

## ***INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING NEST RECORD CARDS***

The following describes how to complete a Nest Record Card. After finding a nest (see Instructions for Safe Observations of Nests), record the necessary information as described below. Do not complete the shaded boxes. See Figures 1-2 for examples. Please record all information carefully and as completely as possible.

**Species:** Use complete AOU common name.

**Year:** (block 1) Record year.

**Name:** Record first and middle initial of name (block 15) and entire last name (block 17).

**Locality:** Note location in relation to nearest town (e.g., 5 miles NNE from Kingsville), note county, and state. Record elevation (in feet; block 36) and latitude (block 29-31) and longitude (block 41-44) to the nearest minute. Record GPS location if possible in available blank space.

**Habitat:** Circle most appropriate starting with the most general (0-9) to the most specific (01-15). Add additional details if necessary in available blank space.

Note dominant plant species; (*please* use scientific name whenever possible).

**Nest Site:** Circle most appropriate nest site descriptor (i.e., nest support). Note other additional descriptors if necessary. Note principle plant or structure supporting nests.

**Nest Height:** Note height of eggs (in feet and tenths if under five feet; block 72).

**Cowbird parasitism :** Check box if appropriate.

**Brood number:** If the nest attempt for the same pair is known, note which attempt (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>; only if known with certainty).

**Next Side:** Fill in the month, day, number of eggs, young, check if adults were seen building the nest or if the adult is attending the nest. Fill in all that apply. Add other comments if appropriate (e.g., behavior, adult seen nearby or agitated, and state of nest if found abandoned).

**Outcome:** Circle the most appropriate choice (or add additional information). If nest is abandoned, attempt to determine cause. If young are suspected fledged, attempt to find evidence of young nearby (parental attendance, regular "chipping" by young, etc.). If failure is suspected, attempt to describe condition of nest, looking for clues that may indicate cause. Often additional investigation may determine nature of the failure.

**\*Colony Nesting Species:** Use a single card to record the number of breeding pairs/active nests for each visit (Fig. 3). Use additional cards for each visit.

**\*Return all nest cards to:** Mark S. Johnson, MOS Nest Record Program, 3204 Bryson Ct., Baldwin, MD 21013.

Fig. 1 Nest Record Card (side 1).

NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM Shaded Boxes not to be completed by observer

YEAR

Species: WOOD THRUSH 1 1 9 5 14

Observer (two initials, last name) In squares in space opposite → JB 17 BIRD WATCHER

Locality (in relation to nearest town) 3m: NNE FALLSTON Elevation (in feet above sea level) 29 31 33

County HARFORD State or Province MD 34 36 450 41 44

HABITAT (circle where appropriate)  
 1. Woods 2. Swamp 3. Marsh 4. Field 5. Grassland 6. Desert 7. Tundra 8. Suburban 9. Urban  
 0. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 01. Coniferous 02. Deciduous 03. Mixed 04. Orchard 05. Cultivated 06. Fallow 07. No Veget. 08. Hedgerow  
 09. Shrub 10. Salt 11. Brackish 12. Fresh 13. Sandy Beach 14. Gravel Beach 15. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

DOMINANT PLANT(S) IN HABITAT (list one or two)  
MIXED HARD WOOD FOREST QUERCUS ALBA 49 55

NEST SITE (circle where appropriate)  
 01 Bare ground 02 On ground in vegetation 03 Floating 04 Low vegetation 05 Shrub 06 Palm 07 Deciduous tree branch  
 08 Deciduous tree cavity 09 Conifer branch 10 Conifer cavity 11 Nest box 12 Other structure 13 Cliff or bank  
 14 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

PRINCIPAL PLANT OR STRUCTURE \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUPPORTING NEST VIBURNUM DENTATUM 63

Height of Eggs Above Ground or Water in Feet (feet and tenths if under five feet) 72 3 5 76

If parasitized by Cowbird check here  If same pair had other nestings this year, indicate which this is (1, 2, 3) (see separate card for each nesting) 77

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THE CARD

78 79 80  
1

Fig. 2 Nest Record Card (side 2)

No. Col. 1-12 13 If used for colonial nesting check here  and see instructions

(Col. 2-14, side 1)

DATE	Eggs	Young	Edit	Build- ing	Adult On	COMMENTS
5 2				✓		
5 10	2					ADULT SEEN NEARBY
5 13	4				✓	
5 20		4			✓	
5 27		3				
6 2		3			✓	ADULT SEEN FEEDING YG; 3 HOURS COUNTED.
6 7		3				YG. ON NEST EDGE
6 9		2				1 YG SEEN NEARBY
6 10		0				ADULT SEEN FEEDING YG. NEARBY

01 Unknown because not revisited 07 Nest deserted 12 Failure due to competition with other species  
 02 Young seen leaving nest 08 Failure due to weather 13 Failure due to human activities  
 03 Parent(s) excited near nest 09 Failure due to predation 14 Failure due to pesticides (give details separately)  
 04 Parent(s) with young near nest 10 Failure due to invertebrate parasites 15 Other (describe above)  
 05 Nest empty, intact 11 Failure due to cowbirds

Please complete both sides and return at end of season to your Regional Center or to Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850. We thank you for contributing your time and efforts to this program--

76 77  
78 79 80  
2

Fig. 3 Example of a single visit to a nesting colony.

No. Col. 1-12 (Co. 2-14, side 1)		13	If used for colonial nesting check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and see instructions					COMMENTS		
DATE		Eggs	Young	Edir	Build- ing	Adult On	Stage of building, if eggs warm, age of young, if banded, etc.			
Month	Day									
5	23	1					5 NESTS			
5	23	2					15 NESTS			
5	23	3					50 NESTS			
5	23	4					2 NESTS			
5	23	1	2				3 NESTS			
5	23		3				2 NESTS			
01 Unknown because not revisited		OUTCOME INCLUDING CASES WHERE OUTCOME UNKNOWN (circle where appropriate)							76	77
02 Young seen leaving nest		07 Nest deserted							12 Failure due to competition with other species	
03 Parent(s) excited near nest		08 Failure due to weather							13 Failure due to human activities	
04 Parent(s) with young near nest		09 Failure due to predation							14 Failure due to pesticides (give details separately)	
05 Nest empty, intact		10 Failure due to invertebrate parasites							15 Other (describe above)	
06 Nest empty, damaged		11 Failure due to cowbirds								
Please complete both sides and return at end of season to your Regional Center or to Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850. We thank you for contributing your time and efforts to this program.							78	79	80	2