the nest contents. See page 2 for instructions on completing this section.
- Habitat** Select a code that best describes the habitat in the immediate vicinity of the nest from the list given on page 4. Enter the letter into box 'H1' and the number into box 'Column A'.
- Nest Site** Tick the appropriate boxes that apply in order to describe the nest site, e.g. 'In' and 'Tree'.
- Height** Height of the nest above the ground, in metres. For nests on the ground, enter '0'.
- Nest exposure** Tick one or more of boxes 0-6 to indicate nest type and one of boxes 7-9 to indicate exposure.

# Visiting the nest

Once found, your nest should be visited at regular intervals, ideally every 4-5 days, until no live eggs or nestlings remain in the nest. Make sure you have read the NRS Code of Conduct on page 3 before visiting the nest; more detailed guidelines are given in the NRS Handbook. The example below demonstrates how observations made at the nest are entered onto the front of the Nest Record Card. While ideal, it is not essential to follow the breeding attempt from start to finish—any record consisting of two or more visits is of value.



**1st visit** When first inspected on the 15th April, the nest looks complete but there are no eggs. The date and hour (24-hour clock, no minutes) of the visit are entered into the three columns on the top row of the visit details section on the Nest Record Card (right). From the list of 'Status Codes' on page 5, a nest-building code can be selected, in this case 'N4', as the nest is complete but unlined.

Day	Mth.	Hour	Number of				Status Codes (A two-letter code per column – see Coding Card)	
			Live Eggs	Dead Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young		
15	4	9					N4	



**2nd visit** Returning on the 28th April, an adult Blue Tit flies off the nest, revealing a clutch of eggs. The date and time are recorded on the second row of the card and a count of the eggs is entered in the 'Live Eggs' column. Had the eggs not been clearly visible, an approximate count could have been entered using a plus sign, e.g. '13+'. The Status Code 'AN' is used to show that an adult had been on the nest.

Day	Mth.	Hour	Number of				Status Codes (A two-letter code per column – see Coding Card)	
			Live Eggs	Dead Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young		
15	4	9					N4	
28	4	12	13				AN	



**3rd visit** By the next visit on the 12th May, some of the eggs have hatched. A count of the remaining eggs is recorded in the 'Live Eggs' column (as there is no evidence that any are dead) and a count of chicks is made in the 'Live Young' column. Status Codes can be used to describe the appearance of the chicks, in this case 'NA' (Naked) and 'BL' (Blind). These codes help us to determine the hatching date.

Day	Mth.	Hour	Number of				Status Codes (A two-letter code per column – see Coding Card)	
			Live Eggs	Dead Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young		
15	4	9					N4	
28	4	12	13				AN	
12	5	8	5		8		NA BL	



**4th visit** On the 25th May, 11 young are still in the nest. The code 'FM' (Feathers Medium) is used to describe their appearance, as their feathers have emerged from their sheaths by more than a third (page 5). There is also an egg present but it must be dead as eggs hatch within a few days of each other, so a '1' is added to the 'Dead Eggs' column, followed by the code 'ED' (Eggs Dead).

Day	Mth.	Hour	Number of				Status Codes (A two-letter code per column – see Coding Card)	
			Live Eggs	Dead Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young		
15	4	9					N4	
28	4	12	13				AN	
12	5	8	5		8		NA BL	
25	5	10		1	11		FMED	



**5th visit** By the 8th June, the nest is empty, so an outcome Status Code is used to indicate that the nesting attempt has finished. Here, the code 'NE' is selected as the nest has every appearance of having fledged young successfully: it is complete and undisturbed and contains feather scales and droppings from large young. If the outcome is not clear, the code 'OU' (Outcome Unknown) should be used.

Day	Mth.	Hour	Number of				Status Codes (A two-letter code per column – see Coding Card)	
			Live Eggs	Dead Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young		
15	4	9					N4	
28	4	12	13				AN	
12	5	8	5		8		NA BL	
25	5	10		1	11		FMED	
8	6						NE	

# Your questions

**I've visited several times and there's never anything in the nest.** Not all nests are used once built, although a newly-built nest may not be laid in for several weeks, so don't give up too easily! If it is still empty after a month, the nest will probably not be used, in which case there is no need to complete a Nest Record Card.

**What if the nest already has eggs/young in it when I first visit?** The example on page 2 shows an ideal sequence of nest visits, beginning before the first egg has been laid. In reality, you are more likely to find a nest when eggs or young are already present, in which case simply start recording from the time you find the nest.

