

Defining Your Count

It is helpful to determine what type of birding trip you are conducting, so that the data you gather may be examined appropriately. Below are some definitions to help you correctly complete your IMBD Data Sheet on the reverse.

Stationary Count: A count made in one area, approximately 30 meters (30 yards) in diameter. Examples are counting birds from an observation tower or in your backyard.

Traveling Count: A count made over a distance. You must estimate the distance you travel. If you walk 2 miles on a trail and return via the same route, record the distance as 2 miles. Only record new birds that you are certain you did not previously detect. Examples of traveling counts are birding on a trail, driving an auto loop, and birding on a boat trip.

Area Count: A count made while thoroughly searching a relatively small area to find as many birds as possible. You must be able to estimate the size (acres or hectares). If you are unsure of the size of the search area, but have a reliable estimate of the distance traveled, consider submitting your observations as a Traveling Count. An Area Count may include searching for all the birds at a local park or woodlot or looking for all the birds on your 15 acre property.

Casual Observations: These observations are made incidentally as you do another activity. If you see an interesting or noteworthy bird, report it as a casual observation. For example, seeing a Ruffed Grouse by the road as you drive to work is a Casual Observation.

Why Submit Spring Bird Count Data?

The Benefits of Sharing Your Data

- ✓ Your information will be added to a growing pool of data, helping scientists better understand birds
- ✓ International Migratory Bird Day can develop education programs based on your activities
- ✓ You have the opportunity to teach birders how to record sightings and the importance of sharing data
- ✓ You will help start a concentrated spring count effort!

Learn more about ebird at
<http://ebird.org>

For more information about
International Migratory Bird Day
www.birdday.org

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International Migratory Bird Day *Spring Count Data Form*



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