

Bald Eagle Nesting Activity Data Collection Protocol

January 2012

Visit Information Section

Site Code

BARR	Barr Lake (Brighton)
STVR	St. Vrain (Longmont)
STLA	Standley Lake (Westminster)
BOCR	Boulder Creek (Del Camino)
HCR1	Horse Creek Reservoir (Hudson) - NW
HCR2	Horse Creek Reservoir (Hudson) - SW
BERT	Berthoud
LOCH	Lochbuie
TEPL	Ted's Place (Fort Collins)
WIND	Windsor
DACO	Dacono
ENLE	Environmental Learning Center (Fort Collins)
RMTA	Rocky Mtn Arsenal (Commerce City)
COAC	Coal Creek (Aurora)
FIRE	Firestone
LLRE	Lower Latham Reservoir (La Salle, CO)
PARE	Panama Reservoir (Longmont)
GRSI	Greeley/Siebring (Greeley)
HOLA	Horseshoe Lake (Loveland)
WATT	Wattenburg
THOR	Thornton
NELO	Northeast Longmont (Longmont)
LYON	Hygiene (Lyons)
WYND	Wyndham- (Erie)
LAGE	Lagerman Reservoir (Boulder)
JOHN	Johnstown

Observer

This is your identification / name

Date

Enter today's date as month/date/year.

Start Time

The time you start your nest watch. This will be recorded in Mountain Standard Time (MST). Until spring daylight savings time, add 1 hour to the actual time. After daylight savings time, record actual time on the clock. Record using military time.

Example: 8:00am is 0800 and 2:00pm is 1400.

End Time

The time you end your nest watch. This will be recorded in Mountain Standard Time (MST). Until spring daylight savings time, add 1 hour to the actual time. After daylight savings time, record actual time on the clock. Record using Military time.

Example: 8:00am is 0800 and 2:00pm is 1400.

Wind Code

Record the wind at the end of your nest visit. Record an average of what it was like throughout your observation time.

Temp (F)

Estimate the temperature at the end of your nest visit. Record an average of what it was like throughout your observation time. Use degrees Fahrenheit.

Water Frozen

Y Yes

N No

P Partly Frozen

Sky

Record this at the end of your visit for the best estimate of the weather throughout your nest visit.

Donated Hours

Include ALL hours (include travel time to and from nest site, time observing, and time entering sheet).

Individual Birds Observed Section

Age/ Plumage

Y Young
JU Juvenile
SA Sub Adult
AD Adult

Eagle ID examples

A1 Adult 1
A2 Adult 2
Y1 One Eaglet
Y2 Second Eaglet
Y3 Third Eaglet

Bird Behavior Section

This is the section where you will be recording the behavior of each individual Bald Eagle that you watch on a site visit. You will record your observations for both adults and young in the nest here. Behavior codes are listed on the left side of your data sheet.

ID

This is where you will identify all birds you see - A1, A2, Y1, Y2, Y3. In the notes section you can include plumage

Age/ Plumage

Y Young
JU Juvenile
SA Sub Adult
AD Adult

Eagle ID examples

- A1 Adult 1
- A2 Adult 2
- Y1 One Eaglet
- Y2 Second Eaglet
- Y3 Third Eaglet

Time

This is where you will mark the time you first detect a bird in the area. Please use military time.

Behavior Codes

Refer to the list of Behaviors on the left side of the data collection form.

- NI Nest incubation adult is sitting low in the nest, back is flat
- NC Nest construction eagle is adding or rearranging nest material while at nest
- FS Feeding self (in notes section describe prey if you can)
- FY Feeding young Adult eagle is feeding young; adult stands on nest, head down, pulls meat from prey and pokes into the nest. (in notes section describe prey if possible)
- HA Hatch
- FL Fledge eaglet is out of nest (could be in nearby tree or out of area)
- PN Perched on/in nest or nest tree

Additional Notes

What to put in the Notes Section:

- IA - eagles are in the area
- NO - not occupied - referring to the actual nest
- AB - eagles are absent from the area
- Type of prey if you see hunting / feeding behavior (usually prairie dog, fish, rabbit)
- During incubation if you see adult eagle using feet and beak to roll egg (s) mark as **egg rolling**
- After hatch if you see adult nestled down in nest protecting, warming or covering young mark as **brooding**
- Please mark the end of your observation in the notes section

Territory Active Y/N - if at any time during your observation an eagle was in the area mark Y

Courtship/ copulation Y/N - please mark if observed

Number of adult bald eagle's detected - total number of adults viewed

Number of nestlings detected - total number of chicks observed

Number of fledglings detected - total number of eaglets that have flown from nest

Disturbance Observations

Did you notice any disturbance - disturbance is any noticeable change in the eagle's behavior. This can be caused by cars, people, aircraft, boat, oil/gas equipment, gunfire, even you! Please be very detailed

Other raptors/ eagles in area

Please mark Y/N and if you can identify them, please do so. Most common ID's are:

- BAEA (bald eagle)
- RTH (red-tail hawk)
- FRH (ferruginous hawk)

Provide a brief summary....

- Any additional information that you feel helps to explain a situation or one of the behaviors should be written in the notes section.
- Use this space to explain recorded data in better detail, and for anything else that you feel is important to your observation.

Notes for others / follow-up needed

If for example you have been to the site a few times and you have noticed only one adult