

<i>Title:</i> TOS Protocol and Procedure: Breeding Landbird Abundance and Diversity		<i>Date:</i> 03/17/2014
<i>NEON Doc. #:</i> NEON.DOC.014041	<i>Author:</i> K. Thibault	<i>Revision:</i> C

TOS PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE: BREEDING LANDBIRD ABUNDANCE AND DIVERSITY

PREPARED BY	ORGANIZATION	DATE
Katherine M. Thibault	FSU	12/31/2013

APPROVALS	ORGANIZATION	APPROVAL DATE
Dave Tazik	SCI	03/13/2014
Mike Stewart	SE	03/16/2014

RELEASED BY	ORGANIZATION	RELEASE DATE
Stephen Craft	SE	03/17/2014

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Change Record

REVISION	DATE	ECO #	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
A_DRAFT	10/03/2011	ECO-00280	Initial Draft Release
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C	03/17/2014	ECO-01667	Production release, template change, and other changes as detailed in Appendix C

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1 DESCRIPTION

1.1 Purpose

The primary purpose of this document is to provide a change-controlled version of Observatory protocols and procedures for Plot Establishment. This document provides the content for training and field-based materials for NEON staff and contractors. Content changes (i.e. changes in particular tasks or safety practices) occur via this change controlled document, not through field manuals or training materials.

This document is a detailed description of the field establishment process, relevant pre- and post-field tasks, and safety issues as they relate to this procedure and protocol.

1.2 Scope

This document relates the tasks for a specific field sampling and directly associated activities and safety practices. This document does not describe:

- General safety practices
- Site-specific safety practices
- General equipment maintenance

It does identify procedure-specific safety hazards and associated safety requirements such as safe handling of small mammals or safe use of required chemicals and reagents.

1.3 Acknowledgements

My thanks to Richard Podolsky, Courtney Meier, and Dave Schimel who wrote the first versions of this protocol. The method is heavily adapted from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory 2010 field protocol for spatially balanced sampling of landbird populations (Hanni et al. 2010), in combination with the Integrated Monitoring for Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program (White et al. 2012). The protocol was also informed by the breeding landbird abundance and diversity working group (Jennifer Blakesley, Richard Chandler, Tom Gardali, Allen Hurlbert, Douglas Johnson, Ken Pollock, Kathryn Purcell, Ted Simons, Susan Skagen).

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2 RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ACRONYMS

2.1 Applicable Documents

Applicable documents contain information that shall be applied in the current document. Examples are higher level requirements documents, standards, rules and regulations.

AD [01]	NEON.DOC.004300	EHS Safety Policy and Program Manual
AD [02]	NEON.DOC.004316	Operations Field Safety and Security Plan
AD [03]	NEON.DOC.000724	Domain Chemical Hygiene Plan and Biosafety Manual
AD [04]	NEON.DOC.001155	NEON Training Plan
AD [05]	NEON.DOC.050005	Field Operations Job Instruction Training Plan

2.2 Reference Documents

Reference documents contain information complementing, explaining, detailing, or otherwise supporting the information included in the current document.

RD [01]	NEON.DOC.000008	NEON Acronym List
RD [02]	NEON.DOC.000243	NEON Glossary of Terms
RD [03]	NEON.DOC.000916	TOS Science Design Breeding Landbird Abundance and Diversity
RD [04]	NEON.DOC.005003	NEON Scientific Data Products Catalog
RD [05]	NEON.DOC.014051	Field Audit Plan
RD [06]	NEON.DOC.000824	Data and Data Product Quality Assurance and Control Plan
RD [07]	NEON.DOC.001584	Datasheets for TOS Protocol and Procedure: Breeding Landbird Abundance & Diversity
RD [08]	NEON.DOC.001407	Raw Data Ingest Workbook for Breeding Landbird Abundance & Diversity
RD [09]	NEON.DOC.001271	TOS Protocol: Manual Data Transcription

2.3 Definitions

A **protocol** is a formal summary description of a procedure and its related rationale, and includes information on knowledge and resources needed to implement the procedure. A **procedure** is a set of prescribed actions that must take place to achieve a certain result, and can also be called a method. It differs from a science design in that science designs provide a more complete description of the rationale for selecting specific protocols. It differs from a training manual in that training manuals provide materials in support of skills acquisition in the topic areas including information on how to best train staff rather than detailing only the steps of the procedure.

According to Ralph et al. 1993, a **landbird** is “the general term used for the generally smaller birds (usually exclusive of raptors and upland game birds) not usually associated with aquatic habitats.” Landbirds are typically censused during the first half of the breeding season, when birds are “most

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active, paired, on territories, and vocal” (Ralph et al. 1993). For the purposes of this document, ‘bird’ and ‘breeding landbird’ are used interchangeably.

3 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Background

Breeding landbirds were chosen to be a component of NEON’s suite of biodiversity measurements (Kao et al. 2012), because breeding birds (a) have proven useful in large-scale modeling of climate change impacts (Stralberg et al. 2009, Tingley et al. 2012); (b) are consumers of other NEON taxa (i.e., insects, plants); (c) serve as reservoirs for mosquito-borne diseases of interest to NEON (e.g., West Nile Virus; LaDeau et al. 2007, McKenzie and Goulet 2010); (d) can be impacted by nest predation by small mammals (also a NEON target taxon; Schmidt et al. 2008); (e) are vulnerable to climate change (Gardali et al. 2012); and (f) respond strongly to land-use change (Luther et al. 2008, Newbold et al. 2012, Jongsomjit et al. 2012). Moreover, the long history of data collection at the regional and national scales allows for the integration of NEON sampling into larger datasets to examine regional and continental-scale and decadal-scale trends (e.g., Bart et al. 1995, Saracco et al. 2008).

In North America, there are over 650 species of breeding birds, and many approaches have been developed to sample them, given their diversity of habits and habitats (Bibby et al. 2000, Fancy and Sauer 2000). As a result of this diversity, no single sampling method can be used with equal efficacy on songbirds, seabirds, waterfowl, and raptors (e.g., Ralph et al. 1993, Fancy and Sauer 2000). The breeding bird component of the NEON TOS is designed to sample songbirds and other birds that are diurnal and resident in or migrating through terrestrial habitats, commonly referred to as landbirds. The most common methods for sampling breeding birds are spot mapping of territories, area searches of specific sites, strip transects along predetermined routes, nest searches, and point counts (Ralph et al. 1993, Nur et al. 1999), as well as mist-netting for marking and recapture.

