

SRMS Online Quick Reference Guide: Visit Log Details

On SRMS Online we ask you to complete a row of a Visit Log for every raptor monitoring visit you make. You may find it helpful to take this quick reference guide with you into the field to remind yourself of the information that you should be looking to collect on each visit to enable you complete the Visit Log as fully as possible. Remember that you are aiming to complete one Visit Log per Home Range per year.

Occupancy:

Please record the occupancy status on your visit from the following options.

Adult pair
Adult female/male unaged
Adult male/female unaged
Immature pair
Immature female/male unaged
Immature male/female unaged
Mixed adult/immature pair
Unaged pair

Adult female
Adult male
Single adult
Immature female
Immature male
Single immature
Unaged individual

No signs and no birds

Fresh signs but no birds

Old signs but no birds

Eggs/Young:

Please record the number of live/dead eggs and young on your visit. You should assume eggs are live unless you have any evidence to the contrary. You can enter '?' where the contents cannot be counted with certainty or if the adult is sitting and you cannot see the contents. You can include a '+' after the number to indicate a minimum count. e.g. 6+ if there are six or more eggs or young.

Status codes:

Please record as many details as possible about the stage of development of the nest, eggs and young, as well as the activities of the parent birds and the eventual outcome of the nest. You are able to capture up to five status codes per visit. Below is a list of the available two-letter status codes.

Observation Type:

Please record the type of observation that you made from the following options:

Nest visit: you visited the nest or its immediate vicinity in person to attempt to ascertain nest contents (i.e. whether eggs and/or young were present).

Observation from distance: you made an observation from a vantage point or on a walk through known or potentially suitable breeding habitat.

Camera: you made remote observations via camera/video.

Casual: you made a casual observation while passing through your study area, while not strictly on a monitoring visit. You may also use this observation type to incorporate information from third parties.

Time spent by nest:

If you have conducted a visit to a nest, please record the time in minutes spent at or near the nest. This is a useful measure for the impact of observer disturbance at nests.

Initials:

Record all observers involved on a given visit.

Nesting attempt:

Record the number of the nesting attempt for species which may have several broods (e.g. Barn Owl) or have the capacity to relay following a failure early in the breeding season (e.g. Hen Harrier).

Visit locations:

Record the exact location within the Home Range, that your observations were made. If you have a Home Range with separate alternate Nest Site you are monitoring, list each on a separate row.

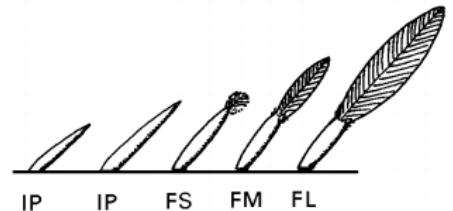
Category	Code	Definition	Notes
TERRITORY			
Territory	OS*	Signs territory is occupied	Let us know the field signs you have observed (e.g. plucking point, pellets, droppings, moulted feathers, down) and their age (e.g. fresh, old, unknown).
Territory	BS	Birds on territory	
Territory	NS	No signs, no birds	

Category	Code	Definition	Notes
NEST BUILDING			
Nest presence or building	OE	Empty nest	
	NU	Nest appears old and isn't being used	
	NR	Old nest replenished with new material	
	N0	Nest Site empty	
	N1	Nest 1/4 built	
	N2	Nest 1/2 built	
	N3	Nest 3/4 built	
	N4	Complete, unlined	
	NL	Complete, lined	Some species line their nest with softer material than the rest of the nest. Many raptors line their nests with green leafy material.

Category	Code	Definition	Notes
ADULT ACTIVITY – Recording the activity of adult birds at or near the nest can be useful when determining the stage of the nest, particularly when the contents cannot be seen (as in the case of a species nesting high in a tree). For example, an adult sitting tight on the nest implies that it contains eggs and/or young; and adults regularly going to and from the nest with food implies that young are present			
Adult activity	AK	Adult territorial singing/calling	
	AO	Adult displaying	
	AX	Adult alarming	
	AG	Adult aggression/agitation behaviour	
	AB	Adult building nest or carrying nest material	
	AV*	Adults in vicinity of nest	Let us know the count, age and sex of any birds you observe.
	AN*	Adult on/at nest	Let us know the count, age and sex of any birds you observe.
	AF	Adult feeding young at nest	
	AT	Adult trapped at/near nest	
	AI	Adult identified by colour mark at nest	
Pair activity	AD	Adult dead	
	PK	Pair territorial singing/calling	
	PO	Pair displaying	
	PA	Food pass between pair	
	PS	Copulation activity	
	PX	Pair alarming	
	PG	Pair aggression/agitation behaviour	
	PB	Pair building nest or carrying nest material	
	PV	Pair in vicinity of nest	
	PN	Pair on/at nest	
	PF	Pair feeding young at nest	
	PT	Pair trapped at/near nest	
	PI	Pair identified by colour mark at nest	
	PD	Pair dead	

Category	Code	Definition	Notes
LIVE EGGS – The following status codes should ONLY be used while nest building is still in progress.			
Live eggs	CO	Cold	If the eggs can be easily reached, very carefully feel them to see if they are cold or warm. This will then tell us whether or not incubation has begun.
	WA	Warm	
	UN	Uncovered	Some species cover their eggs with material while they are away from the nest. Only record UN or CV for those species that are known to normally cover their eggs.
	CV	Covered	
	FR	Fresh	Freshness of eggs or the presence of a developing embryo can be assessed using the Water Test or by candling.
	DE	Developing embryo present	
	HA	Hatching	
	PE	Pipping/calling from egg	Some chicks call from within the egg for one to two days before hatching. Before the chick has broken through the shell, “starring” of the shell occurs where the chick has cracked the shell from within.

