



Nest Monitoring Certification Quiz Key



CORNELL LAB of ORNITHOLOGY
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❶ Correct Answer D: All of the above

Most birds nest within specific regions and habitats. Understanding their behaviors and where birds are found during the breeding season will help you become a better nest monitor. For the safety of birds, it is important that everyone who monitors nests read and understand the Nest Monitor's Code of Conduct.

❷ Correct Answer D: All of the above

Observations of nests should never jeopardize the well being of birds. Monitors should make careful movements around nests to avoid startling parents or nestlings. It is also important to avoid checking nests if potential predators such as crows, jays, and cats are in the vicinity.

❸ Correct Answer C: Sneaking up on a nest

Sneaking up on a nest may have the unintended consequence of startling an incubating bird and damaging eggs, or scaring a young bird right out of the nest. It is best to quietly make your presence known or watch from a distance to see if a parent leaves before approaching the nest. A stick that you keep with you is handy for parting foliage because it does not leave a scent on vegetation that mammalian predators can smell.

❹ Correct Answer D: All of the above

The first few days of incubation are a critical period for the birds, as they begin to invest their time incubating the eggs. Nest checks should also be avoided during bad weather because this may cause a parent to leave eggs or young unattended in cold conditions. Checking nests when young birds are a few days shy of fledging can cause premature fledging from the nest and should be avoided. Good planning and data collection each time the nest is visited will help nest monitors know what stage of the cycle the nest is in and when to avoid checking it.

❺ Correct Answer B: In the afternoon

Females typically lay their eggs in the early morning so it is important not to disrupt this process. Eggs and young get cold more quickly if left unattended in the early morning. Also, early morning and dusk are critical feeding periods. Birds should not be flushed off their nests at night. The best time to conduct nest monitoring is in the afternoon.



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⑥ Correct Answer C: Accurately record its location and habitat details on your data sheet.

This ensures that you will be able to quickly find the nest on subsequent visits with minimal disturbance to the nest site. Placing brightly colored flagging near a nest is not recommended as it may attract predators or other unwanted nest visitors. If you must place flagging near a nest, make sure it is at least 20-30 feet away. The only reason to notify a wildlife conservation officer or photograph a nest from several angles is if the nest is that of a rare or endangered bird.

⑦ Correct Answer C: Once or twice per week

Daily nest checking is unnecessary and disruptive. Checking nests only once per month will lead to gaps in details about key events such as when the first egg was laid. Checking nests on a regular basis, once or twice (preferred) per week will provide sufficient details about the nest attempt while also keeping disturbance to a minimum.

⑧ Correct Answer A: One minute or less

During a typical visit to a nest, monitors should spend about a minute or less determining what stage the nest is in and counting eggs or young. Recording information onto the data sheet should be done some distance away from the nest, so that adults can return to the nest as quickly as possible.

⑨ Correct Answer D: All of the above

Bird nests and their contents should not be handled or tampered with. Not only is it against the law, it can cause accidental harm to a nest or lead to detection of the nest by predators. Only licensed bird banders and permit holders are legally allowed to touch nests, eggs, and young.

⑩ Correct Answer B: Makes a continuous loop around the nest

Mammalian predators such as cats, squirrels, chipmunks, and raccoons can detect your scent from your shoes. Therefore, nest monitors should NOT go directly to and from the nest (i.e., make a dead end trail) or take the same route every time. Instead, monitors should take different routes that do not leave a dead-end trail at the nest.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE NEST MONITORING CERTIFICATION QUIZ.

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED ALL THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY,
YOU ARE CERTIFIED TO BE A NEST MONITOR!

OTHERWISE, PLEASE READ OVER THE CODE OF CONDUCT
AND RETAKE THE QUIZ.