**I stopped visiting the nest, so I don't know what happened to it.** If you stop visiting a nest before it has finished, you are unable to relocate it, or you are unsure of its outcome, please enter the Status Code 'OU', meaning 'Outcome Unknown', against the last recorded visit on the card.

**My nest failed before the chicks fledged. Do you still want the record?** Definitely! Not all nests are successful—eggs, chicks and even the parents can be taken by predators or perish during extreme weather conditions. Clutches of eggs may also be infertile. NRS data are used to calculate nest survival rates, so records of failed nests are just as important as successful ones. Make sure the appropriate outcome Status Code is selected from page 5.

**I have visited an old nest again and there are fresh eggs/young.** Some species attempt to breed more than once per season and so the same nest may be used for a second clutch. If you do find a repeat attempt in the same nest, start a new Nest Record Card. Never record more than one nesting attempt on a single card.

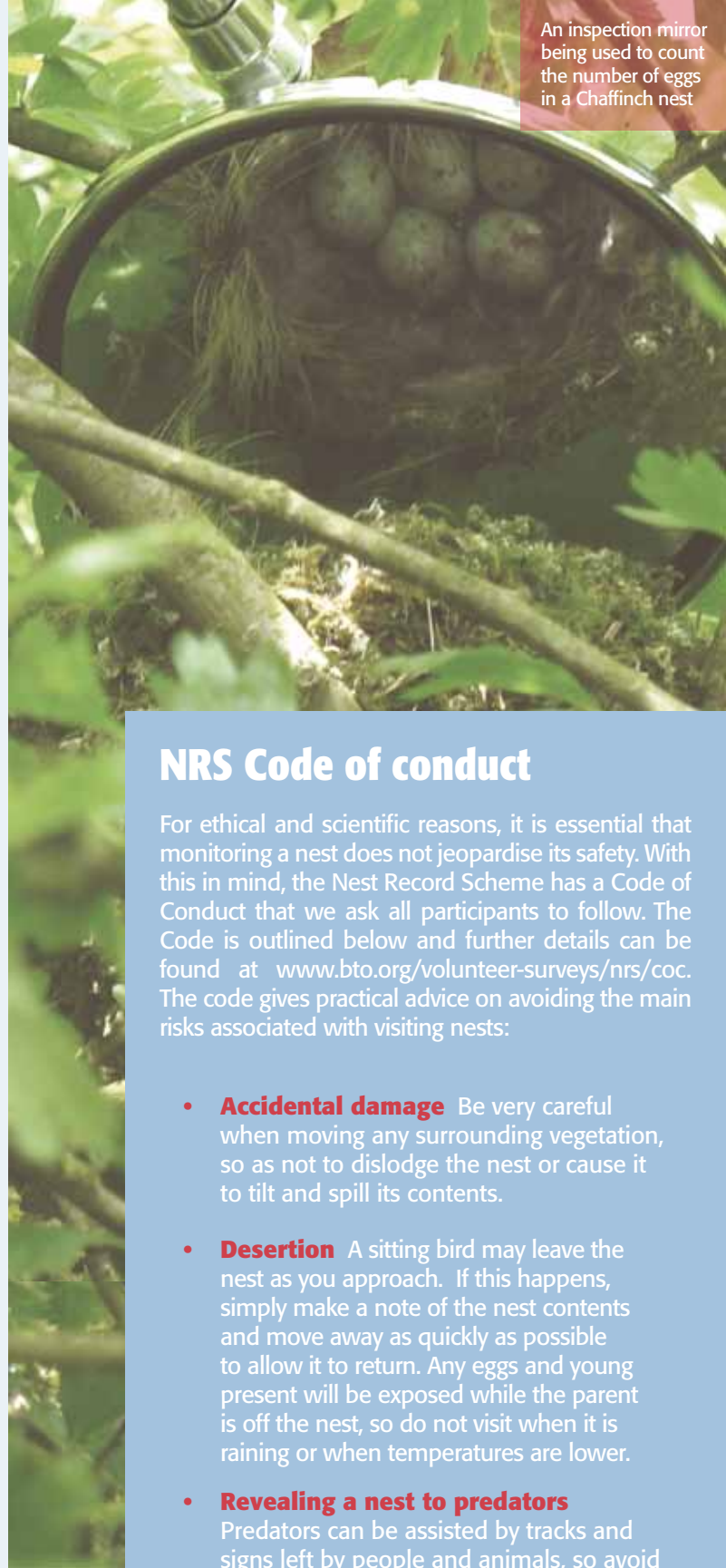
**What if a sitting parent does not leave the nest when I get to it?** Leave the nest alone and come back later. Females regularly leave their nests to feed; if you observe the nest site from a distance, you may even be able to see her go.

