

BREEDING CODES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

All the following codes apply to a species seen or heard during its breeding season:

Observed:

O: Migrants and species observed that cannot be nesting within area. Examples: herons and gulls without rookeries, orange-crowned warbler in foothills, Swainson's thrush on plains.

Possible:

#: Species found in suitable nesting habitat.

X: One or more singing males in suitable nesting habitat during their breeding season.

Probable:

M: Seven or more singing males of a given species heard on a single day.

P: Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat.

T: Permanent territory presumed through territorial behavior, defense, chasing other birds, or song in the same location on at least two occasions a week or more apart.

C: Courtship behavior between a male and a female or copulation. Includes display or food exchange.

V: Visiting probable nest site, but no further evidence obtained. This particularly applies to woodpeckers and nuthatches, who often fly into holes they may not use for nesting.

A: Agitated behavior or anxiety calls of adult, indicating nest site or young in vicinity.

N: Nest building by bald eagles in winter or excavation of nest hole by wrens and woodpeckers.

Confirmed:

NB: Nest building or adult carrying nesting material. Use for all species except wrens and woodpeckers.

DD: Distraction display or injury feigning. Use particularly for killdeer and no That.

UN: Used nest or eggshells found. This one is particularly good for magpies and orioles, whose old nests are conspicuous in early spring but harder to find later.

FL: Recently fledged young. It's OK if they can fly, but not far!

ON: Occupied nest indicated by adult entering or leaving nest site.

FY: Feeding young. Adult seen carrying food for young (you don't have to see the young!).

FS: Adult carrying fecal sac away from nest for disposal. Many songbirds do this and it's more conspicuous than you might think.

NE: Nest with eggs.

NY: Nest with young seen or heard. Listen for chirps and rasps when the adult bring in food.