

A RATIONALE FOR THE FORM AND AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS

We will continue to record the number of nests for each species. However, we would also like to record the number of fledges where ever possible to make our records more meaningful. For that reason there are now spaces to record the productivity (number of fledges) for each brood, and this will better allow us to determine population changes. As well there is a section to record mortality for young.

In order to gather this information it may be necessary to monitor the nest boxes more frequently than previously. Because of the demand this places on your time, please be aware that any information recorded beyond the basic "number of nests" is purely voluntary! If you can assist us in this new direction of more precise measurement of nesting success, however, your input will be most welcome.

Successful nest: Any nest from which at least one bird has fledged, or is presumed to have fledged.

Fledges: Young birds that have left the nest successfully. For our purposes it is acceptable to infer this, if a direct observation of the event isn't possible. If, for example, you return to monitor a box previously holding nestlings and find it empty, consider the following. Could the young birds have reached fledging age during your absence age? Is there any sign of predator activity (disturbed nesting material, scattered bluebird feathers, corpses)? If you cannot determine for certain that the nest failed, assume success. Sometimes a new clutch of eggs will greet you when you open a box previously occupied by young. Normally this will indicate successful fledging of the previous young, but only a careful check during the fall clean-out will reveal for certain whether the new eggs were laid over a failed nest.

PLEASE NOTE; DO NOT ATTACH YOUR FIELD NOTES TO THIS FORM. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO MAIL IN THE FIELD NOTE FORMS.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to the use of this form please do hesitate to call me (Herb) at 204 728 8370 or by email: goulden@mts.net.