Of these, point counts are the most commonly used method of sampling birds (Bibby et al. 2000, Rosenstock et al. 2002), and they have been described as ‘the most efficient and data rich method of counting birds’ (Ralph et al. 1993). Point counts involve an observer standing at a point for a predetermined amount of time (typically 3-20 minutes), typically during the peak of singing activity that occurs in the early morning, and recording all of the individuals seen or heard (Ralph et al. 1995; Figure 1). The original design for NEON bird sampling formulated by the group of experts known as the Tiger team included point counts as the method of choice (Hansen 2008). Acoustic monitoring is being considered as a complementary method to collect data on bird diversity and phenology (e.g., Celis-Murillo et al. 2009, Blumstein et al. 2011), but is contingent on additional funding and advances in machine learning algorithms to automate species identification of bird songs and calls.

The advantages of point counts include (1) minimal disturbance to the birds; (2) provides data on a diversity of species (Hutto and Young 2002); and (3) provides comparability with many other datasets. The major disadvantages of point counts are (1) the need for highly skilled observers for only a limited

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portion of the year; (2) the challenges associated with even highly skilled observers to process all of the necessary data in a 3 – 20 minute count; and (3) the fact that the detectability of birds is not constant across space, time, and species (Rosenstock et al. 2002). Detectability is significantly affected by (1) observers who significantly vary in visual and auditory acuity and experience (Sauer et al. 1994); (2) environmental variables such as weather, light conditions, vegetation, and topography; and (3) the physical and behavioral variation within and among species (Rosenstock et al. 2002). Variation in detectability is ameliorated by the use of statistical methods that have been developed to account for this issue (e.g., distance sampling - Box 1).

The objective of the NEON breeding landbird sampling is to provide robust estimates of species diversity, abundance and density. To that end, point counts that are randomly distributed in the areas of interest (i.e., not along roadsides) and that use techniques that account for variation in detectability are the recommended sampling methods (e.g., Nur et al. 1999, Bibby et al. 2000, Fancy and Sauer 2000, Rosenstock et al. 2002). Distance sampling is one such technique, and it involves recording distance from the observer to the bird. Distance data are then used in statistical analyses designed to adjust the count of birds that were present but undetected (Box 1).

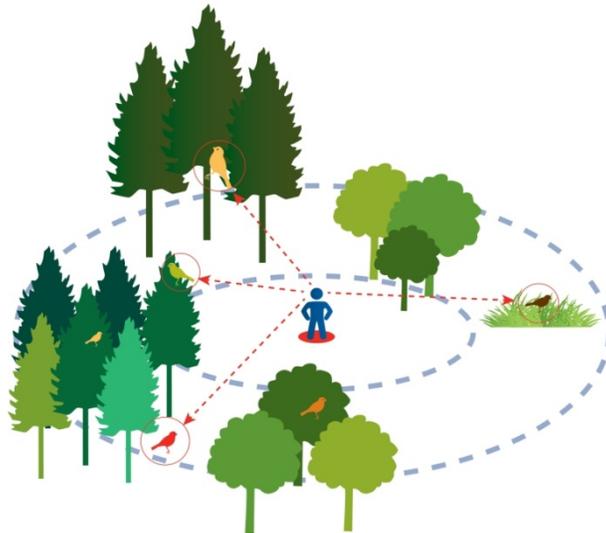


Figure 1. Schematic depicting the point count method of sampling birds.

In distance sampling, the distances from the observer to each bird (represented by dashed red lines in Figure 1), as well as the species, sex, and age, are recorded.

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Box 1. Overview of Distance Sampling (Excerpted from White et al. 2012)

Distance sampling theory was developed to account for the decreasing probability of detecting an object of interest (e.g., a bird) with increasing distance from the observer to the object (Buckland et al. 2001). The detection probability is used to adjust the count of birds to account for birds that were present but undetected. Application of distance theory requires that three critical assumptions be met: 1) all birds at and near the sampling location (distance = 0) are detected; 2) distances of birds are measured accurately; and 3) birds do not move in response to the observer’s presence (Buckland et al. 2001, Thomas et al. 2010).

3.2 NEON Science Requirements

This protocol fulfills Observatory science requirements that reside in NEON’s Dynamic Object-Oriented Requirements System (DOORS). Copies of approved science requirements have been exported from DOORS and are available in NEON’s document repository, or upon request.

3.3 NEON Data Products

Execution of this protocol procures samples and/or generates raw data satisfying NEON Observatory scientific requirements. These data and samples are used to create NEON data products, and are documented in the NEON Scientific Data Products Catalog (RD [04]).

4 PROTOCOL

Point count method

Breeding landbirds will be sampled using the point count method. Point counting entails one or more observers going to pre-established points and recording all the birds heard and/or seen during a set period of time (Figure 1). The NEON point count method is adapted from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory 2010 field protocol for spatially balanced sampling of landbird populations (Hanni et al. 2010; <http://bit.ly/17ekDNB>). Point counts are six minutes long, with each minute tracked by the observer, following a two-minute settling-in period. All birds shall be recorded to species and sex, whenever possible, and the distance to each individual or flock shall be measured with a laser rangefinder, except in the case of flyovers.

Spatial distribution of point counts

As a guiding principle, bird sampling is stratified such that grid positions achieve representative coverage of important bird breeding vegetation types. The grids will be collocated with a subset of the TOS Distributed Plots (see RD[03] for additional details). To increase efficiency, point counts will be distributed in 9 point 0.56 km² grids, in a 3 x 3 array, with 250m spacing between points (Figure 2). This

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differs from the grid size used in the IMBCR protocol (4 x 4, 1 km² grids), in order to accommodate sample sizes of 5 – 15 grids at most NEON sites. At sites that cannot accommodate a minimum of 5 grids, points will be distributed randomly throughout the site (collocated with Distributed plots; minimum distance of 250m between points) to achieve these sample sizes. These sample sizes are minimum requirements to characterize spatial variability across the site. These deviations from the IMBCR design will still allow for comparable estimates of density across all sites.

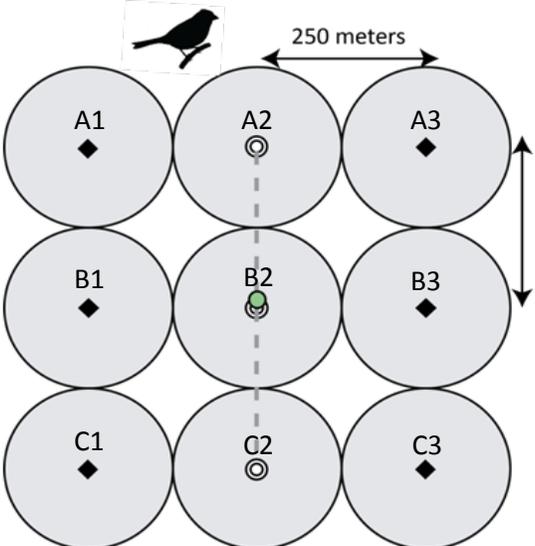


Figure 2. Design of the point count grid, consisting of 9 points separated by a minimum of 250 m. The center of the grid is just offset from a Distributed plot (green circle), where plants, soils, microbes, and insects will also be sampled.

