

Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas

Appendices

Partner Organizations



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Appendix A: Safety and Injury Liability

Safety

It is important that atlassing be enjoyable, but **safety comes first**. Be sure to inform people of where you will be atlassing each day. If you plan to be away from the roadside, inform a friend or family member of the area you plan to work in, the time you expect to return, and how to contact you (a cell phone is a good idea in serviced areas).

Don't go alone if you will be working in remote areas, or expect to be off-road for much of the time. Taking along a less experienced birder can be a valuable learning experience for them and a safety precaution for both of you.

It is important to **know how to navigate** with your map and compass (and GPS if you have one) prior to going off-road. Courses are available on orienteering and wilderness safety - check your local community college or outdoor clubs.

Black bears are found throughout Newfoundland, although rarely on the Avalon Peninsula. For tips on bear safety, please consult the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources web page (<u>https://www.flr.gov.nl.ca/wildlife/all_species/bear.html</u>) before going in the field.

Newfoundland is also home to ~125,000 moose, and moose-vehicle collisions are a risk, particularly between dusk and dawn during the summer months. Use extra caution when driving at night, keep to posted speed limits, and scan both sides of the road for moose. For tips on avoiding moose, see the Department of Transportation and Works website: <u>https://www.gov.nl.ca/tw/roads/department/moose/</u>.

Always carry a small safety kit in your backpack, with items such as:

- compass and topographic map of your square
- first aid kit
- bear spray
- waterproof lighter or waterproof matches
- pocket knife
- small flashlight with batteries
- · pencil and paper
- signaling device (whistle or mirror)

- extra high energy snacks (e.g. granola bars, dried fruit, or chocolate)
- extra fresh water
- emergency "space blanket"
- mosquito repellent or head net
- sun protection (sunscreen, sunglasses, hat)
- · GPS unit and cell phone, if you have them
- spare batteries for electronic devices

Injury and Other Liability

As a volunteer participant in the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas you are fully responsible for your own safety, and for your own personal insurance in case of injury. You are not considered an employee of the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas, Birds Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Newfoundland Department of Fisheries and Land Resources or any other Atlas partners or sponsors. Please exercise great caution and care in the field when collecting data. We are not responsible for damage incurred to vehicles while atlassing. Atlassers may be responsible for damage to landowners' property, so please always ask permission, be respectful, and exercise caution when treading on private land. Be friendly and polite with landowners and remember that their permission is voluntary and that they are helping the Atlas team to achieve our coverage goals.

Appendix B: Surveying Private Property and Public Areas

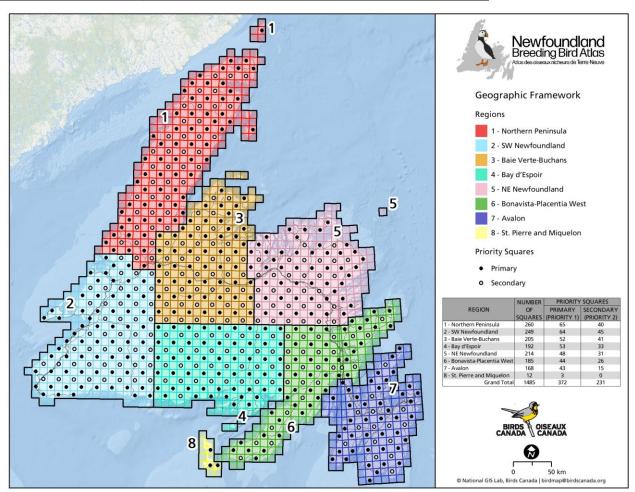
Most of Newfoundland (~95%) is provincial crown land, and can be accessed by the public. However, when accessing privately owned land, <u>always</u> get permission from the landowner to enter. Some of the best times to survey for birds occur during the first couple of hours of daylight, so access should be arranged before the day(s) you visit. Take the time to explain what the project is about, what you plan to do, and when you plan to do it. In most cases, permission to enter onto the property will be granted. Encourage landowners to call the Regional Coordinator or the Atlas Office if they would like further information.

Some information about land ownership in Newfoundland can be obtained from the <u>Provincial Land Use</u> <u>Atlas</u>, which can be accessed online. Please note that this resource does not contain information about all privately held land, only Crown Lands issued titles. Furthermore, only original title holders are shown, as subsequent land sales are not tracked. However, the Land Use Atlas can be an invaluable tool when planning your visit to an atlas square.

Your Atlasser Kit contains a sign to put on the dash of your car. It states that you are collecting data for the Atlas and gives contact information for the Atlas Office, in case people have further questions. Please remember to use the dashboard sign; some rural roads are typically only used by locals and unfamiliar vehicles can rouse suspicion.

Some key points to remember:

- <u>Always</u> get permission to access private property
- Arrange access ahead of time
- Be courteous in your interactions
- Follow all instructions
- Offer to share your findings
- Only park and pull over at safe locations
- Never block access to roads, trails, pastures, fields, equipment, etc.
- Use the dashboard sign available on the website
- Respect crops and livestock
- Leave all gates as found
- Leave no trace and pick up trash



Appendix C: Regional Information and Priority Squares

Figure C1. Map of administrative regions of the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas, showing primary (black dots) and secondary (white dots) priority squares. The table shows regional summaries for the total number of squares, the number of primary priority squares, and the number of secondary priority squares.

Table C1. Contact information for Regional Coordinators. This list may change over the course of the Atlas; please check the website (<u>https://nf.birdatlas.ca/regional-coordinators</u>) or contact the Atlas Office for updates.

Region Name	E-mail	Regional Coordinator	Phone
1. Northern Peninsula	NFatlasReg1@gmail.com	Holly Lightfoot	709-458-8492
		Gabrielle Robineau-Charette	
2. SW Newfoundland	NFatlasReg2@gmail.com	Julia Briffett	709-634-8938
		Lois Bateman	
		Tina Newbury	
3. Baie Verte-Buchans	nlatlas@birdscanada.org	Atlas Office	613-484-1217
4. Bay d'Espoir	NFatlasReg4@gmail.com	Alvan Buckley	709-691-6049
		Doug Clark	
5. NE Newfoundland	NFatlasReg5@gmail.com	John Gosse	709-424-7855
6. Bonavista-Placentia	NFatlasReg6@gmail.com	Roz Ford	
West			
7. Avalon	NFatlasReg7@gmail.com	Beverly McClenaghan	226-820-3331
		Megan Boucher	
8. St. Pierre and Miquelon	nlatlas@birdscanada.org	Atlas Office	613-484-1217

Appendix D: Breeding Evidence Codes

There are several categories of breeding evidence within each breeding level (Table 1). Familiarize yourself with the codes and categories because they will be regularly used in the field; most atlassers find it handy to have a copy of the codes with them for reference. The codes and categories are listed in order of breeding evidence, **from lowest to highest.**

When recording breeding evidence codes on the Atlas Checklist, **record the highest level observed for that time period**. For example, if you hear the song of an Wilson's Warbler, then later during your walk witness one carrying food, change the earlier recorded "S" to "CF" in the breeding evidence column and add the new individual(s) to the count column.