**Can I record the nest of any species?** For some rare or sensitive species, a special 'Schedule 1 Licence' is required to legally visit an active nest. Please see [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs/sch1](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs/sch1) for more details.

## Submitting your records

Once you have completed your cards, please send them to us at the address on page 6 by the end of December at the very latest. Don't forget to include your full name and contact details so we can send you a copy of our annual newsletter, Nest Record News. Your observations will join 30,000 other records collected by nest recorders across Britain and Ireland annually, and will be used to calculate annual trends in breeding success. See the results for yourself on the Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside web-pages at [www.bto.org/birdtrends](http://www.bto.org/birdtrends).

An inspection mirror being used to count the number of eggs in a Chaffinch nest



## NRS Code of conduct

For ethical and scientific reasons, it is essential that monitoring a nest does not jeopardise its safety. With this in mind, the Nest Record Scheme has a Code of Conduct that we ask all participants to follow. The Code is outlined below and further details can be found at [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs/coc](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs/coc). The code gives practical advice on avoiding the main risks associated with visiting nests:

- **Accidental damage** Be very careful when moving any surrounding vegetation, so as not to dislodge the nest or cause it to tilt and spill its contents.
- **Desertion** A sitting bird may leave the nest as you approach. If this happens, simply make a note of the nest contents and move away as quickly as possible to allow it to return. Any eggs and young present will be exposed while the parent is off the nest, so do not visit when it is raining or when temperatures are lower.
- **Revealing a nest to predators** Predators can be assisted by tracks and signs left by people and animals, so avoid leaving trails to and from the nest. Take care not to trample vegetation, and if any foliage is moved to access the nest, make sure it is replaced exactly as it was. Do not inspect a nest if you believe a predator might be watching you.

Scientific studies have shown that, as long as observers are careful and follow the guidelines above, making regular visits to a nest does not increase the probability of it failing. However, if you're not confident you can monitor a particular nest without causing undue disturbance, please don't—the welfare of the birds is paramount.

# County codes

Please complete the 'County' section of the Nest Record Card by selecting a code from below.

## England

Avon	<b>GBAV</b>
Bedfordshire	<b>GBBD</b>
Berkshire	<b>GBBK</b>
Buckinghamshire	<b>GBBC</b>
Cambridgeshire	<b>GBCA</b>
Cheshire	<b>GBCH</b>
Cleveland	<b>GBCV</b>
Cornwall	<b>GBCO</b>
Cumbria	<b>GBCU</b>
Derbyshire	<b>GBDB</b>
Devon	<b>GBDV</b>
Dorset	<b>GBDO</b>
Durham	<b>GBDU</b>
Essex	<b>GBES</b>
Gloucestershire	<b>GBGL</b>
Hampshire (excl. IOW)	<b>GBHA</b>
Hereford & Worcs	<b>GBHF</b>
Hertfordshire	<b>GBHT</b>

Humberside	<b>GBHU</b>
Isle of Man	<b>GBIM</b>
Isle of Wight	<b>GBIW</b>
Kent	<b>GBKE</b>
Lancashire	<b>GBLA</b>
Leicestershire	<b>GBLE</b>
Lincolnshire	<b>GBLI</b>
London (Greater)	<b>GBLO</b>
Manchester (Greater)	<b>GBMA</b>
Merseyside	<b>GBME</b>
Norfolk	<b>GBNK</b>
Northamptonshire	<b>GBNH</b>
Northumberland	<b>GBNL</b>
North Yorkshire	<b>GBNY</b>
Nottinghamshire	<b>GBNT</b>
Oxfordshire	<b>GBOX</b>
Scilly Isles	<b>GBSI</b>
Shropshire	<b>GBSA</b>
Somerset	<b>GBSO</b>
South Yorkshire	<b>GBSY</b>
Staffordshire	<b>GBST</b>
Suffolk	<b>GBSK</b>

Surrey	<b>GBSR</b>
Sussex (West & East)	<b>GBSX</b>
Tyne & Wear	<b>GBTY</b>
Warwickshire	<b>GBWK</b>
West Midlands	<b>GBWM</b>
West Yorkshire	<b>GBWY</b>
Wiltshire	<b>GBWT</b>

