

# Swapper Instructions

Questions? contact us at [sparrowswap@ncsu.edu](mailto:sparrowswap@ncsu.edu)

**Step 1: 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. Warm egg replicas in your hand or pocket, remove and place real eggs into container. Swap the same number of warmed replicas into the nest. Dispose of the real eggs by placing the clutch in a plastic bag and throwing it in the garbage to avoid attracting predators. 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 ALL VISIT #1' INFORMATION ON DATASHEETS**

**Step 2: DETERMINE NEIGHBORING NESTBOXES–** Locate the closest nestboxes to the target nestbox in which you carried out the removal (maximum of 3 nestboxes). **Skip any boxes that are currently being used by a HOSP or empty due to a recent HOSP nest removal.** On the same day as the swap or removal, record what species are using the neighboring nestboxes, whether the boxes are attended or abandoned, and all other observations on the datasheets below.

**Step 3: FOLLOW-UP OBSERVATIONS-** Please observe the target nestbox for 3 visits (21 days) unless any bird lays an egg or something removes all of the replicas from the nest. Record the species using the nestbox, whether you see the parents, nestbox contents, and whether the nest is attended or abandoned during a follow-up visit 7 days after the initial swap (**Visit #2**). Visit again in 14 days (**Visit #3**) and 21 days (**Visit #4**) after the initial swap. Count the replicas at each visit to make sure no replicas are missing. When you return to the target nestbox for follow-up visits, **also check on the neighboring nestboxes** and record your observations for visits #2, #3, and #4. **If you see signs of House Sparrow aggression** (including broken eggs, dead adults, injured chicks, or any other signs) **please write your observations in the comments.**

**Step 4: END OBSERVATIONS -** 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 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. Dispose of the nest far away from the nestbox to avoid attracting predators.

**Step 5: PRINT AND MAIL OR ELECTRONICALLY SUBMIT DATASHEET(S)-** Datasheet(s) can be printed, filled out, and mailed to the address below. Datasheet(s) can also be filled out electronically and emailed to [sparrowswap@ncsu.edu](mailto:sparrowswap@ncsu.edu).

Mail to the museum at:

**Dr. Caren Cooper**  
**ATTN: Sparrow Swap**  
**North Carolina State University**  
**Campus Box 8008**  
**Raleigh, NC 27695-8008**



## SWAPPER DATASHEET

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SciStarter Username: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Target Nestbox

Name: _____	Lat/Long or Address: _____ _____
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Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4
**Swap Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____
Clutch Size: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____
1 <sup>st</sup> Egg Date: _____	# of Real Eggs: _____*	# of Real Eggs: _____*	# of Real Eggs: _____*
<small>**Please write the swap date on the top of the next page</small>	# of Replicas: _____	# of Replicas: _____	# of Replicas: _____
Did you see the HOSP during Visit #1? Yes   No			
Please Circle Yes or No:			
Did the replicas rotate since the last visit?	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No
Did the object move since the last visit?	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No
Were the replicas warm to the touch?	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No
Did you see the parents?	<input type="checkbox"/> Flushed Parents <input type="checkbox"/> No Parents Seen <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Flushed Parents <input type="checkbox"/> No Parents Seen <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Flushed Parents <input type="checkbox"/> No Parents Seen <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Do you think the nestbox is (Circle)...	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended
Comments:			
*Stop datasheet. If new eggs are HOSP, start a new datasheet as a Remover or Swapper.			



Swap Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Target Nestbox Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nearby Nestbox #1**

Name: _____	Lat/Long or Address: _____ _____			
	<b>Visit 1</b>	<b>Visit 2</b>	<b>Visit 3</b>	<b>Visit 4</b>
	Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____
	Species: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____
What is in the nestbox?	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks
Did you see the parents? (Circle)	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No
Do you think the nestbox is (Circle)...	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended
Comments:				

**Nearby Nestbox #2**

Name: _____	Lat/Long or Address: _____ _____			
	<b>Visit 1</b>	<b>Visit 2</b>	<b>Visit 3</b>	<b>Visit 4</b>
	Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____
	Species: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____
What is in the nestbox?	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks
Did you see the parents? (Circle)	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No
Do you think the nestbox is (Circle)...	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended
Comments:				



Swap Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Target Nestbox Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nearby Nestbox #3**

Name: _____	Lat/Long or Address: _____ _____			
	<b>Visit 1</b>	<b>Visit 2</b>	<b>Visit 3</b>	<b>Visit 4</b>
	Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____
	Species: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____	Species: _____
<b>What is in the nestbox?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box <input type="checkbox"/> Nest Material <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Chicks
<b>Did you see the parents? (Circle)</b>	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No	Yes   No
<b>Do you think the nestbox is (Circle)...</b>	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended	Abandoned   Attended
<b>Comments:</b>				