

WHAT IS NESTWATCH?

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive.

The database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations, and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

Enrolling has no cost to participants.

*Please note that construction of, placement of, and maintenance of nest boxes does not count as EFCMN volunteer time for this project. This is a field research and observation volunteer project.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it.

*If you already have a Cornell Lab of Ornithology user name and password, you can use the same user name and password for NestWatch.

1. Go to www.nestwatch.org **"HOME"** tab, scroll to **"How to Count"** graphic to become a certified NestWatcher (user name, password and an online quiz regarding do's and don'ts of observing bird nests).
2. find a bird nest (or nests) (in a tree, in a bush, on the ground, or in a nest box, etc.) using the website's helpful tips
3. using the instructions regarding specie I.D. and site location, record its (their) geographic location and "name" on the website
4. visit the nest every 3-4 days (using website recommended observation etiquette)
5. record what you see (using the website-recommended hardcopy form) (Go to **LEARN** tab, under **HOW TO NEST WATCH**, select **"Nest Check Data Sheet"**)
6. then upload the information on the website.

You can also download the NestWatch Mobile App for iOS and Android and record what you see at the nest in real time.

Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds.

Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world.

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