## Scotland

Borders	<b>GBBR</b>
Central	<b>GBCR</b>
Dumfries & Galloway	<b>GBDR</b>
Fair Isle	<b>GBFI</b>
Fife	<b>GBFR</b>
Grampian	<b>GBGR</b>
Highland	<b>GBHR</b>
Lothian	<b>GBLR</b>
Orkney	<b>GBOR</b>
Shetland	<b>GBSH</b>
Strathclyde	<b>GBSC</b>
Tayside	<b>GBTR</b>
Western Isles	<b>GBWI</b>

## Wales

Anglesey	<b>GBAN</b>
Clwyd	<b>GBCW</b>
Dyfed	<b>GBDY</b>
Glamorgan W, Mid & S	<b>GBGM</b>
Gwent	<b>GBGT</b>
Gwynedd	<b>GBGD</b>
Powys	<b>GBPO</b>

## Northern Ireland

County Antrim	<b>GBUN</b>
County Armagh	<b>GBUR</b>
County Down	<b>GBUD</b>
County Fermanagh	<b>GBUF</b>
County Londonderry	<b>GBUL</b>
County Tyrone	<b>GBUT</b>

## Channel Islands

Alderney	<b>CIAL</b>
Guernsey	<b>CIGU</b>
Herm	<b>CIHE</b>
Jersey	<b>CIJE</b>
Sark	<b>CISA</b>

# Habitat codes

Please complete the 'First habitat' section of the Nest Record Card by selecting one of the habitat types below; enter the letter into box 'H1' and the number into box 'Column A'. For more detailed habitat options ('Column B' and 'Column C') please see the NRS Handbook.

## Woodland (>5m tall)

<b>A1</b>	Broadleaved
<b>A2</b>	Coniferous
<b>A3</b>	Mixed broadleaved and coniferous
<b>A4</b>	Broadleaved water-logged
<b>A5</b>	Coniferous water-logged
<b>A6</b>	Mixed broadleaved and coniferous water-logged

## Scrubland (or very young woodland <5m tall)

<b>B1</b>	Regenerating natural or semi-natural woodland
<b>B2</b>	Downland (chalk)
<b>B3</b>	Heath scrub
<b>B4</b>	Young coppice
<b>B5</b>	New plantation
<b>B6</b>	Clear-felled woodland with or without new saplings
<b>B7</b>	Other

## Semi-natural grassland and marsh

<b>C1</b>	Chalk downland
<b>C2</b>	Grass moor (unenclosed)
<b>C3</b>	Grass moor mixed with heather (unenclosed)
<b>C4</b>	Machair
<b>C5</b>	Other dry grassland
<b>C6</b>	Water-meadow/grazing marsh
<b>C7</b>	Reed swamp
<b>C8</b>	Other open marsh
<b>C9</b>	Saltmarsh

## Heathland and bog

<b>D1</b>	Dry heath
<b>D2</b>	Wet heath
<b>D3</b>	Mixed wet/dry heath
<b>D4</b>	Bog
<b>D5</b>	Breckland
<b>D6</b>	Drained bog

## Farmland

<b>E1</b>	Apparently improved grassland
<b>E2</b>	Apparently unimproved grassland
<b>E3</b>	Mixed grass/ tilled land
<b>E4</b>	Tilled land
<b>E5</b>	Orchard
<b>E6</b>	Other farming

## Human sites

<b>F1</b>	Urban
<b>F2</b>	Suburban
<b>F3</b>	Rural

## Water bodies (freshwater)

<b>G1</b>	Pond (less than 50m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>G2</b>	Small water-body (50-450m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>G3</b>	Lake/unlined reservoir
<b>G4</b>	Lined reservoir
<b>G5</b>	Gravel pit, sand pit etc.
<b>G6</b>	Stream (less than 3m wide)
<b>G7</b>	River (more than 3m wide)

<b>G8</b>	Ditch with water (less than 2m wide)
<b>G9</b>	Small canal (2-5m wide)
<b>G10</b>	Large canal (more than 5m wide)

## Coastal

<b>H1</b>	Marine - open shore
<b>H2</b>	Marine shore - inlet/cove/loch
<b>H3</b>	Estuarine
<b>H4</b>	Brackish lagoon

## Inland Rock

<b>I1</b>	Cliff
<b>I2</b>	Scree/boulder slope
<b>I3</b>	Limestone pavement
<b>I4</b>	Other rock outcrop
<b>I5</b>	Quarry
<b>I6</b>	Mine/spoil/slag heap
<b>I7</b>	Cave

## Miscellaneous

<b>J1</b>	Other
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# Species codes

Please complete the 'Species' section of the Nest Record Card by selecting a 5-letter code from below. A complete list of species codes can be found in the NRS Handbook.