Timing of point counts

Point counts will be conducted only during the early morning, from 30 minutes before sunrise to 3-4 hours after sunrise, depending on the weather and other ambient conditions (see site-specific appendices for daily sampling guidelines). Audible detection of birds can be limited because of vegetation, as well as high ambient noise from such sources as the wind or from other species such as insects or frogs. Similarly, visual detection of birds can be hampered from dust, low clouds, flying snow, fog, or rain. Handheld weather stations should be used at every point by technicians to keep track of weather conditions that can inhibit detection, particularly wind speed. When ambient conditions significantly inhibit detectability, sampling should not be conducted.

The sampling window for breeding birds for each site corresponds to when most of the birds encountered will likely be resident, breeding birds, rather than species that either over-winter or migrate through during the spring or fall. Timing is therefore critical and varies across environmental gradients. The initiation of breeding activity also varies among species, so it is best to spread the sampling effort out evenly over the sampling window. Points will be counted only one to two times per

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breeding season, depending on the size of the site (i.e., sites with grids will be sampled once; small sites will be sampled twice; see site-specific appendices for guidelines; Table 1). This approach allows for greater spatial replication; repeat sampling will be used primarily at small sites in order to increase the number of detections at that site, in order to fit detection functions.

Table 1. Summary of temporal and spatial sampling design.

Relative site area	Point arrays	Number of arrays	Repeated sampling	Sampling Window
Large	9-pt grids	5 - 15	No	≥ 5 days, ≤ 14 days
Small	Single points	5 - 25	Yes – 2x per season	≥ 7 days, ≤ 21 days

Breeding season dates will be informed by local experts and by eBird data (ebird.org), which is known to provide large amounts of data pertaining to the arrival of spring migrants, particularly in well-populated regions of the U.S. (Hurlbert and Liang 2012). For example, RMBO recommends that breeding bird sampling in Colorado should occur between May 10 and June 15 for sites below 7,500 feet in elevation, and from June 5 to June 30 for 7,500 – 9,300 feet (N. Van Lanen, pers. comm.). The approximate timelines that have been provided in historical NEON documentation are listed in Table 2, with a modification for Domain 17 (Kathryn Purcell, pers. comm). More refined windows of 2-3 weeks for all sites can be found in the site-specific appendices.

Table 2. Domain specific schedules for breeding bird observations, to be refined.

Schedule for bird observations	Domains	Domain regions
March 21 - April 30	17	Pacific Southwest
April 8 th – June 16 th	3, 4, 14, 20	Puerto Rico, HI, FL, Desert Southwest
April 23 rd – June 28 th	2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17	Mid-Atlantic, Ozarks, Appalachians, Prairie, Southern plains, Southern Rockies, Great Basin, Pacific Southwest
May 1 st – July 5 th	1, 5, 9, 12, 16	Northeast, Great Lakes, Northern Plains, Pacific Northwest
May 15 th – July 20 th	18, 19	Alaska

5 QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTROL

The procedures associated with this protocol will be audited according to the Field Audit Plan (RD[05]). Additional quality assurance will be performed on data collected via these procedures according to the NEON Data and Data Product Quality Assurance and Control Plan (RD[06]).

The QA/QC plan for Breeding Landbird Abundance and Diversity Sampling is in development, and all details will ultimately be found in the associated document (see Birek et al. 2011 for a good example) .

The plan includes:

- Double-review of at least 10% of the entered data, if data are transcribed from paper datasheets, with error rates reported to the FSU Staff Scientist.
- Cold checks of field data collection (sensu USFS Forest Inventory Analysis; <http://1.usa.gov/HTBWK2>), if funding is made available.

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- Regular bird identification quizzes for field technicians, with the expectation that technicians will consistently successfully identify more than 90% of the tested species. Bird identification quizzes will be administered and scored throughout the season to assess and confirm the skills of each observer, with a minimum of 3 quizzes per observer (i.e., beginning, middle, and end of breeding season). The individual quiz scores for each observer may be published as metadata, using anonymized IDs for the observers, rather than names.
- Scanned copies of the paper datasheets will be provided to the Avian Ecologist within 7 days after the first week of sampling per breeding season. The datasheets will be checked for errors and missing data. This cold check shall be repeated throughout the sampling season, if necessary, providing an iterative process to improve error detection and assess error resolution.
- Equipment and task checklists are provided in Appendix A and B.

Audible detection of birds can be limited because of vegetation, as well as high ambient noise from such sources as the wind or from other species such as insects or frogs. Similarly, visual detection of birds can be hampered from dust, low clouds, flying snow, fog, or rain. When ambient conditions significantly inhibit detectability, sampling should not be conducted.

- No landbird sampling shall occur during precipitation events or in dense fog.
- No landbird sampling shall occur in winds greater than 25 mph (40 kph), as determined with a handheld anemometer.

Sampling can be resumed as soon as conditions allow for effective detections, as long as sampling occurs within the morning sampling window within the specified breeding season window. All points on a grid do not have to be sampled on the same day, but it is preferable to complete sampling for a single grid within a window of 7 days.

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When unexpected field conditions require deviations from this protocol, the following field implementation guidance must be followed to ensure quality standards are met:

Table 3. Contingency matrix of sampling actions and outcomes

Delay	Action	Adverse Outcome	Outcome for Data Products
Hours	Continue with sampling if there is still time in the sampling window around dawn. Otherwise, skip sampling for the day. An additional sampling day should be added within 7 days.	If additional time is not available, fewer samples will be collected.	Fewer sampling points could result in less precise estimation of breeding bird species richness, diversity, or density.
1-7 days	Add additional days of sampling as soon as possible to sample all points.	If additional time is not available, fewer samples will be collected.	Fewer sampling points could result in less precise estimation of breeding bird species richness, diversity, or density
8 or more days	Contact appropriate scientific lead(s) on the FSU team for guidance.	May miss target sampling window.	1. Species richness due to changes in seasonal phenology could be influenced by significant changes in temporal sampling window. 2. Not completing all plots impacts diversity metrics and target sample size.

6 SAFETY

Personnel working at a NEON site must be compliant with safe field work practices as outlined in the Operations Field Safety and Security Plan (AD[02]) and EHS Safety Policy and Program Manual (AD[01]). The Field Operations Manager and the Lead Field Technician have primary authority to stop work activities based on unsafe field conditions; however, all employees have the responsibility and right to stop their work in unsafe conditions.

As the bird sampling protocol involves no extraordinary procedures, safe field work practices should suffice. These include the use of insect repellent in areas with ticks and fleas, ready availability of a field first aid kit, and working within sight of another person.

