

AMERICAN DIPPER PROJECT

NEW NEST SITE GUIDELINES

When you locate an American Dipper nest for the first time during a breeding season please provide as much information as possible about the nest, location, and habitat. You only need to do this once each year for each site, and this information can be edited if the description changes. Nest site descriptions can be written on an American Dipper Project datasheet or in field notebook.

River Name—Identify the name of the stream, river, or body of water the nest is located close to.

Nest Name—When creating a site name, use local permanent features to distinguish each nest site (e.g. Cascade Creek near Purgatory Flats.) This name should be unique and used consistently when identifying this nest site.

Nest Location— Using a phone or handheld GPS unit, record the latitude and longitude for the nest site. It is not important to obtain coordinates for the exact location. Be sure not to disturb the birds! If there is no GPS coverage near the nest, find a nearby area with clear coverage, take a waypoint, and note the distance to the nest. Alternately, if there is no GPS coverage at the site, coordinates can be estimated later using the position identified on a topographic map, Google Earth, or GIS.

Written Description—Write a brief description of the nest’s location. This should be specific and clear, providing enough detail for another person to find the nest.

Nest Substrate—This describes the position of the nest (in, on, or under) relative to the surface on which the nest is built. For example, it can be on a cliff face, under a bridge, in a nest box, etc. Note: this is a required field in the NestWatch online database.

Nest material—Describe all visible materials nest is built with (e.g. moss, grass, algae, etc).

Dominant Habitat Within 100 meters—This is the dominant landscape type within 100 meters of the nest. Scan the area surrounding the nest (an area about the size of a football field) and determine which habitat type is most dominant (e.g. forest, human modified, etc.)

Habitat Modifier—If you selected “human modified” for the immediate or dominant habitat type, please describe the type of modification (e.g., urban, road, campground, power line, etc.).

Height Above Water —Estimate the height above the water the surface nest is built on.

Distance From Water —Estimate the distance of the nest from the water’s edge.

Cavity Orientation—For each nest, with your back towards the nest opening, record the direction the opening faces, if known (N, S, E, W, NE, NW, SE, SW).

New nest—Is this a new nest this year, or was it used in previous years and rebuilt or remodeled?

Other nests—Are there other American Dipper nests within 100 meters?

Please send completed descriptions to Steve Monroe (sm3662@gmail.com) or Kitty Neal (shalomsmiles7@gmail.com)

These guidelines were modified from information provided in the NestWatch Manual (available online at www.nestwatch.org) and will be used to create a unique home in the NestWatch database where American Dipper Project data will be entered and stored.