

APPENDIX 3. PROTOCOL FOR TRANSLOCATION EVENTS

This appendix describes general protocol for confirmation of cluster status and the capture, transport, and release of birds for the purposes of translocation. Translocation guidelines (8H) must be followed for all translocation events. If a bird is being translocated to a cluster containing a solitary bird (mate provisioning), solitary status in the recipient cluster is to be confirmed by a morning follow (i.e., morning roost check, see 3A) just prior to the translocation event.

Part A. Confirmation of Cluster Status

1. Confirm status of the recipient cluster one to three days before the translocation event, by a morning follow (i.e., morning roost check; see 3A). This is conducted in all clusters receiving birds, to determine:

- a. if the cluster is inactive, for translocations of potential pairs;
- b. if the cluster contains a solitary bird, for translocations of potential mates;
- c. if the cluster contains a potential breeding group, contrary to expectations;
- d. the suitability of cavities and cluster habitat structure.

If the intended recipient cluster contains a potential breeding group, or does not have suitable cavities and habitat structure, cancel the translocation. If cluster status is confirmed as expected and the translocation can proceed, ensure that the cluster and target cavity trees are easily found at night and flag a route if necessary.

2. Confirm status of potential donor clusters one to three days before the translocation event, by a morning follow (3A). Ensure, for all clusters donating birds, that the birds intended for translocation are actually available. Follow guidelines for bird availability given in 8H. Have several potential donor clusters for every one bird to be translocated, in case a bird cannot be captured or bird availability status has changed.

Part B. Capture, Transport, and Release of Individuals

1. Plan the capture of the birds based on transport time.

1. Observe roosting of the birds to be translocated. Capture the birds that night or the following morning with a net and telescoping pole. Birds should be trapped at night if transport time is not expected to exceed 5 or 6 hours, and in the new cavity by midnight; if not, morning captures are used. Double-check the aluminum band numbers to ensure that the correct birds were captured.

2. Transport the birds in covered, well-ventilated cages placed in the interior of unheated and quiet vehicles. Never transport more than one bird in each cage. Be certain that you

always know the location of each captured bird, but keep disturbance to an absolute minimum. Feed crickets and mealworms to birds every 45 to 60 minutes if transported during daytime.

3. Put the birds safely, quickly, and quietly into recipient cavities. Screen cavity entrances with $\frac{1}{2}$ " hardware cloth tacked firmly but lightly so that the screen can be easily removed in the morning. Drop a string from the screen to the ground so that the screen can be removed without climbing. If the cluster contains a solitary bird prior to translocation, take care not to flush it.
4. Arrive at the cluster at first light. If a solitary male roosts in the cluster, release the translocated potential mate when the resident male exits his cavity. If a potential pair has been moved, wait until both are pecking at the screen, and release them simultaneously. Have ladders present in case the tree has to be climbed to remove the screen.
5. A cassette of red-cockaded woodpecker calls played just after release may help increase the likelihood that birds encounter each other.
6. Once the birds are released, wait at least one week before returning to the cluster for any follow-up check. Follow-up checks are not necessary; no further observations are required until the next breeding season. During the next breeding season, the cluster and surrounding clusters should be monitored to determine the presence of potential breeding groups and the location of translocated birds. In populations undergoing translocation for the purpose of population augmentation (i.e., receiving birds from donor populations), all clusters are monitored for group size and reproductive success (Appendix 2).

Part C. Other Methods of Translocation

Other techniques for the translocation of individuals may prove more successful than current methods (e.g. Wallace and Buchholz 2001), but are not approved for general use at this time.