**Table S1.** Experimental outcomes of model cowbird egg additions to nests of American robins (all from trials in 2020).

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| Treatment colour and pattern | Final sample size (trials) | Rejection frequency |
| Robin-blue immaculate, full egg (control) | 10 | 10% |
| Deep-blue immaculate, full egg (control) | 10 | 50% |
| Beige-spotted, full egg (control) | 23 | 88% |
| Beige-spotted, blunt pole only | 11 | 64% |
| Beige-spotted, sharp pole only | 13 | 85% |
| Deep-blue immaculate, blunt pole only | 19 | 47% |
| Deep-blue immaculate, sharp pole only | 19 | 47% |