

## Breeding Codes/Definitions

**Observed** - Use this code **ONLY** during the safe dates.

O Individual of a species simply observed (seen or heard) within safe dates but not in suitable habitat, e.g., a flyover

**Possible** – Use this code **ONLY** during the safe dates.

X Individual of a species seen or heard in suitable nesting habitat within safe dates, but not exhibiting any of the breeding behaviors described in the following 15 categories.

**Probable** – Use these codes outside the safe dates with care.

T Territorial behavior including counter-singing, drumming in woodpeckers (drumming bird must be seen for species I.D.), aggressive interaction between same sex individuals, or singing male in same location on visits separated by 5 days or more.

P Pair seen in close proximity to and/or interacting non-aggressively with one another; in sexually monomorphic species, like Song Sparrow, two birds seen feeding or perched close together without displaying aggression.

C Ritualized courtship behavior (e.g., aerial displays, courtship feeding) or copulation between two birds observed.

U Used nests of species found; only species with highly distinctive nests may be assigned this code. Because of the difficulty in identifying the old nests of many species, and because used nests, especially in protected settings, can persist for years, "U" is taken only as evidence of probable breeding during the Atlas.

A Agitated behavior or anxiety calls given by adults due to observer or predator presence (does not include agitated reaction to "pishing")

**Confirmed** – You may use these codes any time; safe dates may be disregarded.

CN Adult bird seen carrying nesting material. Use of this code for larger species, like crows or herons, which may collect nesting material well outside the block in which they nest, or for species like wrens that build "dummy" nests, equates to probable breeding.

PE Physiological evidence (for use by experienced bird banders)

NB Nest building observed at nest site. (note: this code will equate to probable breeding in the case of wrens and excavating species like woodpeckers, kingfishers, and tits, which build so-called "dummy nests" or excavate cavities that may not be used for nesting; for these species, attempt to upgrade to one of the following seven confirmed breeding codes)

DD Distraction display (especially injury feigning), or apparent direct defense of unobserved nest/young.

FL Recently fledged or downy young.

CF Adult seen carrying either food or fecal sac.

FY Adult seen feeding fledged young.

NE Nest with eggs (a nest containing cowbird's eggs confirms both the host and the cowbird).

ON Occupied nest (used for high nests and cavity nesters).

NY Nest with young. (cowbird nestlings count as "NY" both for host species and cowbird).