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7 PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

All field ornithologists should have the following expertise:

- Demonstrated knowledge and experience identifying the species of birds that occur at a particular site both visually and aurally.
- Prior experience conducting avian field surveys, with preference given for technicians with experience conducting breeding bird surveys, particularly in a similar region.

8 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

All technicians must complete required safety training as defined in the NEON Training Plan (RD[04]). Additionally technicians complete protocol specific training for safety and implementation of protocol as required in Field Operations Job Instruction Training Plan (RD[05]).

Training should minimally include the following components:

- 1) Technicians who have been identified to conduct bird sampling will be provided with study materials, including field guides and song recordings, as soon as possible after hiring.
- 2) A workshop including lectures and field work will be conducted for 1-5 days (depending on the experience of the technicians) prior to the onset of field sampling to provide an overview of the procedures and the goals of the sampling. Hands-on work with the sampling equipment and review of common bird species for a domain will be included. A quiz of the technicians' knowledge of birds by sight and song will be administered and scored at the end of the workshop. Only technicians that score >90% on the final test will be deemed sampling-ready.
- 3) During the field-based training, technicians that need additional training will shadow experienced ornithologists, followed by the experienced ornithologists performing hot checks on the technicians.
- 4) All technicians will practice measuring known distances to objects with the laser rangefinders until they can reliably measure distances up to 150 meters to an accuracy of ± 5 meters.

9 SAMPLE FREQUENCY AND TIMING

9.1 Sampling Frequency

Sampling will occur once or twice per breeding season at each point at a site, depending on the size of the site (i.e., sites with grids will be sampled once; small sites will be sampled twice; see site-specific appendices for guidelines).

9.2 Sampling Timing Parameters

At sites that can accommodate the minimum of five 9-point grids, points within each grid are sampled once per season. At these sites, the sampling window must span a minimum of 5 days (i.e., all grids at a site should not be sampled on the same day) and a maximum of 14 days. For example, at a site with 15

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grids, three grids could be sampled on each of 5 consecutive days or eight grids could be sampled on day 1 and the remaining seven on day 5 or day 14, etc. . At sites that cannot accommodate the minimum of five 9-point grids, points are sampled twice within a season. At these smaller sites, points should be sampled with a minimum of 7 days between sampling bouts and no longer than 21 days (see Table 1 above). Breeding season dates will be informed by local experts and by eBird data (ebird.org), which can provide large amounts of data pertaining to the arrival of spring migrants, particularly in well-populated regions of the U.S. (Hurlbert and Liang 2012). Sampling timing will be provided by Science Operations in the site-specific appendices to this protocol. All sampling must occur within the window provided.

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10 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP A: Preparing for Sampling

See Appendix A and B for handy equipment and task checklists.

- 1) Familiarize yourself with the species codes *before going into the field*.



Species that often cause problems include: **Cackling Goose** (CACG not CAGO), **Canada Goose** (CANG not CAGO), **Northern Shoveler** (NSHO, not NOSH), Ring-necked Pheasant (RINP, not RNPH), **Barn Owl** (BNOW not BAOW), **Barred Owl** (BDOW not BAOW), **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (BTLH not BTHU), **Western Wood-Pewee** (WEWP, not WWPE), **Gray Jay** (GRAJ, not GRJA), **Tree Swallow** (TRES, not TRSW), **Bank Swallow** (BANS, not BASW), **Barn Swallow** (BARS, not BASW), **Cactus Wren** (CACW not CAWR), **Canyon Wren** (CANW not CAWR), **Cedar Waxwing** (CEDW not CEWA), **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (BTYW not BTGW), **MacGillivray's Warbler** (MGWA, not MAWA), **Yellow Warbler** (YWAR, not YEWA), **Canyon Towhee** (CANT not CATO), **Lark Bunting** (LARB, not LABU), **Sage Sparrow** (SAGS not SASP), **Savannah Sparrow** (SAVS, not SASP), **Lazuli Bunting** (LAZB, not LABU), **Red-winged Blackbird** (RWBL, not RWBB).

- 2) Clean and check binoculars to make sure they are in good working condition.
- 3) Check, charge, or replace batteries for the laser rangefinder, camera, handheld weather station, stopwatch, and GPS unit.
- 4) Upload background images, layers, and waypoints associated with bird grids to the GPS unit.
- 5) Print and organize data sheets.
- 6) Set appropriate declination on the compasses.

Field Equipment and Materials

Table 4. Field equipment list

Maximo Item No.	Item Description	Purpose	Quantity per technician	Habitat-Specific	Special Handling
Required	Handheld Weather Station that measures maximum, average, and current temperature with an accuracy of +- 1 degree F, humidity +- 3%, and wind speed +- 3%	Measuring temperature, RH, and wind speed	1	No	No
Required	Binoculars, Full Size, Magnification 10 x 42, Field of View 264 ft. @ 1000 yd, Water Proof, with Case, Strap, Lens Cover, & Cloth	Visual identification of birds	1	No	No
Required	Stopwatch / timer; must have notification chime every minute	Tracking minutes of point count	1	No	No
Required	Laser rangefinder, Minimum specs: 6X multicoated monocular, waterproof, fogproof, 18mm of eye relief, Accurate to 1/2-yd. increments to 99.5 yds. and 1-yd. increments to 550 yds	Measuring distances	1	No	No

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Required	The Sibley Guide to Birds	Visual identification of birds	1	No	No
Required	Camera, digital – minimum specifications: 10 megapixel, compact, 5x optical zoom	Photographing rare or unknown birds	1	No	No
Required	GPS Receiver, Handheld, Recreational Accuracy	Navigating to points	1	No	No
Suggested	Magnetic Compass, Handheld, Mirror-sighting, Floating	Navigating between points	1	No	No

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SOP B: Field Sampling

The method is heavily adapted from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory 2010 field protocol for spatially balanced sampling of landbird populations (Hanni et al. 2010). The bird point count datasheet is provided separately (RD[07]), but a key to the datasheet can be found in Appendix A.

- 1) Record the date, plot ID, start cloud cover, and start relative humidity on the Bird point count datasheet (RD[07]).
 - Date (YYYY-MM-DD) and plot ID (SITE_XXX) should be filled out on every datasheet.
 - Start and ending cloud cover (%) and relative humidity (%) need to be completed only once per plot ID per date.
 - Cloud cover is estimated visually, while relative humidity should be measured with handheld weather station.
- 2) Upon reaching each point on the grid, wait 2 minutes in order to allow the local birds to become accustomed to your presence (the ‘settling in period’). While waiting, fill in the required metadata (i.e., point ID (XX), start-time (XX:XX), habitat code, temperature (degrees Celcius), and average wind speed (kilometers per hour) on the Bird point count datasheet (RD[07]). These metadata are filled out once for each point at all sites.
 - DO NOT begin counting until the 2 minutes have passed.
 - DO identify and note the locations of any birds flushed from around the point upon approach. These data should be recorded when the counting period begins.
- 3) Set the timer for the point count duration (i.e., 6 minutes), with a chime to indicate the passing of each minute within the counting period. Begin the count-down, and begin recording the birds you see and/or hear onto the Bird point count datasheet (RD[07]).
- 4) For each independently detected bird, record the following information:
 - The **species**, using the appropriate 4-letter code (Pyle and DeSante 2012).
 - i) If there is any uncertainty in the species identification, please note this in the **idQ** (i.e., identification qualifier) column on the datasheet – using one of the codes below (Table 5). Leave blank if there is not uncertainty.

