



BRITISH COLUMBIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS GUIDE FOR ATLASSERS ADDENDUM II February 2012

Modified Atlas survey procedure for 2012 field season: (see website and 2012 newsletter for details)

The threshold for completing a square has been reduced to a *minimum of 10 hours of effort and 10 point counts*. This is optional and atlassers are welcomed to complete squares to the original 20/15 level.

- **Completed squares are most valuable, and all data will be used. No observations are discarded.**
- **If you are limited with time, complete squares to at least 10 hours and 10 point counts.**
- **If you are not restricted by time, it is still very useful to complete your squares to the original standard (20 hours / 15 point counts);**
- **Aim to ensure that completed squares are evenly spaced from other completed (or likely to be completed) squares, if possible (consult with your RC).**
- **If you can't do point counts, devote your general atlassing time to squares that have >4-<10 hours of effort already, and complete as many as you can.**
- **From an atlas perspective, building a larger, more complete species list is more valuable than confirming a smaller number of species.**
- **Target species that are not easily found (wetland birds, raptors, owls, nighthawks, etc) by: a) seeking out rare species, b) surveying a variety of habitats, c) surveying at different times (morning, dusk, night)**
- **Complete rare/colonial forms as prompted by the atlas website**

Online Instructions:

If you are ready to plan, you can evaluate what is needed for all the squares in any region by visiting the atlas webpage under **Data and Maps / Data Summaries / 2). View summary statistics by square for region XX**. The resulting table lists all squares in that region that have at least one record. View the columns for **TotHrs** and **#Points** and select squares that list greater than 4 but less than 10 hours and point counts. It will be important for volunteers to communicate with the RC to reduce the likelihood of overlapping effort in this final year. Your regional coordinator may be able to provide further guidance also.

Modified Point Count Procedure for BC Breeding Bird Atlas.

These point counts will be used to generate relative abundance estimates for each species, something that general atlassing does not do very well.

You are likely finding that the point counts assigned do not readily match up with reality, i.e. many of these roadside counts are not on roads at all, or the roads have been decommissioned, washed away, gated, etc. To find replacement locations:

1. Look at the point counts in the square in detail on the square map, or preferably on Google Earth (See Atlas Newsletter, Autumn 2009, pg 12 for instructions), and list those

that you *know* you can get to safely in your vehicle. For instance, if the "road" looks green on Google Earth, it's probably no longer a road!

If there are 15 or more points that look easy to get to, do the first 10-15 on that list.

2. If there are less than 15, add as many as needed on roads in the square in as random and scattered as possible (e.g. 500-800 metres from another point count site) so that you end up with 10-15 points. If possible, choose these points *before* going to the point itself. Do not choose new points based on how good they are for birding, and especially don't purposely choose sites that have habitats rare in the square (e.g. marshes) just because they would generate a good species list. If one of these sites does fall out from a randomized approach, however, you can certainly use it.

3. If you are driving to a point count you thought you could get to, and find your route blocked by blocked, simply do a replacement count in similar habitat to the point you were traveling to. Again, pick this point randomly if possible (e.g. if the habitat is uniform, go 800 metres from where you are and do the point there, as long as it is at least 500 metres from any other point count site).

4. If you have one or two point counts that are possible to reach by vehicle, but would require another several hours or another day to get to, don't bother doing them; replace with points in similar habitat, either from the list or self-chosen. This is a very common situation in my experience. However, if these few points represent an important habitat otherwise not covered in your square, you should make the effort to get to them or other similar sites. - By using this method you will find that you can do 10-15 point counts in a square quite easily in a morning.

Daily Observation form:

This is an optional form that allows participants to track of the birds you see in any given square on any day (similar to ebird; forms can be added to ebird also). You reach the form by starting a Breeding Evidence Form and then clicking the %Daily Observations+ button. For instructions see: www.birdatlas.bc.ca/english/daily.jsp

Page 29, Appendix B, Updated Regional Coordinators

Region 11: Wayne Weber (new)

Region 39: Christopher Di Corrado & Sandra Kinsey (co-coordinating)

Page 30, Appendix C, Addition of Colonial Species documentation

Barn Swallows . please complete a colonial record form when you find loosely associated nesting colonies (two or more nests in close proximity)

Bank and Cliff Swallow . please record location and number of nest found of colonies of any size.