Be sure to only record breeding evidence codes for breeding birds; **do not use X for migrants. For species that are clearly migrants, leave the breeding evidence code <u>blank</u>! If you are unsure whether a bird is a migrant, please refer to the Breeding Dates document available on the atlas website. You may use the X code for a bird that** *could* **be a migrant or a local breeder, i.e. in the shoulder season between early breeding and last migration. If you have doubts about the appropriate category for a particular observation, ask your RC or contact the Atlas Office.**

Below are some examples to serve as guidelines for using breeding evidence codes. To see more examples and practice determining appropriate breeding evidence codes, you can take the <u>Atlas Quiz</u>, available on the website.

- 1. Common Loon in basic (winter/subadult) plumage spending the whole summer on a lake: Observed-X.
- 2. Common Loon or ducks in alternate (breeding/adult) plumage spending the whole summer on a lake or other waters, but no song, display or broods: Possible-**H**.
- 3. Grouse heard drumming: Possible-**S**. (Probable-**T** if heard in the same place on at least two days, more than a week apart. Probable-**D** only if actual courtship and display are seen).
- 4. Rails heard in a marsh on a visit in early breeding season, but not on subsequent visits: Possible-S.
- 5. Wilson's Snipe "winnowing" flights, for three weeks, but then no further signs: Probable-**T**. (Possible-**S** if seen or heard only once; Probable-**D** if actual courtship and display to females seen).
- 6. Gulls frequenting dumps, ploughed fields, drive-ins, park lakes etc. throughout summer in unsuitable breeding habitat: Observed-**X**.
- 7. Woodpeckers drumming: Possible-**S** if heard in breeding season; Probable-**T** if heard a week or more apart in same place.
- 8. White-throated Sparrow building a nest: Confirmed-NB.

Cautions

Breeding evidence for some groups may be complicated by certain behaviors. Examples where **caution** is required include waterfowl undergoing **molt migration** in the summer; some shorebirds, gulls, and eagles **"over-summering"** without breeding; birds **singing at stop-over sites** on migration (warblers and sparrows); and **courtship behavior during migration** (gulls and waterfowl). Consult the "breeding dates" document on the web site to learn about the usual periods of migration and breeding in Newfoundland.

Questionable Codes

Some species-code combinations will not be accepted by the computer system. Such combinations are largely common sense such as: NB (nest building) for a species that does not build a nest; CF (carrying food for young) for most precocial species; N (Nest-building by wrens or nest hole excavation by woodpeckers) for anything other than wrens or woodpeckers; and FS (adult carrying a faecal sac) for non-passerines.

Other species-code combinations require caution and may be flagged by the computer system. For example: NU (nest used) – most nests and eggshells are not unique or unmistakable; CF (adult carrying food for young) for species that either carry food for themselves (raptors and corvids), typically regurgitate food (Northern Flickers), or perform courtship feeding rituals (terns); and P (pair observed in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season) for species where males and females look alike.

Strengthening the Evidence for Breeding

During the course of the 5-year survey, while looking for previously unrecorded species, you should also look for stronger evidence of breeding for previously recorded species. Information about the highest breeding evidence codes obtained for each species in a square can be found on the Square Summary sheets on the website; however, data does not appear on these forms instantaneously (and only appears if data is submitted regularly) so it's a good idea to maintain a master copy for yourself using an Atlas Checklist. For example, on your first visit to a square, you may observe a singing Song Sparrow in suitable habitat, which you record as "S". If you observe this bird singing in the same location on subsequent occasions during the breeding season at least a week apart, you would now be able to update this to "presumed territory" and you could enter "T". If later you were to find a Song Sparrow nest with eggs in it, you would fill in "NE". You would then have upgraded the Song Sparrow from "Possible" to "Probable" to the "Confirmed" level of breeding evidence.

You should attempt to obtain probable or confirmed breeding evidence for as many species as possible, especially those that are unusual in your region. A species needs to be confirmed as breeding only once in the five years of the Atlas for any 10 km square.

Many observers from other atlases found that it was easier to obtain confirmed breeding records later in the season by observing adults carrying food or seeing fledged young. However, it is still important to do most atlassing early in the season, especially in June, because many more species are singing and easier to find at that time. Remember that some groups are best surveyed earlier or later in the year: for example, owls and grouse are most easily detected from mid-March through April, while American Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwing are examples of species whose nesting may peak in July and continue into August and even beyond.

Table D1. Breeding evidence codes.

OBSERVED

X Species observed during their breeding season, but NOT in suitable nesting habitat (**no breeding evidence found**). Note that this code is rarely used as birds tend to occupy nesting habitat during the breeding season. Do not use for species known to be migrants.

POSSIBLE BREEDING

- H Species observed in suitable nesting Habitat during their breeding season.
- **S Singing** male or adult producing other sounds associated with breeding (e.g., calls or drumming) in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season.

PROBABLE BREEDING

- **M Multiple** singing/calling/drumming individuals (7 or more) heard during one visit to a single square and in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season. Use with caution to avoid counting migrants.
- **P Pair** observed in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season.
- T Presumed **Territory** based on the presence of an adult bird (usually singing, but not necessarily so), in the same suitable nesting habitat patch on at least two visits, one week or more apart, during the species' breeding season. Use discretion when using this code. "T" is not to be used for colonial birds, or species that might forage or loaf a long distance from their nesting site (e.g. Turkey Vulture, and male waterfowl).
- **D** Courtship or **Displays** involving a male and female (e.g., courtship feeding, copulation) or antagonistic behavior between two or more individuals (e.g., territorial disputes or chases), in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season.
- V Bird Visiting a probable nest site in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season.
- A Agitated behavior or alarm calls of an adult in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season.
- **B Brood** patch or cloacal protuberance on an adult in suitable nesting habitat during the species' breeding season.
- **N Nest**-building by wrens or nest hole excavation by woodpeckers (both may build dummy or roosting nests so nest-building alone is not enough to confirm breeding).