<b>BLABI</b>	Blackbird	<b>DUNNO</b>	Dunno	<b>MARTI</b>	Marsh Tit	<b>SPOFL</b>	Spotted Flycatcher
<b>BLACA</b>	Blackcap	<b>FERPI</b>	Feral Pigeon	<b>MOORH</b>	Moorhen	<b>STARL</b>	Starling
<b>BLUTI</b>	Blue Tit	<b>GOLDF</b>	Goldfinch	<b>MUTSW</b>	Mute Swan	<b>STODO</b>	Stock Dove
<b>BULLF</b>	Bullfinch	<b>GRCGR</b>	Great Crested Grebe	<b>PIEFL</b>	Pied Flycatcher	<b>SWALL</b>	Swallow
<b>CARCR</b>	Carrion Crow	<b>GRETI</b>	Great Tit	<b>PIEWA</b>	Pied Wagtail	<b>SWIFT</b>	Swift
<b>CHAFF</b>	Chaffinch	<b>GREFI</b>	Greenfinch	<b>REEWA</b>	Reed Warbler	<b>TAWOW</b>	Tawny Owl
<b>CHIFF</b>	Chiffchaff	<b>HOUMA</b>	House Martin	<b>ROBIN</b>	Robin	<b>TRESP</b>	Tree Sparrow
<b>COATI</b>	Coal Tit	<b>HOUSP</b>	House Sparrow	<b>ROOK.</b>	Rook	<b>WHITE</b>	Whitethroat
<b>COLDO</b>	Collared Dove	<b>JACKD</b>	Jackdaw	<b>SANMA</b>	Sand Martin	<b>WOODP</b>	Woodpigeon
<b>COOT.</b>	Coot	<b>JAY..</b>	Jay	<b>SONTH</b>	Song Thrush	<b>WREN.</b>	Wren
		<b>KESTR</b>	Kestrel				
		<b>LITGR</b>	Little Grebe				
		<b>LOTTI</b>	Long-tailed Tit				
		<b>MALLA</b>	Mallard				

# Status codes

**Activity Codes** are used to describe nest contents and activity observed during visits to the nest. Up to three codes may be entered for a single visit (see page 2). Further guidance on the use of Status Codes, particularly when monitoring a waterbird or wader nest, can be found in the NRS Handbook.

## Nest building stage

<b>N1</b>	Nest one-quarter built.
<b>N2</b>	Nest half built.
<b>N3</b>	Nest three-quarters built.
<b>N4</b>	Nest complete and unlined.
<b>NL</b>	Nest complete and lined.
<b>AB</b>	Adult building or carrying material.

## Egg laying and incubation stage

<b>FR</b>	Eggs fresh.
<b>CV</b>	Eggs covered.
<b>UN</b>	Eggs uncovered.
<b>CO</b>	Eggs cold.
<b>WA</b>	Eggs warm.
<b>AN</b>	Adult on or at nest.
<b>HA</b>	Eggs hatching.

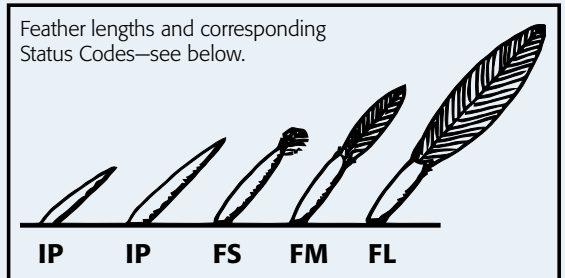
**Outcome Codes** are used on the final nest visit. If at least one chick fledges, the nesting attempt is considered successful and one or more 'Outcome success' codes should be entered, after which no further nest visits are necessary. If the nest fails to fledge any young, one or more 'Outcome failure' codes should be entered in the final nest visit. Failure codes can also be used on any visit to record partial failure, where some eggs/young have died but some live eggs/young remain, e.g. an unhatched egg (EA).

## Outcome success

<b>SY</b>	Some young fledged, other live young still in nest.
<b>SL</b>	Last young seen leaving.
<b>EX</b>	Young fledged nest on approach.
<b>NN</b>	Fledged young near nest.
<b>AC</b>	Adult carrying food to fledged young near nest.
<b>VA</b>	Adult visibly agitated/alarming as if fledged young are near nest.
<b>NE</b>	Nest empty and undisturbed with well-trodden lining containing feather scale and/or droppings.
<b>YC</b>	Young capable of leaving nest on previous visit.