Table 5. Codes for identification qualifier entries

idQ	Identification Qualifier Description*
CS	cf. species
AS	aff. species
CG	cf. genus
AG	aff. genus
CF	cf. family
AF	aff. family

* cf. roughly equals "not sure"; aff. roughly equals "similar to, but is not"

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- ii) Use the digital camera to take pictures of (a) species for which the identification is uncertain (except in very common cases), (b) species that are very rare or has state or federal status, or (c) if there is something unusual or noteworthy about a particular individual.
 - The horizontal **distance** to the bird (measured with the rangefinder).
 - i) Distance to birds is recorded radially in 2-dimensions from the observer; only the horizontal distance is recorded. That is, a bird 10 meters up in a tree directly overhead is recorded as zero meters from the observer.
 - ii) If you cannot get a direct line of sight to a bird, estimate the distance the bird is from a visible point and use the rangefinder to measure to that point. Then add or subtract the estimated distance between that point and the bird to obtain the best possible distance estimate. **Estimate the distance from the visible point to the bird BEFORE using the rangefinder.** Distance-sampling assumes that you measure all distances accurately, so be sure to use your rangefinders as much as possible.
 - iii) Always measure distances to where you first detected the bird, not to where you first identified it. For birds that are vocalizing but not seen, try to determine their locations relative to a landmark, such as a tree or shrub, then measure the distance to that landmark. If you are unable to pin-point its location, then estimate the distance *to the nearest meter*.
 -  **Do not round distances to 5 or 10 m intervals**, as this causes heaping at particular values and complicates data analysis.
 - iv) Flyovers do not require distance measurements.
 -  This method uses distance-sampling techniques and analyses; bird data recorded without associated distances (with the exception of flyovers) can NOT be used in the analysis.
 - **How** the bird was detected:
 - i) V=visual, C=calling, S=singing, D=drumming, F=Flyover, or O=other aural (e.g., wing beats).
 - ii) Enter the code for how you **first** detected each individual (only one entry per field). Remember that how you detect a bird is different from how you identify it.
 - The **sex** of the bird (F = Female; M = Male; U = Unknown).The **cluster size** and **cluster ID code** for **any birds** observed as part of a cluster (i.e. non-independent detections). See Appendix C for more information on how to distinguish and record clusters.
- 5) **Record the passing of each minute** in the appropriate column of the datasheet (RD[07]).
 - 6) Before moving to the next sample point, **review the datasheet** to ensure that all required data have been recorded.
 - 7) **Skip a line** on the datasheet between sampling points within a grid.

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Tips and Tricks (from Hanni et al. 2010)

1) The following are a few **general guidelines** for collecting high-quality data :

- If you do not detect any birds, record “NOBI” (No Birds).
- If you see a rare or unexpected bird after the count period has elapsed, you may record this species on the datasheet, entering ‘88’ as the point ID.
- If you detect a bird that was flushed from the survey point upon your arrival, record the bird’s original distance from the survey point. We assume that these birds would have remained at their original locations were it not for the disturbance created by the observer.
- Focus primarily on birds that are close to the observation point. This is because missing distant birds has only a small effect on density estimates, but missing birds that are close by has a much larger effect on density estimates.
- Look and listen in all directions – **including UP**.
 - i) Note that distance to birds is recorded radially in 2-dimensions from the observer. That is, a bird 10 meters up in a tree directly overhead is recorded as zero meters from the observer.
- Do not move from the observation point. That said, it is acceptable to take a step or two away from the point to identify a bird spotted from the point, but **ALWAYS** return ASAP to the point to continue observations.
- Do NOT chase birds before or during the count. After the observation period has elapsed, you may chase down a bird to identify it, if you couldn’t identify it from the point.

2) There are **several potential issues** that can lead to problems in the data:

- Window species – these are species that you see or listen through, because they are common. For example, Mourning Dove is a common window species. This can result in the observer failing to count individuals of these species. The goal is to get an accurate count of all species, so be aware of this issue and strive to count all individuals seen and heard. Look and listen everywhere – Look up regularly, and do not wear hats that obscure hearing (including wide-brimmed hats that deflect sound), or sunglasses that obscure vision.
- Stand at observation points – do not sit or kneel. Altering your position will affect your ability to consistently and repeatably see and hear birds.
- No “pishing” – do not make noises that can attract birds to you and alter the density estimation.
- Airplanes and other external noises – If audibility of birds is reduced by mechanical noise, then interrupt the count and resume when the noise abates. The total time spent counting should still equal 6 minutes.
- Never guess the identity of a bird – If the bird species is unknown, use the table of unknown species codes in Appendix B.

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SOP C: Equipment Maintenance: Cleaning and Storage

Conducting the same list of equipment-related activities after a sampling event as done prior to a sampling event is also recommended (see Appendix A for checklist), and so they are reproduced here.

- 1) Clean and check binoculars to make sure they are in good working condition.
- 2) Check, and charge or replace batteries for the laser rangefinder, camera, handheld weather station, stopwatch, and GPS unit.
- 3) Check that the appropriate declination is set on the compasses.

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SOP D: Data Entry and Verification

- 1) Transcribe information from datasheet into the provided spreadsheet (RD[08]). This should be done at the end of the sampling day. If not possible, then as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the end of the sampling bout.
 - a. Enter data in format provided in Excel file (RD[08]).
 - b. Follow QA/QC procedures for ensuring accurate transcription of data (RD[09]).
 - c. Include notes on all deviations from procedures. Indicate what was done and why.
- 2) Scan and then file hard copy of datasheet, as described in RD[09].
- 3) Another technician shall review the transcribed data to reveal transcription errors. Double-review of at least 10% of the entered data is required, if data are transcribed from paper datasheets, with transcription error rates reported to the Avian Ecologist.
- 4) The transcribed data can then be further checked for errors in usage of species codes by comparison to a master spreadsheet of species codes.