CONFIRMED BREEDING

- **NB** Nest building, including the carrying of nesting material, by all species except wrens and woodpeckers.
- **DD Distraction Display**, injury-feigning, or other displays attempting to draw attention away from a nest or young.
- NU Empty Nest Used or identifiable eggshells from earlier in the same nesting season.
- **FY** Recently **Fledged Young** (nidicolous species) or downy young (nidifugous species) incapable of sustained flight.
- AE Adult Entering, occupying, or leaving a nest site (visible or not) or whose behavior suggests the presence of an occupied nest.
- **FS** Adult carrying a **Faecal Sac**.
- **CF** Adult **Carrying Food** for young.
- **NE Nest** containing **Eggs**.
- NY Nest with Young (seen or heard)

Appendix E: Data Forms and Online Data Submission

Always write using a **pencil**. Pencil marks can be easily erased to update breeding codes or counts and do not run when wet.

Atlas Checklists

For those participants with prior atlassing experience, this form completely replaces the Breeding Evidence Form and Daily Observation Form used in earlier Atlases.

The Atlas Checklist follows a simple protocol where **one checklist** is filled out **for each active birdwatching session following a single procedure** within an Atlas square. Create a new checklist if your procedure changes during your visit to an Atlas square.

Procedures

- **Single location** observations made from one place such as a count from a boat launch, or if your observations were made in a very small area such as a yard.
- **Travelling count** observations made while walking along a road, path, or otherwise walking such that you were not crisscrossing over your tracks. This is likely to be the most common atlassing procedure.
- **Area search** observations made while extensively searching a relatively small area such as a park or a pasture. Generally this would mean that you crisscrossed over your tracks.
- **Entire square** observations not tied to a specific location. Observations entered at the square level cannot be linked to habitat, whereas the previous options tie observations to habitat, allowing for a better understanding of bird-habitat relationships. Choose this option if a landowner indicates that they do not want observations tied to their property.

Birds are tallied over the course of the session, noting the highest level of breeding evidence observed. If you are recording migrants, do not assign them a breeding evidence code; simply leave the space blank. Since each session requires its own checklist, you will need several copies of the form; these can be downloaded from the website and printed at home or obtained from the Atlas Office. Atlas Checklists are designed to be folded in half.

Do not report time spent in the square that is spent on activities other than atlassing, even though you may happen to record a few bird species at the same time. Instead, please create separate lists for disjunct atlassing sessions and keep note of incidental observations while not actively atlassing. For example, if you are atlassing for 5 hours in the morning, take an hour-long break for lunch, and then resume atlassing for another 2 hours afterwards, you would use one Atlas Checklist for the 5-hour session and another for the 2-hour session. If you were casually noting a few species as you relaxed and ate lunch, you could keep a list in a notebook or on a separate Atlas Checklist, being sure to check off the "Incidental Observations" box.

Be careful when atlassing near the edge of a square. Assign each bird to only one square even if they are near the edge of two squares and move between the squares. In such cases, you should assign them to the square where they were first detected. If you were to later find the nest in another square, you should report your record in that square instead.

Filling out the form

At the top of each Atlas Checklist, fill out the following fields: **atlasser's name**, the **location** where the checklist took place (to aid in data entry), **Atlas square** number (found on the square map), the date (**day**, **month**, and **year**), the **start** and **end time** (24h), and the **duration** of the session (in minutes). Indicate which atlassing **procedure** was used by checking off the appropriate box (single location, travelling count, area search, or entire square). If by chance the start time or duration is unknown check off the box for **incidental observations**. Indicate if you are submitting a **complete checklist** (i.e. if you are reporting all the birds you were able to identify); check no to submit <u>casual observations</u>. Indicate if you completed any **Atlas point counts** during the session.

In the species tables use the **count** column to keep track of the number of individuals of all species that you identify within the square. You may wish to use the blank space in the **species** column to keep a running tally; the dot-dash method (Figure E1) is particularly useful for keeping track of counting in small spaces. Use the breeding evidence (**B.E.**) column to record the highest breeding evidence code observed for each species during the session.



Figure E1. Illustration of the dot-dash counting method.

If you find any species not listed on the Atlas Checklist, add them in to the blank spaces in the species columns. Complete a Rare/Colonial Species Form for each species you write in.

See Figure E2 for an example of a completed Atlas Checklist.

Rare/Colonial Species Form

Species designated as Provincially Rare, Regionally Rare, or Species of Interest require additional documentation to confirm the identification and/or provide details about the breeding colony. Such species are designated by the symbols listed below. In addition, species not included on regional lists (Atlas Checklist and Square Summary sheets) require extra documentation if observed. Extra documentation refers to a written description but can include photos or sound recordings which can be uploaded through the data entry portal.

- **† Provincially Rare**: documentation required for **ALL** breeding records.
- **‡** Regionally Rare: documentation required for ALL breeding records.
- § Species of Interest: documentation required for CONFIRMED breeding

records only; includes colonial species and widespread Species At Risk.

Filling out the form

At the top of the form fill out the **atlasser's name**. For each rare species or breeding colony you encounter, complete one section on the form. Within each section, record the **species** name, the number of individuals encountered (**count**), the level of **breeding evidence**, the **Atlas square** number, the date (**day**, **month**, and **year**), the **coordinates** of the observation and their **origin** (i.e., whether they were obtained using a GPS device or derived from the square map), and the **details** of your observation.

When completing the **details** portion, include information that will aid the reviewer in confirming the record or provide details about the breeding colony. Helpful details may include:

- a description of the bird seen;
- a description of the habitat;
- the location of the species/colony;
- the observation conditions (e.g. weather, lighting, duration);
- your degree of familiarity with the species;
- the presence of other observers and their names;
- a note of photos or sound recordings taken; and
- any other information you think is relevant.

See Figure E3 for an example of a completed Rare/Colonial Species Form.

Point Count Form

Please see the document entitled "Instructions for Point Counts" for detailed information about how to conduct point count surveys.

Filling out the form

At the top of each Point Count Form, fill out the following fields: **atlasser's name**, the **Atlas square** number (found on the square map), and the **year**. Each side of the form has space to record 2 point counts. Fill out the **month**, **day**, and **start time** (24h) for each point count. If the point count is a designated roadside point count (i.e. marked on your square map), enter its **designated number**. If the point count is an off-road point count, enter the UTM coordinates for that location.

Under the corresponding columns (e.g. **Point A**) record the count and breeding code information for each species during the point count. During the first 3 minutes of the point count (column **Min 1-3**) count all birds seen or heard. During the last 2 minutes of the point count (column **Min 4-5**) count any <u>new</u> birds not detected during the previous 3 minutes. Record the highest level of **breeding evidence** observed.

Familiarize yourself with the species list on the Point Count Form ahead of time. It contains the 50 most common species encountered on Breeding Bird Survey routes in the region. Space is provided to record any species not present on this list and unlike the Atlas Checklist these additional species do not automatically require the completion of a Rare/Colonial form unless they are also not found on the Atlas Checklist or Square Summary Sheet. A blank form is also available for those who wish to write in their own species lists.

