

Collector Instructions

Questions? contact us at sparrowswap@ncsu.edu

Why be a Collector: The house sparrow eggs you provided will be photographed and analyzed to understand variation in color and speckling of house sparrow eggs across the United States. We will also analyze the content of the eggs for environmental contaminants to determine whether house sparrow eggs are a useful indicator of human exposure to environmental contaminants.

Step 1: PREPARE CLUTCH CARRIER - Fill container of choice (Tupperware container will do) with rice or birdseed as cushioning to bring with you into the field for egg collection.

Step 2: REMOVE CLUTCH - Remove house sparrow (HOSP) eggs AFTER the HOSP parent has finished completely laying her clutch (typically around 4-6 eggs). Collect HOSP eggs from nestbox by GENTLY rolling (not pinching) eggs into palm and placing eggs into pre-made clutch carrier. **If you are unsure whether this is a house sparrow nest, do not remove the eggs.**

FILL IN COLLECTOR DATASHEET

Step 3: LABEL & CHILL CLUTCH- Be sure to keep each clutch separate by only placing one clutch per container and labeling each container with the nestbox name and collection date. Place the whole container into a fridge for at least 24 hours to prevent eggs from hatching.

Step 4: PACKAGE & SHIP HOSP EGGS AND DATASHEETS - Before shipping let eggs sit at room temperature for about an hour. Wipe off any condensation that might have formed on the shell. Download the packaging protocol PDF from our SciStarter page or follow the instructions shown in the video at <http://bit.do/sparrowswapvideos>

You'll need the following materials to package your eggs:

- Plastic Easter eggs
- Paper towels
- Cushioning material (newspaper)
- Press'n Seal plastic wrap
- Egg cartons
- Box to ship to the Museum

Ship box to the museum at:

Caren Cooper
ATTN: Sparrow Swap,
North Carolina Museum of Natural Science
11 West Jones St.
Raleigh, NC 27601-1029

[ID: _____] **COLLECTOR DATASHEET** [Lab Use Only: NCSM _____]

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|---|-----------|--|
| Contact Information | Full Name: | | SciStarter Username: | | |
| | Email Address: | | | | |
| | Home Address: | | | | |
| Nest Box Information | Nest Box Name: | | If you cannot access lat./long information, please note here the closest address to where the box is located. _____ _____ _____ | | |
| | HOSP Deterrents: Halo__ Spooker__ None__ Other_____ | | | | |
| | *Box Latitude: _____ | | | | |
| | *Box Longitude: _____ | | | | |
| *Can be found via handheld GPS device or free Google Maps smartphone app OR list the closest address in the box to the right | | | | | |
| Collection Information | Collection Date: | Clutch Size: | 1 st Egg Date: | Comments: | |
| | Did you remove the nest from the nestbox? Y / N | | | | |
| | Did you see a HOSP during your visit? Y / N | | | | |



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