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APPENDIX A QUICK REFERENCE: BREEDING BIRD POINT SAMPLING DATASHEET

Data Field	Description/What to Enter
eventDate	Date that sampling was conducted (YYYYMMDD)
plotID	Plot identifier (4-character site code _XXX)
recordedBy	Full name of personnel conducting the point count(s) (First name Last name)
cloudsStart	Estimate of % cloud cover, at the start of sampling of the plotID
cloudsEnd	Estimate of % cloud cover, at the end of sampling of the plotID
rhStart	Relative humidity (%), as measured by handheld weather station, at the start of sampling of the plotID on a given eventDate
rhEnd	Relative humidity (%) at the end of sampling of the plotID
pointID	Relative coordinate of the point within the given plotID (A1 – C3)
habitatCode	The dominant habitat surrounding the point
startTime	24-hr format (hhmm; e.g., 0812 or 1432)
temperature	The air temperature measured at beginning of each point count with a handheld weather station, in degrees Celsius
wind	The average wind speed measured at beginning of each point count with a handheld weather station, in kilometers per hour
minute	The minute of sampling within the 6-minute point count sampling period
taxonID	Unique 4 character species code, following AOU conventions
idqCode	Code expressing the determiner's doubts about the Identification
radial distance	Radial distance between the observer and the bird(s), in meters
how	How the bird(s) is (are) first detected by the observer
visual	Whether the bird(s) was (were) seen after the initial detection (Y or N)
sex	M = male; F = Female; U = Unknown
clusterSize	Clusters consist of either flocks or paired birds of the same species observed together; the size of the cluster is simply the count of individuals.
clusterCode	Clusters consist of either flocks or paired birds of the same species observed together; alphabetic codes (A:Z) are used to link clusters that span multiple records.
remarks	Technician notes; free-form

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NEON BIRD POINT COUNT DATASHEET (VER. 11/30/2013)											Page: of:			
EventDate (YYYYMMDD): 20110618			PlotID: CPER_005			START:		CLOUDS (%): 80		RH (%): 23				
RecordedBy: Josephine A. Schmoie						END:		CLOUDS (%): 0		RH (%): 12				
HOW : V = Visual S = Singing C = Calling D = Drumming O = Other F = Flyover SEX: M = Male F = Female U = Unk														
idQ: CS = cf. species; AS = aff. species; CB = cf. subspecies; AB = aff. subspecies [cf. = not sure about; aff. = Similar to, but is not]														
HABITATS: MX = mixed; CE = Closed Evergreen; OE = Open Evgr; GR = grassland; SH = shrubland; MD = meadow; RP = riparian														
PointID	Habitat Code	Start Time (24 Hr)	Temp (°C)	Wind (kph)	Minute	TaxonID	idQ	Radial Distance (m)		How	Visual	Sex	CLUSTER Size Code	
1	GR	5:00	63	1.6	1	H O L A		0	7	1	S	M		
2						L I S P		1	2	2	S	M		
3					2	S T J A		0	3	6	C	U		
4					3	M O C H		1	8	4	C	U	2	
5					4	A M P I		0	4	6	C	U		
6					5	N O B I								
7					6	C O R A		1	7	7	V	U		
8														
9		0.2	65	1.2	1	D E J U		0	4	0	S	M	1	A
10						D E J U		0	4	1	V	U	1	A
11						Y R W A		1	3	3	C, S	M		
12					2	N O B I								
13					3	A M R O					F	U	3	
14					4	H A W O		0	2	8	O	M		
15						M O C H		1	0	8	C	U		
16						M O C H		1	2	2	C	U		
17					5	N O B I								
18					6	R W B L		0	7	6	V	U	34	
19						D E J U		1	0	1	S	M	1	B
20						D E J U		1	0	2	V	U	1	B
21														
22	88	0.2				B R C R					S	U		

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APPENDIX B CHECKLISTS

REQUIRED TASK CHECKLIST BEFORE AND AFTER CONDUCTING BIRD SURVEYS

Complete this checklist before and after EACH field sampling event

Binoculars cleaned and checked to make sure they are in good working condition

Batteries for the laser rangefinder checked and charged if necessary

Batteries for the GPS unit checked and charged if necessary

Appropriate declination is set on the compasses

Print datasheets for next sampling event

Double-check completed datasheets to ensure thoroughness

File completed datasheets in designated safe place for subsequent scanning and data entry

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EQUIPMENT FOR CONDUCTING BIRD SURVEYS

Complete this checklist for each team member prior to EACH field sampling event

Item Description	Crew #1	Crew #2	Crew #3	Crew #4
10 x 40 binoculars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laser rangefinder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sibley Field Guide to Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Datasheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Declination adjustable compass w/ mirror sight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Countdown timer w/ chime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master list of 4-letter species codes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kestrel (temp & wind measurements)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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APPENDIX C PROTOCOL CHANGE SUMMARY

The following changes to SOPs have been made between Rev B and Rev C protocols:

- Specification that sites that can accommodate grids are sampled only once per season, while sites that are too small to accommodate grids will have points that are to be sampled twice a season
- Changed sampling window specifications (see section 9.2):
- At sites that can accommodate the minimum of five 9-point grids, points within each grid are sampled once per season. At these sites, the sampling window must span a minimum of 5 days (i.e., all grids at a site should not be sampled on the same day) and a maximum of 14 days. For example, at a site with 15 grids, three grids could be sampled on each of 5 consecutive days or eight grids could be sampled on day 1 and the remaining seven on day 5 or day 14, etc. . At sites that cannot accommodate the minimum of five 9-point grids, points are sampled twice within a season. At these smaller sites, points should be sampled with a minimum of 7 days between sampling bouts and no longer than 21 days (see Table 1 above). Moved datasheet to separate change-controlled document
- SOP B: Modified datasheet to reflect the changes made to metadata recording:
 - Date (YYYY-MM-DD) and plot ID (SITE_XXX) should be filled out on every datasheet.
 - Start and ending cloud cover (%) and relative humidity (%) need to be completed only once per plot ID per date.
- SOP B: Removed '88' bird list and relaxed recording requirements for rare species. Protocol changed to:
 - If you see a rare or unexpected bird after the count period has elapsed, you may record this species on the datasheet, entering '88' as the point ID.
- SOP B: added identification qualifier to recorded data fields
- SOP B: added explicit instructions on when to take photographs
- Lumped site-specific information into one appendix

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APPENDIX D UNKNOWN BIRD CODES

If you detect a bird that you are unable to identify, use the appropriate unknown bird code (below). Never guess on the identity of a bird. This is falsifying data. If you are unsure, record UNBI rather than incorrectly identifying a bird. However, recording a lot of unidentified birds is an indication that you need to study up and practice before performing more point counts.