See Figures E4 and E5 for examples of completed Point Count Forms.

Figure E2. Example of a completed Atlas Checklist.

Species	Count	B.E.	Species	Count	B.E
While - crowned sparrow	2	NB			
Bank SWALLOW \$1:	15	AE			
					-

† Provincially Rare: extra documentation required for ALL breeding records

‡ Regionally Rare: extra documentation required for ALL breeding records

§ Species of Interest: extra documentation required for CONFIRMED breeding records only BREEDING EVIDENCE (B.E) CODES

OBSERVED

X Observed but not in suitable nesting habitat

POSSIBLE BREEDING

PROBABLE BREEDING

- H In suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- S Singing/calling/drumming associated with breeding in nesting habitat in breeding season
 - eason DD Distraction display, att
- M Multiple (27) individuals singing/calling/drumming heard on the same date and in the same square
- P Pair observed together in suitable nesting habitat
- T Presumed territory = presence of an adult bird, at the same place, on ≥2 visits, one week or more apart
- D Display involving male & female (display, courtship feeding, copulation) or antagonistic behaviour between ≥2 individuals (territorial disputes or chases)
- V Visiting a probable nest site in suitable habitat

B Brood patch or cloacal protuberance on an adult N Nest-building by wrens or woodpeckers

A Agitated behaviour or alarm call of an adult

- CONFIRMED BREEDING
- NB Nest building, including carrying nesting material (except wrens and woodpeckers)
- DD Distraction display, attempt to draw attention away from nest/young by feigning injury or other distraction
- NU Empty nest used during atlas survey period, or identifiable egg shells
- FY Recently fledged or downy young incapable of sustained flight
- AE Adult occupying, leaving or entering a probable nest site or behaviour suggesting an occupied nest
- FS Adult carrying a fecal sac CF Adult carrying food for young
- NE Nest containing one or more eggs
- NY Nest with one or more young (seen or heard)



Instructions: Complete one Atlas Checklist per active birdwatching session. Do not record time spent on other activities. If you are recording migrants do not assign them a breeding evidence code, simply leave the space blank (i.e. do not use X for migrants).

Species		Count	B.E.	Species	Count	B.E.
Canada Goose				Red-breasted Merganser		
Blue-winged Teal †				Ruffed Grouse	١	5
Northern Shoveler †				Spruce Grouse		
American Wigeon		1	4	Willow Ptarmigan		
Mallard				Rock Ptarmigan +		
American Black Duck	図:	12	FY	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)		
Northern Pintail	17	7	9	Mourning Dove ‡		
Green-winged Teal	::	4	P	Sora †		
Ring-necked Duck				Semipalmated Plover †		
Greater Scaup				Killdeer †		
Common Eider §				Least Sandpiper †		
Common Goldeneye				Wilson's Snipe ø	1	5
Hooded Merganser †				Spotted Sandpiper		
Common Merganser				Greater Yellowlegs	3	14

Figure E3. Example of a completed Rare/Colonial Species Form.

Rare / Colonial Species Form Instructions: Species designated as Provincially Rare, Regionally Rare, or as a Species of Interest require extra documentation to confirm the identification and/or provide details about the breeding colony. Helpful details include a description of the species, the habitat and location, observation conditions (e.g. weather, lighting, duration), degree of familiarity with the species, presence of other observers and their names, or any other information you think is relevant.



- Provincially Rare: documentation required for ALL breeding records.
 Regionally Rare: documentation required for ALL breeding records.

3	species of interest; documentation required for CONFIRMED breeding
	records only, includes colonial species and widespread Species At Risk.

Jane Smith

Atlasser's name

Species	Count Breeding
Nasinville Warb	Evidence Atlas square Day Month Year 1 1 1 T W P 0
Coordinates Easting (UTM - NAD83) 515151600 Northing (UTM - NAD83) 5130763000 Coordinate origins O GPS Ø Square Map	Details: Small wartoler at euc level in unaergrowth, 8-10m away. Watered bird for approximately 1 min. Also seen by John Doc. Yellow on vent, yellow under wing/ along sides, buffy breast and locky. Complete euc ring, plain gray face, no obvious wing bars. Not a Tennessee Wartoler - locks dark eycline, white belly + vent

Species Northern Paru	Count Breeding Evidence Atlas square Day Month Year
$\begin{array}{c} \text{Coordinates} \\ \text{Easting (UTM - NAD83)} \\ \hline & \\ \hline \\ \hline$	Details: Bird heard, not second. Singing consistently for a period of ~ 2 min. Song was distinctive, rising buggy trits with sharp ending. I am familiat with Northern Parula song and a recording was taken

Species	Details:	Count	Breeding Evidence	Atlas square	Day Month Year 2 0
Coordinates Easting (UTM - NAD83) Northing (UTM - NAD83) Coordinate origins GPS Square Map]				

Figure E4. Example of a completed Point Count Form.

Point Count Form Instructions: Point count duration is 5 minutes, split into a 3 minute segment followed by a 2 minute segment. During the first 3 minutes (Min 1-3) count all birds detected; during the last 2 minutes (Min 4-5) only count additional birds not detected in the previous 3 minutes. Record the highest level of breeding evidence (B.E.) observed. Don't forget to also count the number of red squirrels seen/heard. Atlas square Year



Atlasser's name Jane Smith					Atlas Al	square	WIP 810 210	120			Newfo Breedin	yundlar g Bird Atl	nd las
Point Mo	onth Da			rdinates* ing (UTM			Point N	Ionth Da		Coo East	rdinates* ing (UTM	* - NAD83)	
Designated number* Sta	art time (2	24h)	Nort	thing (UT	 M - NAD83	3)	Designated number* Si	tart time (i	24h)	Nor	hing (UTI	7181 M-NAD83	3)
	1512	15						0 710	19			8 3 3	
		Point A			Point E	2		1	Point A		T	Point B	
		unt			unt				unt			unt	
Species		Min 4-5	B.E.		Min 4-5	B.E.	Species	Min 1-3	Min 4-5	B.E.	Min 1-3	Min 4-5	B.E
American Black Duck							American Goldfinch						
Wilson's Snipe	1						Fox Sparrow	3		5	2	١	S
Spotted Sandpiper							Dark-eyed Junco	1	١	5			
Greater Yellowlegs							White-throated Sparrow	3	2	5	a		S
Ring-billed Gull §							Savannah Sparrow						
Herring Gull §				2		X	Song Sparrow						
Great Black-backed Gull §							Lincoln's Sparrow						
Common Tern §							Swamp Sparrow						
Common Loon							Ovenbird						
Hairy Woodpecker							Northern Waterthrush				١		5
Northern Flicker		ι.	5				Black-and-white Warbler						0
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					1	S	Tennessee Warbler						
Alder Flycatcher			19.0000				Mourning Warbler				1	1	5
Canada Jay							Common Yellowthroat				<u> </u>	1	0
Blue Jay				·. · ·			American Redstart				1		S
American Crow	ţ	1	14				Magnolia Warbler	-			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Common Raven	3	<u>``</u>					Yellow Warbler		1	5			
Black-capped Chickadee							Blackpoll Warbler		1				
Boreal Chickadee								2		5		2	S
Tree Swallow	1						Palm Warbler						
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u> </u>		14		1	c	Yellow-rumped Warbler						21.01
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					<u> </u>	5	, Blk-throated Grn Warbler	1		17	2		S
Red-breasted Nuthatch							Wilson's Warbler						
								1221 2223	nt A			nt B	
European Starling Swainson's Thrush			c				Additional Species		unt Min 4-5	B.E.		unt Min 4-5	B.E.
			5				American Red Squirrel	1	1				
Hermit Thrush							Ruffed arouse	1	·	5			
American Robin	2	1	5	2		5	Inuted groupe			<u> </u>			
Cedar Waxwing	2		Н										
House Sparrow													
Evening Grosbeak †												2	
Pine Grosbeak			S										
Purple Finch													
White-winged Crossbill													
Pine Siskin				road po			 Provincially Rare: extra docurs Species of Interest: extra docurs 	mentation r	equired fo	r ALL bree	eding recor	ds	

Figure E5. Example of a completed blank Point Count Form. This form allows the observer to write in species as they are detected.

Point Cou Instructions: Point coun (Min 1-3) count all birds	nt Forr t duration is 5 m detected and d	ninutes, spli uring the la:	t into a 3 minute st 2 minutes (Mi	e segment followe n 4-5) only count	ed by a 2 minute segment additional birds not dete o count the number of re	t. During the first 3 cted in the previou	minutes s 3	R	
minutes. Record the hig Atlasser's name	hest level of bre	eding evide	nce observed. D	on't forget to als Atlas square	o count the number of re Yea		ard.	14	- 2 M
Jane Smith				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		10120			ndland Bird Atlas
Point A Designated number*	Month Day	 h)	Coordinates** Easting (UTM -	NAD83)	Point B Designated number*	Month Day 7 / 0 6 Start time (24h)]	Coordinates** Easting (UTM - N 5 8 5 7 Northing (UTM -	IAD83) 1815 NAD83)
12	015121					0171019]	5131018	1
Species	P	0 Vin 1-3	Min 4-5	Breeding Evidence	Species	Mi	n 1-3	Count Min 4-5	Breeding Evidence
Anck		1	1	14	HERG		2		×
PIGR		١		5	ANRO		2		5
AMRO		2	l	5	NOWA		l		S
BLPW		a		S	WTSP		2		5
FOGP		3		5	NOWA		۱	<u> </u>	5
DEJU		١	1	S	BTNW		2		8
SWTH		1		S	FOSP		2	١	S
CEDW		a		Н	AMRE		1		5
WTSP		3	2	5	GCKI			1	S
BTNW				H	MBEL			1	S
TRES		1		14					
RUGR		1		S					
YEWA			١	S					
NOFL			l	S					
•									
	nan ta a								
Current Current		*							
	117 E	mineral della como							
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0 44 5		1	١		P.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A.A				
Rea Squeree For road-side poin	ts only	** For	off-road poin	its only	Rea equirrei	8			L

Online Data Entry

The online data entry portal can be accessed via the "Data Entry" tab on the main page of the Atlas website.

Atlas Checklist data

To submit an Atlas Checklist, first locate the Atlas square in which the observations were made. This can be accomplished by zooming in on the map, by clicking "**Find square**" and entering the square number or the geographic coordinates of an observation, or by selecting a saved square from your personal list.

Once you have located the square, indicate on the map where you atlassed by selecting <u>one</u> of the **Procedures**. Distance and area will be calculated automatically for travelling count and area search, respectively. Fill in the remaining fields and check the appropriate boxes. Select "continue" to proceed to the next page. If you selected yes for "Did you complete **atlas point counts** during this survey" you will have the ability to indicate where those point counts were conducted, either by selecting predefined road-side point counts or creating new off-road point count locations by clicking on the map or entering the UTM coordinates.

The species page shows a species list where you can enter count and breeding evidence information for both Atlas Checklists and Point Count Forms. It also displays an automatic total of the counts (Atlas Checklist + Point Count Form) and the highest breeding evidence to date for that square. Warnings are displayed for species-breeding code combinations that are not accepted or require some caution. The species list can be sorted in a variety of ways, and a custom list can be created by first clicking "Only show species with data" and then selecting "add species". Select "**Submit**" to review and submit the data.

Rare / colonial species data

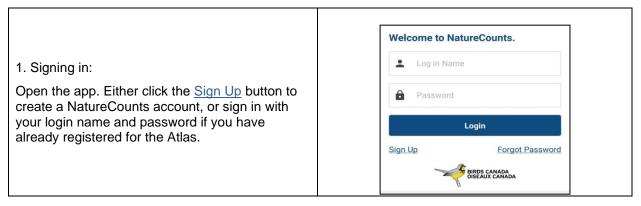
Extra documentation is submitted using the "**Add details**" button associated with each species. From here you can enter a written description and specific coordinates, and upload media files (maximum upload size is 10mb per photo and 20mb per recording).

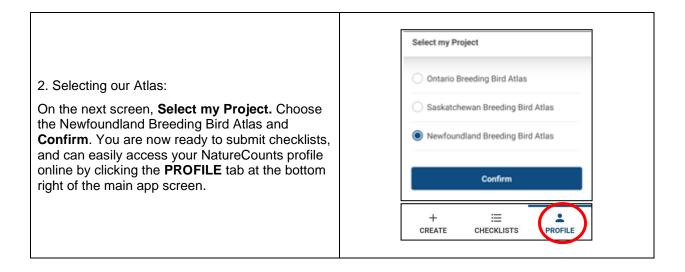
Point count data

All data submissions are linked to an Atlas Checklist. If you are submitting point count data only, create a travelling count corresponding to the route you took, noting the start time and duration of the entire session, regardless of whether or not you made observations between point count locations. If no observations were made between point counts, check off "no" under **complete checklist**.

Using the NatureCounts App

The NatureCounts app can be downloaded free from the App Store and Google Play, and used for easy entry of observations in real-time or at home. You don't need to have cell service to use the app; it can be used offline, although service is needed to submit checklists.





General Atlassing

When general atlassing, create a new checklist whenever you change location or switch to a different observation type (stationary, travelling, or incidental).

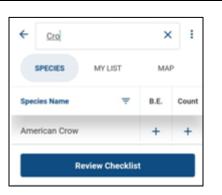
1. Creating a new checklist:

Begin in the **CREATE** tab, where the **Checklist Setup** screen will automatically fill in the current date and time. Ensure these are accurate or change them if not. Under Select Protocol choose General Atlassing. The Starting Point will automatically load as your current location. If you want to use a different location, you can edit your starting point by choosing a new location on the map. You should have the option to choose from a number of eBird hotspots which appear on the map as red markers. (Note: the list of included eBird hotspots is only updated periodically; recently created hotspots may not appear.) Be careful when selecting a hotspot, as some may appear in the wrong place: make sure the hotspot you select is in the correct location. Also, take care to ZOOM IN as far as you can before choosing your location, or your marker will not appear in the right place. Once you're happy with everything in the Checklist Setup, press the Start Checklist button at the bottom of the screen.

Checklist Set		
Date		
June 21, 20	020	
Start Time		
11:19 AM		~
Select Protoc	col	
🔵 General A	tlassing	
Point Cou	int	
Starting Poin	t	Edit
Coordinates:	47.592851,-52.691	1717
Atlas Square:	22TCT77	
+		•
CREATE	CHECKLISTS	PROFILE

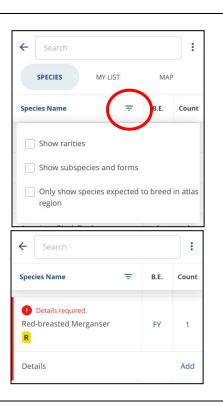
2. Making new observations:

As you make your observations, you can either scroll through the **SPECIES** list to find the species you're looking for, or type the species name or AOS 4 letter code in the search bar at the top. Tap the + under **Count** to add individuals one at a time, or press and hold the + button to type in the number of individuals. Press **X** on the search bar to show the full species list again.



3. Rare species observations:

Species that are regionally or provincially rare will not appear in the full species list, but if you observe one you can access these by clicking the circled button. This gives you the option to see rarities, subspecies and forms, or only species expected in the Atlas region. Once you have added the species, you will be prompted to add details. Tap the species name so the Details box appears, press **Add**, and describe how you identified the bird, the habitat you saw it in, or any other pertinent information to help confirm the sighting. Media such as photos or recordings can be added later by editing your checklist on the computer.

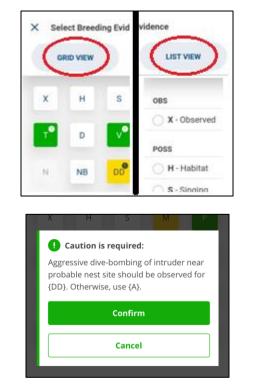


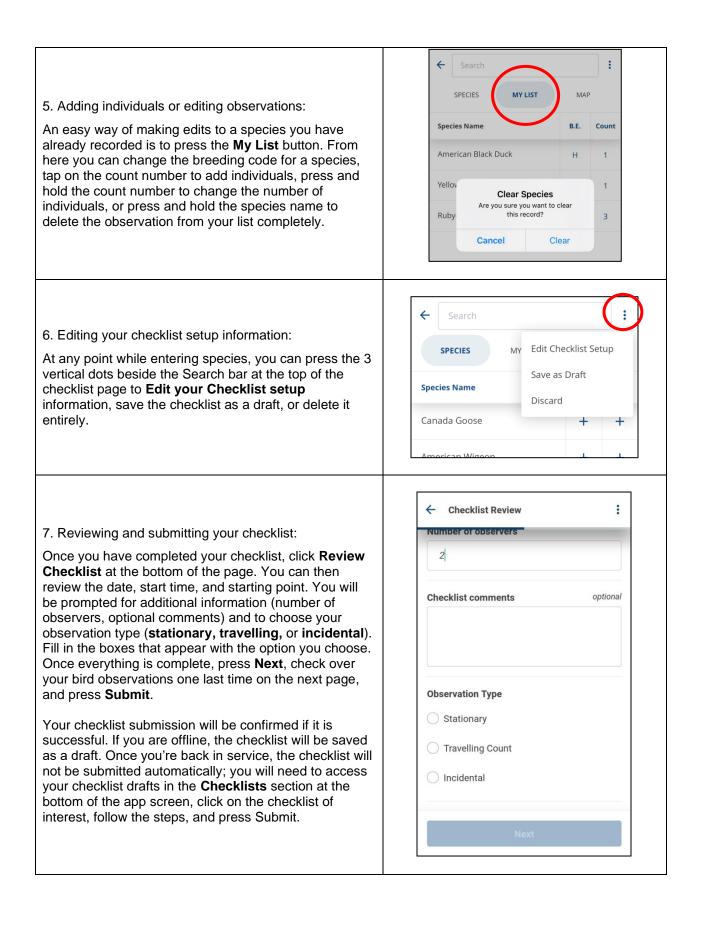
4. Recording breeding evidence:

To record breeding evidence, tap on the + under **B.E.** and choose the code in **GRID VIEW** that corresponds to what you observed, or tap on **LIST VIEW** to see the list of breeding code definitions.

Some breeding evidence codes will be marked with an alert ("!") that indicates the code: 1) can be used with caution (green); 2) is unusual for that species and requires extra documentation (yellow); or 3) is invalid for that species (greyed out in grid view, and flagged red in list view).

An explanation of this caution will appear when you choose that breeding code. Evaluate whether the code you chose is the best option, given the information in the alert. If it is, press **Confirm**, and if not, **Cancel** and choose a more appropriate breeding code.

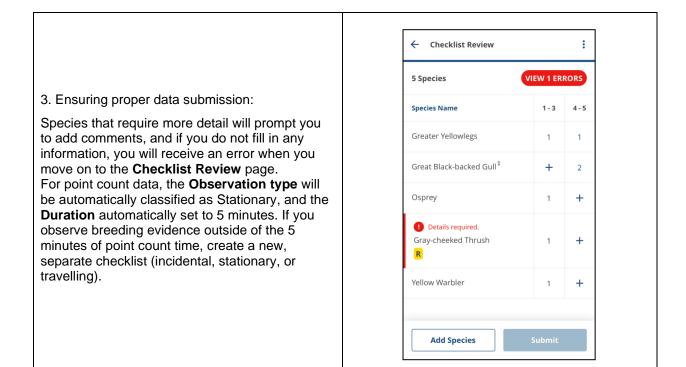




Point Counts

Many people find it easier and faster to write out species and breeding codes on paper rather than navigate through buttons to search for them in a list. As such, although many people love using the NatureCounts app for point counts, it may be not be the best option for everyone. Do some practice point counts with the app to see if it works for you before you go out for your first day of surveys. Even if you decide to use the app for point counts, it is good practice to bring a few paper copies of the point count datasheets with you, in case you run into technological issues while in the field.

	Checklist Setup
	Date
	June 27, 2020
1. Setting up your checklist:	Start Time
Navigate to your predetermined point count	
location using a map, GPS, and/or other app on	Select Protocol
your mobile device, as the point count locations	General Atlassing
are NOT integrated into the NatureCounts app. When doing point counts, using the app is much	Point Count
the same as for general atlassing, but in the Checklist Setup screen, choose Point Count	Point Site Edit
under Select Protocol.	Coordinates: 48.965139, -57.924810
	Atlas Square: 21UVQ32
	Start Checklist
	+ = *
	CREATE CHECKLISTS PROFILE
	← Search
	E Search
	SPECIES LIST MY LIST
2. Entering observations and breeding evidence:	Species Name 1 - 3 4 - 5
As you conduct your point count, enter individuals	Greater Yellowlegs 1 1
into the species tallies in the correct time columns: minutes 1-3 and 4-5. Don't forget to	Great Black-backed Gull [‡] + 2
ADD BREEDING EVIDENCE to each species observation by clicking on the species name! You	Osprey 1 +
will not be prompted for this information, so you MUST remember this important step.	Yellow Warbler 1 +
For general information on finding, editing, deleting, and submitting observations within your	Breeding Evidence S Edit
checklist, read the above section on general atlassing.	Details Add
	Review Checklist



Appendix F: Sensitive Species and Birding Code of Ethics

Be careful when atlassing! Treat all birds and their habitat with respect and caution. Stay alert to avoid trampling nests and be very careful in delicate habitats like sand dunes. Remember that this project is about gathering data to help bird conservation and we should all act accordingly when surveying. Excessive disturbance may cause adults to abandon a nest, especially during incubation. Lingering around a nest too long or disturbing the area around it may betray it to predators. Playing recordings of certain species can elicit responses and generate critical information quickly, but use the recordings judiciously, switching playback off as soon as a response gives you the data you need. For further guidance, the American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics is provided at the end of this section.

Exercise caution when near Species at Risk. In order to protect Species at Risk (Table F1), any sensitive information, such as the precise location of observations, should be kept strictly confidential by the atlasser and their Regional Coordinator. Be extremely cautious not to disturb Species at Risk in any way. If the Atlas is to reach its full potential as a conservation tool, it is very important that you report all occurrences of rare species. If you are particularly concerned about protecting information for a rare or colonial species you have found, contact the Atlas Coordinator at the Atlas Office to discuss the situation and determine how to proceed.

Be especially cautious when near nesting areas for most colonial species as they are very sensitive to disturbance at the colony. For this reason, it is recommended that you estimate the number of nests and site details from a distance without getting too close to the colony.

Table F1. All federally (COSEWIC – Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and SARA – Species At Risk Act) and provincially (Newfoundland and Labrador Endangered Species Act) listed bird Species at Risk that may occur in Newfoundland (both breeding and non-breeding) as of July 2020.

Common name	Scientific name	COSEWIC Status	SARA Status	Endangered Species Act Status
Eskimo Curlew	Numenius borealis	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
Ivory Gull	Pagophila eburnean	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
Piping Plover <i>melodus</i> subspecies	Charadrius melodus melodus	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
Red Knot <i>rufa</i> subspecies	Calidris canutus rufa	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia	Threatened	Threatened	No Status
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Threatened	Threatened	No Status
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	Threatened	Threatened	Vulnerable
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pelagica	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened
Hudsonian Godwit	Limosa haemastica	Threatened	No Status	No Status
Red Crossbill percna subspecies	Loxia curvirostra percna	Threatened	Threatened	Endangered
Barrow's Goldeneye	Bucephala islandica	Special Concern	Special Concern	Vulnerable
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	Special Concern	Threatened	Threatened
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	Special Concern	Special Concern	No Status
Harlequin Duck	Histrionicus histrionicus	Special Concern	Special Concern	Vulnerable
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	Special Concern	Threatened	Threatened
Red-necked Phalarope	Phalaropus lobatus	Special Concern	Special Concern	No Status
Rusty Blackbird	Euphagus carolinus	Special Concern	Special Concern	Vulnerable
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	Special Concern	Special Concern	Vulnerable
Peregrine Falcon <i>anatum/tundrius</i> subspecies	Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius	Not at Risk	Special Concern	Vulnerable
Gray Cheeked Thrush <i>minimus</i> subspecies	Catharus minimus minimus	No Status	No Status	Vulnerable

American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- **1(a)** Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- **1(b)** To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

- **1(c)** Before advertising the presence of a rare bird publicly, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The nesting sites of rare birds should be divulged only to your Regional Coordinator, the Atlas staff or the proper conservation authorities.
- **1(d)** Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
- 2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.
- 2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- **2(b)** Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
- **2(c)** Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

- 3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.
- **3(a)** Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.
- 3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
- **3(c)** If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.
- 4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

- 4(a) Respect the interests, rights & skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge & experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginner birders.
- **4(b)** If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation & intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, & attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it & notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

- 4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
- **4(d)** Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.
- **4(e)** Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.
- **4(f)** Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).
- **4(g)** Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

Appendix G: Location

There are two types of location reporting for the Atlas. The first is reporting the location of your atlassing session, while the second involves reporting the precise location of rare species and breeding colonies of colonial species.

Reporting location for an atlassing session

If you are entering your data online (highly encouraged) you will have the ability to indicate where you atlassed through a Google Maps interface. The interface will allow you to zoom in to an Atlas square and choose one of four "observation procedures": single location, travelling count, area search, or entire square. This process can be simplified by keeping track of atlassing locations on your square map for later data entry.

Single location: Indicate a single location on the map where the observations were made. Choose this option if you made a stationary count (such as a 10 minute count of birds from a boat launch), or if your observations were made in a small area (such as your yard).

Travelling count: Draw lines to indicate the path you took during your atlassing session – distance is automatically calculated. This is a good option if you made observations while walking along a road or a path.

Area search: Draw a closed polygon around the area you searched during your atlassing session – area is automatically calculated. Chose this option if you searched within an area such as a park or a pasture.

Entire square: Select the entire square (not recommended). Observations entered at the square level cannot be linked to habitat, whereas the previous options tie observations to habitat, allowing for a better understanding of bird-habitat relationships. Chose this option if a landowner indicates that they do not want observations tied to their property.

Reporting location for the Rare-Colonial Species Form

Please record the UTM coordinates of rare species or breeding colony locations as precisely as possible while at the site. While there is an opportunity to mark the location of such species on a Google map when entering data online, noting the location at the site will ensure you do not accidentally select the wrong location should there be a delay between the sighting and data entry.

Recording UTM coordinates

The Atlas sampling framework is based on the Universal Transverse Mercator grid and all spatial locations are recorded in that coordinate system. UTM coordinates are composed of a zone designation and two numbers recorded in meters; the first is an 'Easting' and the second is a 'Northing'. An Easting is always reported before a Northing.

Using a Square Map to determine UTM coordinates

It is possible to determine the UTM coordinates of a location by using Atlas Square Maps as shown in Figure H1. The Eastings are shown along the bottom of the map and increase from left to right. The Northings are shown along the left border of the map and increase towards the top of the map. Since UTMs are recorded in meters the 1 km designations always end in "000". These maps also have 100m "tick" marks between the 1 km grid lines. To determine the appropriate Easting for a location, place a ruler

vertically on the map to determine which mark on the bottom of the map is closest to the location. To determine the appropriate 100 m Northing, place the ruler horizontally across the map in the same manner. Always record the Easting *before* the Northing, which you can remember with the rule that an Easting is always *smaller* than a Northing.

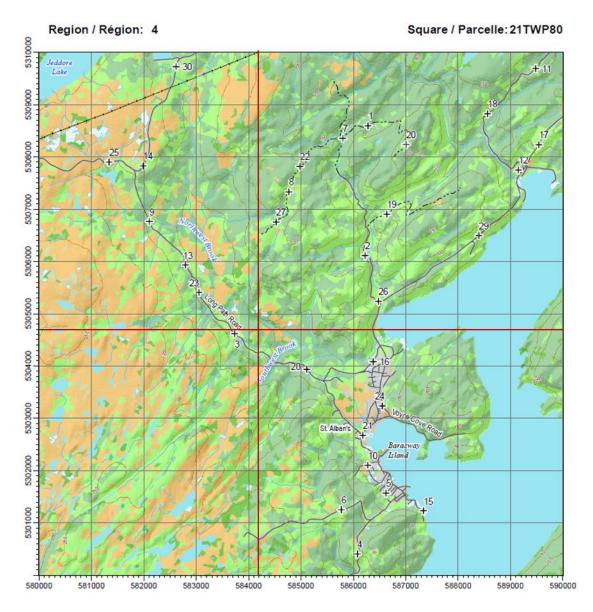


Figure G1. Example of an Atlas square map. Along the bottom, Eastings are indicated for every 1,000 meters (one kilometer) with grid lines extending from every kilometer and tick marks at every 100 meters. Along the left side, Northings are indicated for every 1,000 m (1 km) with grid lines extending from every kilometer and tick marks at every 100 m. The UTM coordinates corresponding to the intersection of the red lines are 584200mE (m East) and 5304700mN (m North).

Using a GPS to determine UTM

If you have a GPS unit, record the location while you are on site. Make sure you set the device to the **NAD83** datum (usually under navigation setup or something similar). If the wrong datum is used, the locations of nests, colonies or point counts can be off by as much as 200 meters! Using any other datum will most likely provide incorrect (and therefore unusable) coordinates, and this makes future analyses of bird-habitat relationships very difficult. Please read your GPS owner's manual for more instruction on how to set the datum.

When you take a GPS reading, please record the Zone designation (either 21 or 22 and T or U in Newfoundland), as well as all 6 digits of the Easting and all 7 digits of the Northing. (If your GPS unit gives you 7 digits for the Easting, do not record the initial "0".) If you do not have a GPS unit, use your square map to determine the coordinates of your location as precisely as possible.

Using a GPS to determine what square you are in

If you have a GPS unit, set it to display coordinates in UTM format (NAD83). If you know which 100 km block (Figure 1, page 6 in the Instructions for General Atlassing) you are in, you can determine the other digits of the square number by reading the zone and the **5th number from the right of the Easting and Northing.** Make sure you read the Easting *before* the Northing, which you can remember with the rule that an Easting is always *smaller* than a Northing.

Example: You are in Gros Morne National Park, in block VR, and your GPS reads:

```
(Zone) (Easting, meters East)
210 454340 mE
5500020 mN
(Northing, meters North)
```

You immediately know you are in square 21UVR50.

Atlassing at the edge of a square

Atlassing very close to the boundary of a square may be challenging. You may find it difficult to know exactly which square you are in at times. It is worth making note of landmarks that help determine which square you are in ahead of time, or use your GPS as indicated in the box under "Using a GPS to determine what square you are in". Using a square map for reference, you can ensure that you are within the square boundaries by keeping your UTM coordinates within the ranges shown on the map. For the map shown in Figure G1 this would correspond to Eastings between 580000-590000mE and Northings between 5300000-5310000mN.

Appendix H: Data Permissions and Privacy Policy

Data permissions

The Atlas participant hereby grants Birds Canada a royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, transferable, worldwide license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform, and display any information provided during the course of their atlas activities and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, software or technology now known or later developed. The Atlas participant shall not be restricted in their ability to use the data they collect as they see fit, for any other purpose. Data submitted to the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas will be peerreviewed by ornithological experts. The Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas reserves the right to include or exclude data submitted to the project.

Birds Canada and the atlas partners strongly encourage use of data by third parties, in particular for research, education and conservation purposes. Access to raw data from NatureCounts is subject to approval by Birds Canada on behalf of its partners. Birds Canada will endeavor to provide access to data at no cost, but may at its discretion request a fee to cover data extraction time for more complex requests. Maps and other results published as part of the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas are the property of the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas (and Atlas partners) and may not be reproduced for publication without the consent of the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas. Participants are, however, authorized to reproduce them for the purpose of conducting their usual atlas activities. Topographic maps provided for the purpose of collecting Atlas data may not be used for any other purposes or for gathering information on private lands aside from Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas data.

Privacy policy

Personal information of participants (including address, email and phone number) will not be shared with third parties, and will only be available to the atlas partner institutions and their staff, the Atlas Committee members, the Atlas Regional Coordinators (in regions for which you have provided data, or indicated an interest in participating) or other people designated by the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas for atlas-related communications.

Unless you indicate otherwise to us in writing or through your online profile, you accept that your name may be included in data summaries, reports or any data product derived from the atlas database where appropriate.

Veuillez contacter le Bureau de l'Atlas si vous souhaitez recevoir ce document en français.