










## BREEDING BIRD EVIDENCE CODES SUMMARY

Determining which birds are breeding in a region is what separates atlasing from general birding efforts. The breeding evidence codes described in the Volunteer Handbook are an essential part of the project. Everyone should familiarise themselves with these codes before starting to collect data. Breeding bird evidence that you may come across while conducting fieldwork for the atlas is classified into four categories (confirmed breeding, probably breeding, possible breeding, and observed with no evidence of breeding), listed in descending order of breeding certainty. All the codes within these categories are also listed in descending order of breeding certainty. Refer to the Volunteer Handbook for a more detailed explanation of these codes. This page gives an overview of the basic breeding evidence codes.

It is often difficult to decide which code is the most appropriate for a given observation and some observations may readily fit into multiple breeding evidence codes. The goal is for you to assign your observation to the highest level of breeding evidence that is supported by what you observed. Use your best judgement when you are unsure, or contact your Regional Coordinator for advice.

### Examples of breeding codes

BREEDING CATEGORY	Description and Breeding Code
<b>Confirmed Breeding</b>	
	<p>Bald Eagle nest with young (NY) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
	<p>Killdeer nest with eggs (NE) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
	<p>American Redstart carrying food for young (CF) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>

	<p>Recently fledged Killdeer still showing dependency on adult (FL) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
	<p>Killdeer on nest (ON) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
	<p>Killdeer feigning a wing injury as part of a distraction display (DD) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
	<p>Osprey building a nest (NB) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
<p><b>Probable Breeding</b></p>	
	<p>Northern Flicker in cavity (B) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
	<p>Tree Swallow pair in suitable breeding habitat (P) Photo: Sharon Fiedler</p>
<p><b>Possible Breeding</b></p>	



**Black-and-white Warbler singing in suitable breeding habitat (S)**  
Photo: Amy Meehan



**Killdeer adult in suitable breeding habitat (H)**  
Photo: Sharon Fiedler

**Observed or Flyover**



**Great Blue Heron flying overhead (F)**  
Photo: Kirk Rogers