Bird Type	Code
Unknown Accipiter	UNAC
Unknown Bird	UNBI
Unknown Blackbird	UNBL
Unknown Buteo	UNBU
Unknown Chickadee	UNCH
Unknown Corvid	UNCO
Unknown Dove	UNDO
Unknown Duck	UNDU
Unknown Empidonax	UNEM
Unknown Falcon	UNFA
Unknown Finch	UNFI
Unknown Flycatcher	UNFL
Unknown Gnatcatcher	UNGN
Unknown Grouse	UNGR
Unknown Gull	UNGU
Unknown Hawk	UNHA
Unknown Hummingbird	UNHU
Unknown Jay	UNJA
Unknown Nuthatch	UNNU
Unknown Oriole	UNOR
Unknown Owl	UNOW
Unknown Pipit	UNPI
Unknown Raptor	UNRA
Unknown Sparrow	UNSP
Unknown Swallow	UNSW
Unknown Swift	UNSI
Unknown Tanager	UNTA
Unknown Thrush	UNTH
Unknown Thrasher	UNTR
Unknown Vireo	UNVI
Unknown Warbler	UNWA
Unknown Woodpecker	UNWO
Unknown Wren	UNWR

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APPENDIX E CLUSTER INFORMATION

Clusters consist of either flocks or paired birds – i.e., birds of the same species observed together (foraging, flying, perching, or obviously interacting with each other). Two males of the same species singing 20 meters apart do NOT constitute a cluster.

How to record clusters:

Flocks: When two or more individuals of the same species are obviously in a flock and cannot be readily sexed (e.g. Cliff Swallow or Pine Siskin), record the distance to the center of the flock and record the number of individuals in the “Cluster Size” column of your data form. You do not need to enter a Cluster Code. When you can determine sex, enter the number of males on one line, and the number of females on the next line, with the appropriate number of each sex in the corresponding “Cluster Size” boxes.

Then enter the same letter on both lines for the “Cluster Code” (a, b, c ...). The Cluster Code is only used to link clusters that take up multiple lines on the data sheet.

Pairs: Often you may hear a bird singing or calling, look up, and see that it is a male bird with a female perched or foraging nearby. Or you may see one individual moving about, raise your binoculars to identify it, and observe that there are actually two individuals of the same species but opposite sex in that location. In these cases, enter the male and female on separate lines of your data form, with the appropriate codes for “HOW” detected. In the first scenario, the male “HOW” = S(inging) and the female “HOW” = V(usual). In the second scenario, “HOW” = V(usual) for both the male and female. In both cases enter the same letter for the “Cluster Code” of each member of the pair.

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APPENDIX F SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

D01 – CORE - HARV (Harvard Forest)

Recommended Sampling Window: June 1 - June 30

Recommended Daily Sampling Period: 20 minutes after official sunrise - 10:30 AM

Source: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Species Lists:

Mean relative abundances (species abundance/total community abundance) of bird species observed during the Breeding Bird Survey on the route that passes east of Petersham, MA (Route 900 – Ware River) – in descending order. Source: (Sauer et al. 2011).

Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	0.105	1993	2011
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	0.073	1993	2011
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	0.051	1993	2011
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	0.042	1993	2011
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	0.041	1993	2011
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	0.036	1993	2011
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	0.035	1993	2011
<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	0.031	1993	2011
<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	0.030	1993	2011
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	0.028	1993	2011
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	0.027	1993	2011
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	0.027	1994	2011
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	0.026	1993	2011
<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	0.024	1993	2011
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	0.024	1993	2011
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	0.021	1993	2011
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	0.020	1993	2011
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	0.019	1993	2011
<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	0.019	1993	2011
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	0.017	1993	2011
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	0.016	1994	2005
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	0.016	1993	2008

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	0.016	1993	2011
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	0.015	1993	2011
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	0.014	1993	2011
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	0.014	1993	2011
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	0.013	1993	2010
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	0.013	1993	2010
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	0.012	1993	2011
<i>Setophaga virens</i>	0.012	1993	2011
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	0.012	1993	2011
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	0.011	1993	2011
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	0.011	1993	2011
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	0.011	1993	2011
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	0.010	1993	2011
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	0.010	1993	2011
<i>Setophaga pinus</i>	0.010	1993	2011
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	0.009	1993	2011
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	0.008	1993	1999
<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	0.008	1993	2011
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	0.008	1995	2011
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	0.008	1993	2011
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	0.008	1993	2010
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	0.008	1993	2011
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	0.007	1994	2005
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	0.007	1993	2011
<i>Contopus virens</i>	0.007	1993	2011
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	0.007	1993	2011
<i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	0.006	1993	2010
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	0.006	1993	2002
<i>Corvus corax</i>	0.006	1994	2011
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0.006	1993	2010
<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	0.006	1993	2005
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	0.006	1993	2011
<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	0.006	1993	2011
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	0.005	1993	2011
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	0.005	1993	2011

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>	0.005	1993	2011
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	0.005	1993	2011
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	0.005	1995	2009
<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	0.004	1994	2011
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	0.004	1993	2011
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	0.004	1993	2010
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	0.004	1993	2008
<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	0.004	1997	2002
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	0.004	1993	1993
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	0.004	1993	2005
<i>Setophaga discolor</i>	0.004	1993	2010
<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	0.004	1995	2002
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	0.004	1994	2011
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	0.004	1993	2011
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	0.004	1996	2011
<i>Strix varia</i>	0.004	1993	2010
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	0.003	1993	2011
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	0.003	2003	2011
<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	0.003	1993	2010
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	0.003	1994	2010
<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	0.003	1993	2006
<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	0.003	1994	2010
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	0.003	2003	2003
<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	0.003	1998	1998
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	0.003	1993	2006
<i>Columba livia</i>	0.003	1997	1997
<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	0.003	1995	2004
<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	0.003	1996	2009
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	0.003	1999	2003
<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	0.003	1994	2004
<i>Certhia americana</i>	0.003	1993	2008
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	0.003	1993	2008
<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	0.003	1993	2009
<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	0.002	1993	2009
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	0.002	1993	1998

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	0.002	1995	2003
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	0.002	1993	1993
<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>	0.002	1993	1993
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera x cyanoptera</i>	0.002	1994	1994
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	0.002	1994	1994
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	0.002	1995	1995
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	0.002	1995	1995
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	0.002	1995	1995

D10 – CORE – CPER (Central Plains Experimental Range)

Recommended Sampling Window: May 10 - June 15

Recommended Daily Sampling Period: official sunrise - 10:30 AM

Source: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Species Lists:

Mean relative abundances (species abundance/total community abundance) of bird species observed during the Breeding Bird Survey on the route that passes through CPER (Route 901 – Rockport) – in descending order. Source: (Sauer et al. 2011).

Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	0.348	1994	2010
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	0.187	1994	2010
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	0.170	1994	2010
<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i>	0.102	1994	2010
<i>Spizella breweri</i>	0.023	1994	2010
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	0.018	1994	2010
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	0.018	1994	2010
<i>Peucaea cassinii</i>	0.015	1996	2010
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	0.012	1995	2010
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	0.010	1999	2010
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	0.010	1994	2010
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	0.009	1994	2010
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	0.008	1994	2010
<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	0.006	1994	2010

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	0.006	2004	2005
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	0.005	1994	2010
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	0.005	1994	2009
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	0.004	2008	2008
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	0.004	1994	2010
<i>Columba livia</i>	0.004	2009	2009
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	0.004	1994	2004
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	0.004	1994	2010
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	0.003	1996	2010
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	0.003	1995	2010
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	0.003	1996	2010
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	0.003	1994	2008
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	0.003	2000	2008
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	0.003	1994	2009
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	0.002	1994	2010
<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	0.002	2002	2005
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	0.002	1995	2002
<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	0.002	1998	2007
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	0.002	1996	2007
<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	0.002	1994	2004
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	0.002	2000	2000
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	0.002	1996	2010
<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	0.002	2003	2005
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	0.002	1998	2009
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	0.002	1994	2009
<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	0.002	2001	2010
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	0.001	2000	2010
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	0.001	2009	2009

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D10 – RELOCATABLE – STER (Sterling)

Recommended Sampling Window: May 10 - June 15

Recommended Daily Sampling Period: official sunrise - 10:30 AM

Source: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Species Lists:

Mean relative abundances (species abundance/total community abundance) of bird species observed during the Breeding Bird Survey on the route that passes approximately 15 miles north of the site (Route 7 – Fleming) – in descending order. Source: (Sauer et al. 2011).

Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	0.195	1968	2011
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	0.151	1968	2011
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	0.128	1968	2011
<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	0.099	1968	2011
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	0.093	1968	2011
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	0.075	1968	2011
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	0.059	1968	2011
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	0.040	1968	2011
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	0.031	1968	2011
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	0.027	1968	2011
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	0.016	1968	2011
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0.012	1968	2011
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	0.011	1968	2011
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	0.009	1990	2011
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	0.009	1968	2011
<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	0.009	2005	2011
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	0.008	1968	1999
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	0.007	1973	2003
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	0.007	1968	2011
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	0.007	1975	2005
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	0.007	1969	2006
<i>Columba livia</i>	0.006	1968	2006
<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	0.006	2006	2006
<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	0.005	1968	2006

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	0.004	2005	2011
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	0.004	1968	2006
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	0.004	1968	2011
<i>Passerina amoena</i>	0.004	1980	2011
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	0.004	1973	2006
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	0.004	1968	2011
<i>Actitis macularius</i>	0.003	2006	2006
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	0.003	1968	2006
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	0.003	1968	2006
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	0.002	1977	2005
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	0.002	1991	1991
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	0.002	1992	2003
<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	0.002	1987	1987
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	0.002	1969	2011
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	0.002	1980	2006
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	0.002	2006	2006
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	0.002	1980	2006
<i>Anas crecca</i>	0.002	1973	2003
<i>Peucaea cassinii</i>	0.002	1990	1991
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	0.002	1999	2004
<i>Spiza americana</i>	0.002	1977	2011
<i>Anas discors</i>	0.002	1973	2003
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	0.002	1968	2011
<i>Anas strepera</i>	0.002	1968	1985
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	0.002	1968	2005
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	0.002	1981	2003
<i>Anas acuta</i>	0.002	1977	2003
<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	0.002	1980	2006
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	0.002	1977	1977
<i>Numenius americanus</i>	0.002	1977	1977
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	0.002	1970	2005
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	0.002	1973	1988
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	0.001	1968	2005
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	0.001	1972	2011
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	0.001	1977	2005

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	0.001	1973	1988
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	0.001	1970	2003
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	0.001	1984	1988
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	0.001	2006	2006
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	0.001	2006	2006
<i>Icterus spurius</i>	0.001	1988	2005
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	0.001	1991	1991
<i>Aythya americana</i>	0.001	1977	1977
<i>Icterus bullockii / galbula</i>	0.001	1987	1987
<i>Trochilid rufus / sasin</i>	0.001	1983	1983
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	0.001	1969	1969

D10 – RELOCATABLE – RMNP (Rocky Mountain National Park)

Recommended Sampling Window: June 5 - June 30

Recommended Daily Sampling Period: official sunrise - 10:30 AM

Source: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Species Lists:

Mean relative abundances (species abundance/total community abundance) of bird species observed during the Breeding Bird Survey on the route that passes through RMNP (Route 904 – Trail Ridge Road) – in descending order. Source: (Sauer et al. 2011).

Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Regulus calendula</i>	0.090	2003	2011
<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	0.073	2003	2011
<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	0.070	2003	2011
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	0.068	2003	2011
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	0.063	2003	2011
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	0.053	2003	2011
<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	0.050	2003	2011
<i>Corvus corax</i>	0.043	2003	2011
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	0.038	2003	2011
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	0.038	2003	2011
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	0.029	2003	2011

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	0.028	2003	2011
<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	0.027	2005	2011
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	0.026	2003	2011
<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	0.025	2003	2011
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	0.022	2004	2011
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	0.018	2004	2011
<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0.017	2004	2011
<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	0.017	2003	2011
<i>Spinus pinus</i>	0.017	2006	2007
<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	0.017	2003	2011
<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	0.017	2004	2011
<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	0.017	2003	2007
<i>Leucosticte australis</i>	0.016	2011	2011
<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	0.016	2003	2011
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	0.015	2005	2011
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	0.015	2004	2006
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	0.015	2003	2003
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	0.015	2003	2007
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	0.014	2007	2007
<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>	0.014	2003	2011
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	0.013	2003	2011
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0.013	2003	2006
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	0.012	2005	2007
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	0.012	2003	2007
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	0.011	2003	2004
<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	0.011	2011	2011
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	0.011	2004	2007
<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	0.010	2003	2007
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	0.010	2003	2007
<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	0.010	2003	2011
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	0.010	2007	2007
<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	0.010	2004	2007
<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>	0.009	2003	2004
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	0.009	2004	2005
<i>Lagopus leucura</i>	0.009	2003	2011

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Species	Mean RA	Year_start	Year_end
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	0.009	2004	2004
<i>Columba livia</i>	0.008	2006	2011
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	0.007	2003	2007
<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	0.007	2003	2007
<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	0.007	2005	2007
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	0.007	2005	2005
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	0.007	2005	2005
<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	0.006	2003	2007
<i>Actitis macularius</i>	0.006	2003	2005
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	0.006	2005	2007
<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	0.006	2003	2011
<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	0.005	2004	2005
<i>Sphyrapicus varius / nuchalis / ruber</i>	0.005	2011	2011
<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	0.005	2003	2011
<i>Anas crecca</i>	0.005	2006	2006
<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	0.005	2003	2006
<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>	0.005	2006	2007
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	0.005	2007	2007
<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	0.005	2003	2007
<i>Empidonax hammondi</i>	0.005	2003	2004
<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	0.005	2003	2004
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	0.004	2004	2004
<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	0.004	2004	2004