

Remover Instructions

Questions? contact us at sparrowswap@ncsu.edu

Why be a Remover? As a Remover, the information provided in the follow-up visits will help determine effective management strategies for minimizing damage done by house sparrows. 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.

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. **You can choose to remove or leave the nest, but please mark on the datasheet which option you choose.** If you remove the nest, dispose of the nest far away from the nestbox to avoid attracting predators. **If you are unsure whether this is a house sparrow nest, do not remove the eggs.**

THIS IS VISIT #1 – FILL IN TOP SECTION OF REMOVER 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 while you complete the follow-up observations.

Step 4: FOLLOW-UP OBSERVATIONS - Please observe the nestbox until another egg (HOSP or native bird) has been laid or 3 visits (21 days) after the removal, whichever comes first. Record a) the species using the nestbox, b) nestbox contents, c) whether you see the parents, and d) whether the nest is attended or abandoned during a follow-up visit about 7 days after the initial removal (**Visit #2**). Visit again about 14 days (**Visit #3**) and about 21 days (**Visit #4**) after the initial removal. If/when a new HOSP clutch has been laid, decide whether you want to be a Collector, Remover, or Swapper for that clutch and start a new datasheet for the clutch accordingly.

Step 5: PACKAGE & SHIP HOSP EGGS AND DATASHEET(S)- 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 (ex. 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:

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REMOVER DATASHEET

[Lab Use Only: NCSM

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Data to be collected on Visit #1	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: _____ <small>*Can be found via handheld GPS device or free Google Maps smartphone app OR list the closest address in the box to the right</small>			
Collection Information (VISIT #1)	Collection Date: _____	Clutch Size: _____	1 st Egg Date: _____
	Did you remove the nest from the nestbox? Y / N	Comments: _____	
	Did you see a HOSP during the visit? Y / N		
If Yes, did a HOSP flush from the nestbox? Y / N			

Data On Nestbox Activity After Removal (Visits #2, #3, #4)

	Visit #2	Visit #3	Visit #4
Date:	_____	_____	_____
Species:	_____	_____	_____
What is in the nestbox? (circle)	Empty box Nest material Eggs* Chicks* Other_____	Empty box Nest material Eggs* Chicks* Other_____	Empty box Nest material Eggs* Chicks* Other_____
Did you see the parents? (circle)	Flushed parents Parents nearby No parents seen Other_____	Flushed parents Parents nearby No parents seen Other_____	Flushed parents Parents nearby No parents seen Other_____
Do you think the nestbox is (circle)...	Abandoned or Attended	Abandoned or Attended	Abandoned or Attended
Comments: (Feel free to write on back)			

* Stop datasheet. If the new eggs are HOSP, start a new datasheet as a Remover, Swapper, or Collector.