

VWL GRASSLAND BIRD SURVEY POINT COUNT FORM

Observer(s) _____

Date (ex. 24 May 14) _____

Property Name and Survey Point (A, B or C) _____

Start time of 10-minute count _____

Temperature (°C) _____ Sky Condition _____ Wind Speed (0-5) _____

Vegetation height (short, med, tall) _____

SPECIES ALPHA CODE <small>(enter each bird individually)</small>	0-5 minutes <small>Seen (S), Heard (H), Both (SH)</small>		5-10 minutes <small>Seen (S), Heard (H), Both (SH)</small>		COMMENTS <small>(breeding behavior, carrying food/nesting material, territorial aggression, etc.)</small>
	Within 50m	Between 50m - 100m	Within 50m	Between 50m - 100m	

FLYOVERS (During Survey)

BEFORE/AFTER/OUTSIDE SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

OTHER NOTES

BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL

In general, **surveys should be carried out within 3 hours of sunrise**. Carry out your surveys as close to sunrise as possible, no later than 9am.

Surveyors will go out in pairs; one will be the primary observer while the other records observations.

Arrive to your site quietly. Once you reach the first point, fill out all of the required information at the top of your data sheet. **ALWAYS** make sure to do this before starting your survey; **do not leave any spaces blank**.

Once this is complete, record the time and begin your point count.

VEGETATION HEIGHT

This is a rough estimate of the dominant vegetation height at each point.

Short = < 0.5 m (below your knee)

Med = 0.5 – 1 m (between your knee and your hip)

Tall = > 1 m (above your hip)

TERMS AND SCALES FOR NOTING WEATHER DATA

A. **Current temperature** (or max/min) in degrees Celsius. If you don't have a thermometer or a smartphone weather app, review weather data on your home computer after returning from the field.

B. **Sky Condition** recorded using one of the following terms below:

- Clear (can include a few clouds)
- Partly Cloudy (ca. 10% to 60% cloudy)
- Cloudy (more than ca. 60% cloudy)
- Fog (includes mist, but not haze) **DO NOT SURVEY IN HEAVY FOG**
- **DO NOT SURVEY IN RAIN SHOWERS, HEAVY FOG, OR SNOW**

C. **Wind Speed** Given According to the Beaufort Scale: (Look up to a height of about 3 m for the indicators of wind.)

Beaufort No.	Speed in MPH	Indicators of Wind Speed
0	0	Smoke rise vertically, absolutely still conditions
1	1 to 3	Wind direction shown by smoke drift
2	4 to 7	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle
3	8 to 12	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion
4	13 to 18	Raises dust, loose paper and small branches
5	19 to 24	Small trees in leaf sway

DO NOT SURVEY IF WINDS ARE A 4 OR 5

During the first 5 minutes (up until 4m 59s), you record your observations in the 0-5 min columns. Once you have reached the 5-minute mark, move over to the 5-10 min columns. Please do not pause between the two 5-minute periods.

1. **Record** the alpha code of every individual bird you see and hear within 100m.
 - a. If you see 5 American goldfinches, use one row for each of them.

2. **Record** whether the bird is between 0 - 50m or between 50m - 100m (these are known as distance bands).

- a. Note how each bird is detected as Seen only (S), Heard only (H), or both (SH). **Record** detection method in respective distance band columns.

If...	Then...
Individuals are moving throughout survey plot for all 10 mins	Record the distance band where the bird was first detected for each time period
Same individual(s) recorded during 0-5 mins, still within survey distance bands, are detected during 5-10 mins period	Note detection method and distance in the 5-10 min columns, using the same row individual(s) were recorded on during 0-5 mins period.
New individual(s) are detected only during 5-10 mins period	Note detection method and distance in the 5-10 min columns, creating a new row for the individual(s)

Do not count any birds that may have been counted at your previous point. Once the 10 minutes is up, stop recording birds and quietly move onto your next point to start your next survey. **Do not exceed the 10-minute time limit** because you are sure a certain "good bird" is there and not calling – if it's there, it will be recorded on another visit. Also remember, absence of species is as important as presence in this survey.

INCIDENTALS

Incidentals are any birds that are recorded as **flyovers**, are observed **outside of the 100m** survey boundary, or observed **before and/or after the survey** period. Records are not used for data analysis but are important so that we can provide landowners with a list of species detected on their properties.

If...	Then...
A bird is observed flying over the field during the survey	The bird is recorded as a flyover in the bottom left datasheet section
A bird is observed while walking to the survey point	The bird is recorded as a before/after/outside survey observation in the bottom middle datasheet section
A bird is observed foraging over the field during the survey (i.e. swallows sp.)	The bird is recorded as an official survey observation and listed under the appropriate time period, distance band, and detection method for the survey
A bird is observed outside of the 100m survey boundary during the survey	The bird is recorded as a before/after/outside survey observation in the bottom middle datasheet section
A bird is observed flying over the survey field while walking to/from the survey point	The bird is recorded as a before/after/outside survey observation in the bottom middle datasheet section