



Swapper Instructions

Questions? contact us at sparrowswap@ncsu.edu

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

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 & SWAP FAKE EGGS- To increase adoption of replica eggs, remove and swap eggs AFTER the house sparrow (HOSP) has finished completely laying her clutch (typically around 4-6 eggs). During this step, try to be undetected by the female, but record on the datasheet under comments whether you see a sparrow and whether the female flushes from nest during your visit. Warm egg replicas in your hand or pocket, remove and place real eggs into carrier and swap the same number of warmed replicas into the nest. To ensure that, on subsequent nest visits, you are able to discern whether the nest or eggs have been attended, either photograph the replica clutch in the nest and/or place a small object (a piece of grass or yarn) over the clutch. **If you are uncertain whether this nest belongs to a HOSP do not remove the eggs.**

THIS IS VISIT #1 – FILL IN TOP SECTION OF SWAP 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 for 3 visits (21 days) unless any bird lays an egg or something removes all of the replicas from the nest. Record the a) 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 swap (**Visit #2**). Visit again about 14 days (**Visit #3**) and about 21 days (**Visit #4**) after the initial swap. Count the replicas at each visit to make sure no replicas are missing. If another HOSP egg(s) is laid after the initial swap, please remove the replicas and end that datasheet. On the same visit choose if you want to be a Collector, Remover, or Swapper for the new clutch and start a new datasheet accordingly. If no new eggs have been laid by Visit #4, remove the replicas and the nest from the nestbox.

Step 5: PACKAGE & SHIP HOSP EGGS, REPLICAS, 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

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: _____					
*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 (Visit #1)	Swap Date: _____	Clutch Size: _____	1 st Egg Date: _____		
	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 Swap (Visits #2, #3, #4)

	Visit #2	Visit #3	Visit #4 (remove replicas)
Date:	_____	_____	_____
Species:	_____	_____	_____
Number of real eggs:	_____*	_____*	_____*
Number of replicas:	_____	_____	_____
What is in the nestbox? (circle)	Replicas rotated	Replicas rotated	Replicas rotated
	Replicas not rotated	Replicas not rotated	Replicas not rotated
	Object moved	Object moved	Object moved
	No object movement	No object movement	No object movement
	Replicas warm	Replicas warm	Replicas warm
	Replicas not warm	Replicas not warm	Replicas not warm
	Other_____	Other_____	Other_____
Did you see the parents? (circle)	Flushed parents	Flushed parents	Flushed parents
	Parents nearby	Parents nearby	Parents nearby
	No parents seen	No parents seen	No parents seen
	Other_____	Other_____	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 new eggs are HOSP, start a new datasheet as a Remover, Swapper, or Collector.