Category	Code	Definition	Notes
LIVE YOUNG – The broods of some species (e.g. owls) normally have young at various stages of growth. The following status codes should ONLY be used to describe the age of the oldest chick. Status codes to describe the growth of younger birds may be recorded in the comments section.			
Live young	NA	Naked	The egg tooth is a horny bump on the upper side of the beak that is used by nestlings to break through the shell and out of the egg.
	TO	Egg tooth present	
	DO	Downy	
	BL	Blind	Primary feathers (the large flight feathers that form the outer half of the wing) which are completely enclosed within the shiny sheath are called “in pin” (because of their pointed shape)
	EY	Eyes just open	
	IP	Primary feathers in pin	
	FS	Primary feathers short; less than 1/3 emerged	
	FM	Primary feathers medium; 1/3-2/3 emerged	
	FL	Primary feathers large; more than 2/3 emerged	
	RF	Ready to fledge	'RF' should only be used when young look ready to fledge but none have yet done so.
	LB	Young left nest naturally before fledging	Young left nest naturally before fledging and still nearby.
YR	Young ringed	Use every time some young are ringed, even if only part of the brood is ringed.	
AY	Audible young in nest	When food-begging or hunger calls of the young are heard in the nest.	



Category	Code	Definition	Notes
OUTCOME SUCCESS CODES: The following codes are all Outcome codes and should be 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.			
Nest successful	SY	Some young fledged	Some young fledged; other live young still in nest.
	SL	Young seen leaving	
	EX	Exploded from nest	Older nestlings may "explode" from or leave their nest in direct response to being approached by a nest recorder. Survival chances may be lessened if this occurs, depending on how close they were to fledging naturally, but the nestlings will still be cared for by their parents.
	NN	Young near nest	
	AC	Adult carrying food near nest	
	VA	Adult visibly alarmed/agitated near nest	
	YC	Young capable of leaving nest when last seen	'YC' should be used when some or all of the young have fledged and may follow a visit where young are described as 'RF'.
	NE	Nest empty, undisturbed, feather scale, droppings	

Category	Code	Definition	Notes
OUTCOME FAILURE CODES: The following codes are all Outcome codes and should be used on the final nest visit. 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).			
Loss/failure of eggs	EA*	Eggs not hatched (infertile, addled)	Let us know what you believe to be the cause of the failure you have observed together with any evidence that has led to the conclusion you have made.
	EB*	Eggs damaged/broken	
	ED*	Eggs deserted	
	EE*	Empty damaged nest at egg stage	
	EF*	Flooded nest at egg stage	
	EI*	Eggs damaged by man intentionally	
	EL*	Eggs damaged by livestock	
	EM*	Eggs damaged by man unintentionally	
	EO*	Eggs damaged by other/unknown causes	
	EP*	Eggs predated	
	ET*	Eggs thrown or fallen out	
	EU*	Eggs usurped from nest by another species	
	EW*	Eggs damaged by wind	
Loss/failure of young	JB*	Young injured	Let us know what you believe to be the cause of the failure you have observed together with any evidence that has led to the conclusion you have made.
	JD*	Young deserted/starved/dead	
	JE*	Empty damaged nest at young stage	
	JF*	Nest flooded at young stage	
	JI*	Young damaged intentionally by man	
	JL*	Young damaged by livestock	
	JM*	Young damaged by man unintentionally	
	JO*	Young damaged by other/unknown causes	
	JP*	Young predated	
	JT*	Young thrown/fallen out	
	JU*	Young usurped from nest by another species	
JW*	Young damaged by wind		
Loss/failure of contents	XD*	Deserted at egg/young stage	Let us know what you believe to be the cause of the failure you have observed together with any evidence that has led to the conclusion you have made.
	XE*	Empty/damaged nest at egg/young stage	
	XF*	Flooded nest at egg/young stage	
	XI*	Intentional damage by man at egg/young stage	
	XL*	Livestock damage at egg/young stage	
	XM*	Unintentional damage by man at egg/young stage	
	XO*	Other/unknown damage at egg/young stage	
	XP*	Predation at egg/young stage	
	XT*	Eggs/young thrown/fallen out	
XU*	Usurped from nest		
XW*	Wind damage at egg/young stage		

Category	Code	Definition	Notes
OUTCOME UNKNOWN CODES: The following codes are all Outcome codes and should be used on the final nest visit if the final outcome of the nest is not known or uncertain.			
Outcome unknown	OI	Observations inconclusive	
	OX	Site not visited	
	OU	Outcome unknown for other reason	

Category	Code	Definition	Notes
NO BREEDING CODES: The following codes are all Outcome codes and should be used on the final nest visit if the final outcome of the nest is no breeding.			
No breeding at site/territory	SS	Bird(s) present but no breeding	
	SR	Pair breeding at alternative site	
	SA	Site damaged	
	SD	Site destroyed	
	SU	Other species preventing use	
	SO	Site unused for other reason	
	SZ	Site unused – no birds present	