

Codes and descriptions for levels of breeding evidence for the Bear Creek Atlas.

<b>General level of evidence</b>	
<b>code</b>	<b>breeding behavior description</b>
Observed (OB)	
O	Migrants, species beyond normal breeding range, or in unlikely breeding habitat, species flying over, or those that exhibit no breeding behaviors
Possible Breeders (PO)	
H	Species found or breeding calls heard
X	Singing male; less than 7 different males
Probable Breeders (PR)	
M	Multiple males: 7 different singing males heard in one day; this code is meant for song birds (passerines); don't use it for birds that don't sing to proclaim territory (ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, quail, grebes, pelicans, raptors, shorebirds, gulls, terns, swifts, hummingbirds, kingfishers, woodpeckers)
P	Pair: male and female observed in behavior suggesting a pair, not just a male and a female present together (except grouse)
T	Territorial behavior: defense of a territory, chasing other birds, or singing in same location on occasions at least a week apart; singing male(s) responding directly to other singing male(s)
C	Courtship behavior: displaying, exchanging food, copulating; be aware that ducks court while migrating
A	Agitated behavior or anxiety calls of adult, indicating nest site or young in vicinity. Don't include if the behavior resulted from your "pishing" or playing recorded calls.
V	Visiting a probable nest site frequently, but showing no confirmed nesting behaviors
N	Nest building, by Bald Eagles; House and Marsh Wrens may build "dummy" nests; woodpeckers dig cavities and nests, so use this code for all of them, but not NB below
Confirmed Breeders (CO)	
NB	Nest building: use for Canyon and Rock Wrens, which do not build dummy nests; and for all other species carrying nesting material to a suitable location
DD	Distraction display, or pretending an injury, and leading you or predators away from a possible nest site
ON	Occupied nest: bird sitting on nest, or flying in and out of a likely nest site that you cannot see into
NE	Nest with eggs: you see eggs in a nest (otherwise ON); for cowbirds, count them and the host species if you find eggs
CF	Carrying food to a suitable nesting site: you do not see the nestlings or fledglings. Caution: raptors, corvids, shrikes, jays, chickadees and nuthatches may carry food some distance before eating or caching
NY	Nest with young: you do see the nestling in the nest, or hear the nestling begging even if you can't locate the nest
FF	Feeding fledgling: you see an adult feeding a recently fledged bird (one not yet capable of sustained flight)
FL	Fledged recently: you see a young bird incapable of sustained flight (be sure it is not a juvenile that may have flown in from a distant location)
FS	Adult carrying away a fecal sac; they don't usually fly very far, so this behavior can help locate a nest
UN	Used nest, or egg shells (if you can reliably link the nest or eggs to a species)