

“BIRDS ‘N’ BOGS” CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM SURVEY PROTOCOL

Goal is to detect boreal wetland bird species using local “bogs” during the spring settling period or while on incubation breaks. Birds will likely be foraging, resting, or perhaps flying around either singly or in pairs. You may even observe breeding displays or copulation.

- Dates = May 9-June 1
- Within these dates please survey chosen wetland 4x: 1x per period
 - EARLY early period = May 9-14
 - early period = May 15-20
 - middle period = May 21-26
 - late period = May 27-June 1
- Surveys should total 2 hours between May 9 and June 1, at least 20 minutes per survey period as shown above.
- Surveys are best done before 8 am or between 6-10 pm but other times are ok too; we understand that you are doing this on a volunteer basis so do whatever works best for you. **JUST BE SURE TO RECORD YOUR START/STOP TIMES FOR EACH SURVEY!** This is very important because it allows us to adjust detections for the time of day and amount of time spent observing.
- Record all individuals of the 12 target species that you see or hear; also record any individuals you can identify to sex and any banded birds you see. Most bands are colored plastic circles, but some are a colored flag (sticks off the leg) and some have a geolocator attached. A silver band is usually the USGS Bird Banding Lab metal ring, “metal” for short. Please refer to the training powerpoint for examples, or contact us and we can send photos. Bird bands are best recorded in the field using this method to be sure they are recorded correctly:



- A Birds ‘n’ Bogs survey can entail **walking** the perimeter of wetland/lake (moving more than ~50 feet during the observation period, or outside of earshot of a moderately loud bird call) OR standing and watching/listening for birds at a single **point** (moving less than ~50 feet during the observation period or staying within earshot of a moderately loud bird call). The data sheets will ask you to enter your observation as a point or a walking observation, and if walking, approximately how far you walked. You can track your walking distance with a GPS or the Gaia app on a phone, or estimate if you are good at that sort of thing. Please follow roughly the same route each time you survey.
- There are also places on the datasheet (either paper or online versions) for weather variables like temperature, precipitation, wind, etc. These will help us adjust observations for weather that may make bird behavior or our ability to detect birds different than normal.
- If you are inclined to record all birds seen, please place non-target species observations (seen only) on the Non-Target Species Checklist sheet.
- Please try to use CitSci.org or the new CitSci app to enter data; if you experience trouble call or email us (email and cell number below). You will need to set up a username and password for the site, and request to join the Alaska Birds ‘n’ Bogs project, which is findable using the search function from the main screen.

- You can scan and email or send via snail mail the “non-target species” sheets; these do not get entered into CitSci.
- Feel free to call anytime with questions!

Contacts:

Audrey Taylor
Associate Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
907.538.3693 (cell) artaylor@alaska.edu

Arin Underwood
Wildlife Biologist
Threatened, Endangered, and Diversity Program
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518
(907)267-2111 arin.underwood@alaska.gov