## Outcome unknown

<b>OU</b>	Final outcome of the nest is not known or uncertain.
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## Young stage

<b>AY</b>	Audible young in nest.
<b>LB</b>	Young left naturally before fledging; still nearby.
<b>AF</b>	Adult feeding young at nest.
<b>AV</b>	Adult in vicinity of nest.
<b>BL</b>	Blind young.
<b>NA</b>	Naked young.
<b>DO</b>	Downy young.
<b>EY</b>	Eyes of young just open.
<b>IP</b>	Wing feathers in pin. See above for guidance.
<b>FS</b>	Wing feathers less than 1/3 emerged from sheath.
<b>FM</b>	Wing feathers between 1/3 to 2/3 out of sheath.
<b>FL</b>	Wing feathers more than 2/3 out of sheath.
<b>RF</b>	Young ready to fledge.

## Outcome failure

Combine one letter from the list below with one letter from the list to the right to produce a two-letter failure code e.g. 'EP' if the nest was predated at the egg stage.

<b>E</b>	At egg stage
<b>J</b>	At young stage
<b>X</b>	Egg or young stage



<b>B</b>	Eggs broken.
<b>D</b>	Deserted/starved/dead.
<b>A</b>	Eggs infertile/addled.
<b>E</b>	Empty damaged nest.
<b>F</b>	Flooded.
<b>C</b>	Killed or ejected by Cuckoo.
<b>L</b>	Livestock.
<b>I</b>	Man—intentional.
<b>M</b>	Man—accidental.
<b>O</b>	Other/unknown.
<b>P</b>	Predation.
<b>T</b>	Thrown/fallen out.
<b>U</b>	Usurped by another species.
<b>W</b>	Wind damage.

# Finding nests

Over 200 species of bird breed in the UK and no two go about it in quite the same way. The variety of nesting locations, nest constructions and breeding behaviours that the nest recorder encounters is staggering and the wealth of techniques for finding these nests is equally diverse. Knowing where and when to look for a particular species' nest is half the battle, so here is a quick guide to a typical breeding season—more information can be found on the NRS web-pages and in the NRS Handbook.

**December to February** Well outside the breeding season for most species, but some Feral Pigeons and Collared Doves will try to nest in urban and suburban areas where they can find warmth and supplementary food, even during mid-winter. Have a look along ledges and cavities above shop entrances and around heating vents—you may be surprised.



Urban Collared Dove nest

**March** Some common garden residents will start their first clutches now, including Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush and Dunnock. This is by far the easiest period to search for nests, as they will stand out against the sparse vegetation and searching for them can be focused on the few areas of foliage that provide adequate cover. Looking in clumps of ivy can be particularly rewarding.



Blackbird nest with eggs in ivy



Chaffinch nest in a tree fork

**Early April** With spring now well underway, most resident bird species, including many water birds, will have started their first nests. Look in tree forks and out on higher branches for finch nests, which are amazingly easy to miss. As exposed as they appear now, within weeks these nests will be completely hidden by the emerging canopy. Examine your nest boxes, as tits and sparrows will be busy building.



Blackcap nest in a nettle bed

**Late April to June** As the season eases into summer, finding nests becomes steadily more challenging as the emerging vegetation hides them from view. Nevertheless, a careful study of shrubs, hedges and the rank vegetation beneath will reveal the nests of newly arriving migrants such as Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Examine sheds and garages for Swallow and Spotted Flycatcher nests.

**July to August** The nesting season will have now drawn to a close for single-brooded species such as Blue Tit, although parents may still be feeding fledglings. But the end is not yet in sight for thrushes, sparrows, finches, Robins and other multi-brooded species that may be on second or even third clutches by now. Ground nesters such as Skylark will also be busy feeding young in arable fields and meadows.



Moorhen chick and parents

**September** The earlier frenzy of feeding parents has now given way to the bustle of newly-fledged birds, though Woodpigeon and Stock Dove will still be busy raising repeat broods into October. As vegetation dies back and leaves fall, old nests of various species come into view. Though these nests can no longer be monitored, they do reveal typical nest locations—well worth noting for next year!



Woodpigeon nest and young

## Find out more

Nest recording as an ornithological pursuit extends far beyond finding Blackbird nests in your garden. To find out more, please visit our website or contact us at The Nunnery.

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