

## Instructions for adding behavioral data to FeederWatch checklists

### Enter your observations online

Once you have observed one of the target behaviors, follow these steps to report your observations:

1. Enter your FeederWatch counts as you normally would, and click on the red “Submit Count” button.
2. When the Count Summary page that comes up, click on the link saying “Enter behavioral interactions for this count.”
3. A new page will come up showing the count date and a list of the birds you saw during the count. Make sure this is the count you intend to enter behavioral observations for.
4. Scroll down to the first pull-down menu. Select the source species for the interaction you are entering. This species will have “done” the behavior to the target (second) species.
5. Select the behavior you observed.
6. Select the target species. This is the species that was the target of the displacement or predation event.
7. If the behavior was “unsuccessful,” meaning that the source species tried to but did not successfully capture (depredate) or displace the target species, click the Unsuccessful option.
8. If you have comments you’d like to add to the interaction, type them into the comments field.
9. Click on “Add Interaction.” The interaction will appear below under “Logged Interactions.”
10. When you are done adding interactions for a given count, click on “Return to Your Data” to return to the Your Data home page.

### More detailed instructions for each target behavior

When entering the behavioral interaction you observed, the source (first) species will have “done” the behavior to the target (second) species.

#### Entering a displacement observation

When you record a successful displacement behavior, make sure the dominant species—the species that chased off the subordinate species—is noted as the source species. Select this species in the first pull down menu. Then select “Displaced” from the list of possible behaviors. Then select the subordinate species in the target species pull down menu. The subordinate species is the species that was displaced by the dominant species. For example, if you saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker displace a Downy Woodpecker from a feeder, your input would look like this.

If the source species attempted to but was not able to displace the target species, click the Unsuccessful box.

#### Entering a predation observation

Predation events between birds often happen quickly and can be difficult to see well. You must be able to identify both species involved to record the event. Make sure that the source species you select is the species that killed or attempted to kill the target species. Select this species in the first pull down menu. Then select “Depradated” from the list of possible behaviors. Then select the species killed or almost killed in the target species pull down menu. If you are confident that the source species killed and ate the target species, then you can report the event as a successful (from the predator’s perspective!) predation event. If the predation event was unsuccessful but you are confident in the identity of the predator and its intended prey target, enter the observation but click the Unsuccessful button. If you are unsure of the identity of either of the birds involved in the interaction, please do not enter your observation.

## Behavior Interactions Tally Sheet

Count date: \_\_\_\_\_

Source Species	Behavior	Target Species

### Add Interactions

Please add the interspecies interactions that you observed.

**Source species:** select the species that initiated the interaction.

### Behavioral interaction

Successfully

Unsuccessfully

### "Behavioral interaction" definitions:

**Displaced:** when one bird actively takes over the position of another bird. You should mark this event as unsuccessful if the targeted bird held its ground and refused to be displaced by the source bird.

**Depredated:** when one bird catches and kills another bird. You should mark this event as unsuccessful if the predator was unable to catch the targeted bird. Only enter events where you are confident in the identity of both bird species.

**Target species:** Select the species that was the target of the interaction.

**Comments:** If you wish, describe the interaction in more detail.