

# COLONY SITE VISIT FORM

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EVERY VISIT: DO NOT SUMMARIZE VISITS HERE.



Colony Site:	Observer(s):		
Date of visit (mo/day/year):	Start time:	End time:	
Conditions impacting visibility of nests (glare, wind, rain, or other interference):			

## STEP 1: TALLY ACTIVE NESTS

A nest is **active** if you observe any sign that a **pair bond** has been established, even if you cannot see the actual nest platform. For Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, and Double-crested Cormorants, signs of pair bond include: 1) two adults close enough to touch, 2) nest building, 3) copulation, 4) incubation, or 5) the presence of eggs or chicks. A Black-crowned Night-Heron nest is active if you observe any of the above criteria, *except for nest building*. Night-Herons can begin building before pair bond. Instead, look for adult on or maintaining a well-built nest (able to hold at least two eggs). See ACTIVE NESTS FIELD CARD for help. Please do not include old, unoccupied nest platforms if you see no sign of activity--but take time to check for hidden chicks or adults!

Great Blue Heron	Great Egret	Snowy Egret	Cattle Egret	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Double-crested Cormorant

## STEP 2: TALLY STAGES IN CLEARLY OBSERVED NESTS

For Great Blue Heron (GBHE) and Great Egret (GREG) nests only, tally the number of nests at each stage (see STAGES FIELD CARD). Remember, only include nests where you can clearly identify the nest stage. This tally might not include every nest you counted in STEP 1.

	Guarded Chicks			Unguarded Chicks	
	<b>STAGE 1:</b> Egg laying, incubation, adult lying down for long periods, egg turning, defecation, nest relief. <u>One or more adult continuously at the nest.</u>	<b>STAGE 2:</b> Hatching, downy chicks, feeding low in the nest. <u>One or more adult continuously at the nest.</u> This stage is hard to detect!	<b>STAGE 3:</b> Chicks usually standing, most down replaced by juvenal plumage, <u>one or more adult continuously at the nest.</u> Beware, adults may be temporarily flushed off the nest!	<b>STAGE 4:</b> <u>Adults not continuously at the nest</u> , chicks rarely off the nest platform.	<b>STAGE 5:</b> Young often <u>off the nest.</u> "Branchers." <u>Adults not continuously at the nest.</u>
<b>GBHE</b>					
<b>GREG</b>					

Did you detect any nests at Stage 4? If so, please complete STEP 3 below.

## STEP 3: TALLY STAGE 4 BROOD SIZES

For Great Blue Heron (GBHE) and Great Egret (GREG) nests only, re-locate the Stage 4 nests and count the number of chicks in each. The number of chicks in the nest is the **brood size**. Tally the brood sizes of clearly observed Stage 4 nests in the boxes below. This tally might not include every Stage 4 nest you counted in STEP 2.

*Only include clearly visible broods in the tally below! Do not include broods where you suspect there are hidden chicks.*

	1 CHICK	2 CHICKS	3 CHICKS	4 CHICKS	5 CHICKS
<b>GBHE</b>					
<b>GREG</b>					

**(FLIP OVER--DON'T FORGET THE OTHER SIDE!)**

**STEP 4: PROVIDE NOTES ON PREDATORS AND DISTURBANCE**

**PREDATORS:**

Please indicate below if any potential nest predators were observed within 100 meters of the colony.

	Present within 100 m of colony site	Check box if nesting
Common Raven	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Great Horned Owl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red-Tailed Hawk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bald Eagle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raccoon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**DISTURBANCE:**

Please describe signs of disturbance to herons and egrets at the nest site. Attach additional pages if needed.

Observed or Inferred (O/I)	Description Including any observed response by herons and/or egrets	Type Code <sup>1</sup>	Result Code <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A=avian, H=human, W=weather, M=mammal, O=observer, P=unknown predator, U=unknown  
<sup>2</sup> 0=No response observed, 1=behavioral response, 2=nest failure, 3=colony abandonment, 4=pre-season disturbance, prior to arrival

**STEP 5: OTHER NOTES**

Please describe any notes of interest, including unusual behaviors, food scraps under nests, known feeding areas, etc.