



## Data sheet instruction notes

The NCC would like to begin gathering information of the usage of nest boxes. The aim is to have all nest boxes monitored at least once a year (January to May is ideal) and data to be sent into the NCC project manager ([meg.cullen@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:meg.cullen@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)). This information will help us look at changes in species disturbing throughout the shire and to examine and improve the effectiveness of using nest boxes to provide additional habitat.

1. **Nest Box Code.** This code will match the code used in your nest box installation data sheets.
2. **Monitoring method.** This refers to the method used to check the nest box. Where C = camera on extension pole (the NCC has one of these which can be used) and is a good method so animals are not disturbed, RC = remote camera, where you have a motion sensing camera set up to watch the nest box, V = a visual inspection by lifting the lid of the box, this is often done by climbing a ladder and needs to follow safety procedures, this method also causes the most disturbance to the animal and is the least preference method and O = other observation, such as spot lighting or an incidental observation of an animal entering the box.
3. **Animal Observed.** If an actual animal is observed, list the species and the number of individuals seen.
4. **Evidence of usage.** If no animal is observed, but there is evidence of an animal having used the nest box (nest/scats/scratches on the box) use this section. Evidence type can provide a lot of information about which species could be using the nest box. If there is a nest also include the materials used to make it i.e. bark nest. Recent/Old/Unsure relates to if the nest box appears to be recently used, or if the evidence appears to be old, this becomes easier with practice and you can always make unsure if it is not clear of the age.
5. **Photo taken.** It is always good to have photos to help clarify any information you are unsure of, this column will help you keep take of photographic evidence.