

Guide to 4-letter bird species codes for nest box monitors

These are required for entry into the monitoring database.

The 4-letter codes are widely used by ornithologists and bird watchers. Some are convenient verbal shortcuts for the bird names, e.g. “MODO” for Mourning Dove. You can usually guess the code from the name using two simple rules.

1. If it's a two-word name, use the first two letters of each word. This works if the results are unambiguous. (Mountain Plover (MOUP) and Mongolian Plover (MONP) require a change to avoid ambiguity.)
2. If it's a three-word name, it's generally the first letter of the first two words and two letters of the last word.

You can find complete lists at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbL/manual/bandsize.htm> ordered both by name and by code.

These species are likely to be found in Boulder County nest boxes:

Mountain Bluebird	MOBL	Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH
Western Bluebird	WEBL	Mountain Chickadee	MOCH
Tree Swallow	TRES	House Wren	HOWR
Violet-green Swallow	VGSW	White-breasted Nuthatch	WBNU

Various sightings of Eastern Bluebirds suggest that nesting in this area is a slight possibility. Ash-throated Flycatchers nested in boxes on some of the trails reported to the Colorado Bluebird Project. It's possible that we might see some of these three in Boulder County boxes.

Pygmy Nuthatch	PYNU
Eastern Bluebird	EABL
Ash-throated Flycatcher	ATFC

Here's a sampling of others we might see on the various trails:

Red-breasted Nuthatch	RBNU	Yellow-rumped Warbler	YRWA
Vesper Sparrow	VESP	Audubon's Warbler	AUWA
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	Myrtle Warbler	MYWA
Song Sparrow	SOSP	Brewer's Blackbird	BRBL
Lark Sparrow	LASP	American Crow	AMCR
Northern Flicker	NOFL	Common Raven	CORA
Red-shafted Flicker	RSFL	American Kestrel	AMKE
Yellow-shafted Flicker	YSFL	Red-tailed Hawk	RTHA
Hairy Woodpecker	HAWO	Golden Eagle	GOEA
Downy Woodpecker	DOWO		