

Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program (WiTS)

Data Collection and Record Keeping

One of the most effective ways we can support the protection of Wildlife Trees and nesting birds is to collect accurate records for each site and for each visit to each site. The WiTS program provides data sheets for use in the field. These data sheets correspond with electronic data sheets that may be filled out online, placing field data directly into the Wildlife Tree Atlas. It is important to get into a habit of filling out the field data sheets completely, accurately and neatly, as it could be days, weeks, or months before these notes get entered into the Atlas. Please do not rely on memory.

Nest Observation and Productivity Sheet

This sheet is a chronological story of the nesting activities across the year. While observations may be recorded at any time of the year, we ask that wildlife tree eagle nest monitors make a minimum of three observations each year.

- 1) During egg laying and incubation (March 15th to April 30th)
- 2) While the eagles are raising their chicks (May 1st to June 15th)
- 3) As the chicks are near to leaving the nest (June 15th July 31st)

If you have difficulty seeing what is happening in the nest, then additional observations should be made.

It is most important that observations are made both in the early and late part of the nesting season. This is critical to accurately measure both the success and the failure rate at the nests observed.

During the nesting season please make observations from as far away as possible and to make every effort to not disturb the birds

At the end of the nesting season, please hand in your nest observation sheet to either your local area coordinator or send them to the Vancouver Island Coordinator: Ian Moul at 1585 Birch Avenue, Comox, BC, V9M 2N5