

Marsh Monitoring Program – Bird Survey Reference Card

Primary Species (required)

American Bittern	AMBI	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	NSTS	Virginia Rail	VIRA
Eared Grebe	EAGR	Pied-billed Grebe	PBGR	Yellow Rail	YERA
Horned Grebe	HOGR	Red-necked Grebe	RNGR		
Least Bittern	LEBI	Sora	SORA		

Additional Species (required)

American Coot	AMCO	Common Loon	COLO	Ring-billed Gull	RBGU
American Widgeon	AMWI	Common Tern	COTE	Ring-necked Duck	RNDU
American White Pelican	AWPE	Common Yellowthroat	COYE	Ruddy Duck	RUDU
Baird's Sparrow	BAIS	Double-crested Cormorant	DCCO	Red-winged Blackbird	RWBL
Black-crowned Night Heron	BCNH	Forster's Tern	FOTE	Sandhill Crane	SACR
Black Tern	BLTE	Franklin's Gull	FRGU	Savannah Sparrow	SAVS
Bonaparte's Gull	BOGU	Gadwall	GADW	Sedge Wren	SEWR
Brewer's Sparrow	BRSP	Great Blue Heron	GBHE	Song Sparrow	SOSP
Bufflehead	BUFF	Green Heron	GRHE	Sprague's Pipit	SPPI
Blue-winged Teal	BWTE	Green-winged Teal	GWTE	Swamp Sparrow	SWSP
Canada Goose	CAGO	LeConte's Sparrow	LCSP	Vesper Sparrow	VESP
California Gull	CAGU	Lesser Scaup	LESC	Western Grebe	WEGR
Canvasback	CANV	Lincoln's Sparrow	LISP	White-faced Ibis	WFIB
Caspian Tern	CATE	Mallard	MALL	Whooping Crane	WHCR
Clay-colored Sparrow	CCSP	Marsh Wren	MAWR	Wilson's Phalarope	WIPH
Cinnamon Teal	CITE	Northern Pintail	NOPI	Wilson's Snipe	WISN
Clark's Grebe	CLGR	Northern Shoveler	NSHO	Wood Duck	WODU
Common Goldeneye	COGO	Redhead	REDH	Yellow-headed Blackbird	YHBL

Extra Species Codes for Reference

American Crow	AMCR	Cedar Waxwing	CEDW	Red-eyed Vireo	REVI
American Goldfinch	AMGO	Common Grackle	COGR	Red-tailed Hawk	RTHA
American Redstart	AMRE	Common Raven	CORA	Rock Pigeon (Dove)	ROPI
Bald Eagle	BAEA	Eastern Kingbird	EAKI	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	RTHU
Baltimore Oriole	BAOR	Gray Catbird	GRCA	Tree Swallow	TRES
Bank Swallow	BANS	Killdeer	KILL	Veery	VEER
Barn Swallow	BARS	Northern Flicker	NOFL	Warbling Vireo	WAVI
Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH	Northern Harrier	NOHA	White-throated Sparrow	WTSP
Bobolink	BOBO	Osprey	OSPR	Yellow Warbler	YWAR
Brown-headed Cowbird	BHCO	Purple Martin	PUMA		

* Species codes that do not follow the general guidelines are highlighted.

General Guidelines of Species Codes:

Species codes are a four-letter abbreviation of the common name of a species. Typically a code is generated using the first two letters of each word in the name (e.g. Warbling Vireo – WAVI). For one-word names, the first four letters are used (e.g. Killdeer – KILL). Hyphenated names use the first letter of the first two words (separated by a hyphen) and the first two letters of the third word (e.g. White-throated Sparrow – WTSP). Although this is the general format, exceptions exist so one should familiarize themselves with the species codes of common birds in their area.

Marsh Monitoring Program – Bird Survey Reference Card

Beaufort Wind Scale

Beaufort Index	Wind Speed (km/hr)	Indicators at Survey Station
0	< 1	Air calm, smoke rises vertically
1	1-5	Light air movement, smoke drifts
2	6-11	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle
3	12-19	Leaves and small twigs in continual motion, wind extends light flags
4	20-29	Wind raises dust, loose paper, moves small branches
5	30-39	Small trees begin to sway, white crested wavelets form on inland waters
6	40-49	Large branches in motion, telephone wires ‘whistle’

* Shading indicates unacceptable wind strengths for bird surveys.

Cloud Cover

Precipitation Codes

24 Hour Time

Cloud Cover Index	Description
0	No clouds.
1	10% cloud cover.
2	20% cloud cover.
3	30% cloud cover.
4	40% cloud cover.
5	50% cloud cover.
6	60% cloud cover.
7	70% cloud cover.
8	80% cloud cover.
9	90% cloud cover.
10	100% cloud cover.

Index	Description
0	None
1	Damp/Moist/Fog
2	Drizzle
3	Rain

* Shading indicates unacceptable conditions to **begin** bird surveys.

12 Hour	24 Hour
5:00 AM	5:00
6:00 AM	6:00
7:00 AM	7:00
8:00 AM	8:00
9:00 AM	9:00
10:00 AM	10:00
6:00 PM	18:00
7:00 PM	19:00
8:00 PM	20:00
9:00 PM	21:00
10:00 PM	22:00
11:00 PM	23:00

Background Noise Codes

Index	Description
0	No appreciable effect (e.g. owl calling)
1	Slightly affecting sampling (e.g. distant traffic, dog barking, car passing)
2	Moderately affecting sampling (e.g. distant traffic, 2-5 cars passing)
3	Seriously affecting sampling (e.g. continuous traffic nearby, 6-10 cars passing)
4	Profoundly affecting sampling (e.g. continuous traffic passing, construction noise)



BIRD STUDIES CANADA
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX