

Instructions: Mountain Home eBird route

Thank you for volunteering to be a citizen scientist, recording, entering, and sharing eBird data with CDLT. You will help us learn about patterns of bird species abundance and diversity prior to the planned late 2017 thinning project designed to restore a pre-settlement open ponderosa-pine forest. Our questions include:

- Which species of birds use each habitat types?
- How will bird use continue to change over time, after the 1994 wildfires?
- How do migrating birds use the preserve during spring and fall?
- How do birds use the preserve as nesting and rearing for young?

The CLDT protocol includes five 10-minute Stationary Counts (MH #1-5) and a one-way MH Traveling Count. If you start but don't have time to finish the project protocol, you can enter any collected data using the Mountain Home Preserve (CDLT) eBird hotspot.

Time of day: Our goal is for observations to be completed between 6:00am and 11:00am during Daylight savings time (April-Sept) and between 8:00am-1:00pm during Standard time, (Sept.-Nov.)

Total time & distance: The round-trip walking time takes 2.5-3.5 hours. Total walking round-trip distance is 2.2 miles. The one-way traveling count route is 1.1 miles.

Road Access: The property is gated at the entrance on Mountain Home Road. This road is not plowed, so access in spring may vary. Call the CDLT Office to check on road conditions (509.667.9708).

Think Safety-First!

- It is best to have at least one other person accompany you.
- Print and take hardcopies of the project maps with you – provided with this protocol.
- The property is on a windy ridgeline. Be prepared: bring water, food, sun protection, layers of clothing, a first-aid kit. Wear sturdy footwear. The property has good cell phone coverage.
- Be ready to see and protect all wildlife, including black bear. You will be walking on an unmaintained dirt road with good sight visibility.
- Take notes of any vandalism or problems you encounter and report these to CDLT.

Print forms to take to the field:

- Map of entire property showing the one-way Traveling Count and the 5 Stationary Counts.
- Map showing each of the five Stationary Counts, with designated 100-meter observation circled areas around the observation point.
- This instructions document
- Optional: Prepared data entry sheet set: 5 blank forms for station counts and 1 blank form for traveling count. You may prefer to use your own field notebook.

eBird account procedures:

CDLT Staff completes: Data entered into e-bird by _____ date _____
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- Provide CDLT with your eBird account. In order for you to capture our observation locations into your own eBird account, CDLT will share a “dummy” set of eBird data for the Mountain Home Preserve project.
- In eBird, accept the CDLT “dummy” set of observations so that the locations and names will become part of your eBird account.
- After you enter your first set of actual data for this project, delete the prior set of CDLT data from your personal eBird account.
- Share each of your own entries (MH#1-MH#5 & MH Traveling) with CDLT’s eBird account “cdlandtrust”.
- If you observe an owl or an uncommon species, we ask that you delay entering your data for one-week, so that your report will not be automatically widely shared by eBird. We do not want to alert others to the potential presence of sensitive species like owls and other rare species observed on our properties. Call CDLT for guidance if you are unsure.

FIELD PROCEDURE:

Only start the protocol if:

- Winds are less than 19 mph – see chart below
- It isn’t raining (light sprinkles with birds still singing are ok)
- You can complete the data collection by 11am

Record data at the start of your survey, to be entered into each eBird entry:

- Date
- For the MH Traveling Count: The distance for one-way route is (**1.1 miles**)
- Start and end times for observation (Each stationary count is a timed 10-minutes)
- Names of all participants, including recorder.
- For entry into the eBird COMMENTS:
 1. Starting Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit
 2. Percent cloud cover
 3. Wind speed (use Beaufort Scale chart below)
 4. Any sightings of other wildlife
 5. Add text: *Observations taken using protocol developed by Chelan-Douglas Land Trust*
 6. Optional: Condition of dominant vegetation. List a few of the most abundant plants and make a note about its life stage: i.e. dormant; new leaves formed; flower in bud or bloom or post-bloom; fruit or seed unripe or ripe

For Wind Conditions, use this Beaufort Scale (source: <http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units/scales/beaufort.html>)

FORCE	NAME	Miles/hr	CONDITIONS
0	Calm	<1	Smoke rises vertically.
1	Light Air	1-4	Smoke drifts and leaves rustle.
2	Light Breeze	5-7	Wind felt on face.
3	Gentle Breeze	7-11	Flags extended, leaves move.
4	Moderate Breeze	12-18	Dust and small branches move.
5	Fresh Breeze	19-24	Small trees begin to sway.
6	Strong Breeze	25-31	Large branches move, wires whistle.

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CDLT Project Guidelines:

- You may record birds that you hear but do not see if you are confident with call identification.
- If bird ID is uncertain, do not make a guess on the exact species. Instead, give as much information about the bird type as you can (i.e. Unknown Accipiter) for eBird entry.
- **For the single, summary MH Traveling Count:**
 1. Use one data form to record all birds seen and heard while walking the one-way route (exclude observations from stationary counts).
 2. Record all birds seen or heard at any distance (<100 m, >100 m, & fly-overs) during your one-way walking route, as defined by the map. For this project, include all birds that fly-over at any distance).
 3. Record any “Fly-overs” observed during the 10-minute stationary counts that were not using the habitat within the 100-meter radius
 4. Once the one-way walking route is complete, return to your vehicle by retracing your steps. Do not add birds seen unless it is a new species not seen during the protocol’s one-way walking route.
 5. After completing the one-way route, record the ending time. This concludes the one-way traveling route. For your return walk, only add any new species not yet seen on either the traveling or stationary counts. For the traveling route end time is when you return to the gate.
- **For the five Stationary Counts at designated eBird posts**
 1. Reference the 100-meter radius map as you approach the stationary count position. Once you enter the observation area, try to walk quickly to the post to begin your timed observation. If you flush any birds while approaching the post from within this observation area, make a note. If the birds *do not* return during your 10-minute stationary count, add these flushed observations to the traveling route. If they *do return*, tally these as part of the stationary count.
 2. Stand within 15 meters of the eBird post during the observation period, and move periodically in order to view a complete 360 degree area.
 3. Use a separate data form for each designated Stationary Count (MH#1-MH#5)
 4. Record birds seen or heard within the 10-minute time window. Use a timer.
 5. Use the provided aerial map with a drawn 100 meter radius circle (328 feet) around each eBird post, one for every Stationary Count on the route. Visually correlate the drawn circle to the surrounding landscape and record birds seen inside the 100-meter radius area.
 6. For birds seen or heard during the 10-minute observation period that are outside the 100 meter radius, record these on the Traveling Count data sheet.
 7. For fly-over birds (birds flying over and not utilizing the observation area as habitat) during the 10-minute period, record these on the Traveling Count data sheet.

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