

Appendix III. Breeding Evidence Codes used by the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0

Observed (OB)	
O	Species observed in block but not believed to be nesting.
Possible Breeding (PO)	
X	Used for a bird observed or heard singing once in suitable habitat during the nesting season, but with no other indication of breeding noted. Summering and non-breeding adults (e.g., gulls at inland sites, migrant shorebirds and late-migrating passerines) are not included.
Probable Breeding (PR)	
P	Pair observed in suitable habitat during their breeding season.
T	Song or other behavioral evidence of territory establishment (e.g., chasing of other individuals of same species often marks territory) on at least two days, a week or more apart.
C	Courtship behavior or copulation. Not used for waterfowl, shorebirds and diurnal raptors.
N	Bird visiting a probable nest site.
A	Agitated behavior or anxiety calls from adults suggesting probable evidence of nest or young nearby.
B	Nest building by wrens or excavation of holes by woodpeckers. Wrens may build many nests and woodpeckers, although usually drilling only one nest cavity, may also drill roosting holes.
Confirmed Breeding (CO)	
NB	Nest building by all except wrens and woodpeckers.
DD	Distraction display or injury feigning.
UN	Used nest location. Nests must be carefully identified if used for confirmation. Some nests (e.g., Baltimore Oriole) are persistent and characteristic. Most are difficult to identify correctly.
FL	Recently fledged young or downy young of galliforms, shorebirds or waterfowl. Because some species may move some distance after fledging (e.g., swallows and blackbirds) young should be incapable of sustained flight and still dependent on adults for food.
ON	Occupied nest. Adult(s) entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest. Used for cavity nesters only when a bird enters a hole and remains inside; when the male and female exchange places while incubating eggs; or when a bird leaves a hole after being inside for some time.
AY	Attending young. Adult carrying fecal sac or food for young. As some birds may carry food long distances to young in a neighboring block, care is needed on the edges of blocks.
NE	Nests with eggs or adult sitting in nest.
NY	Nest with young or downy young of waterfowl, quail, waders etc. Since precocial downy young may be led considerable distances by adults, care is needed at edges of blocks.

*Note: Presence of cowbird eggs (NE) or young (FL or NY) serves as confirmation of both cowbird and host species.

