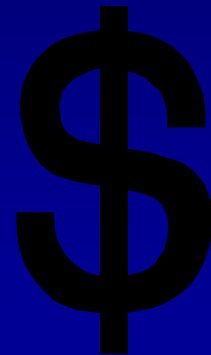


Point Count Protocol

What are we doing tomorrow?!

Why Point Counts?

- Cost-effective method of estimating the relative abundance of birds
- Least subjective method
- Most reproducible method



General Methodology

- A series of points are established in an area.
- Observer visits points during optimal times to detect birds of interest.
- At each point observer records all birds detected (sight & sound), within specified time and distance.

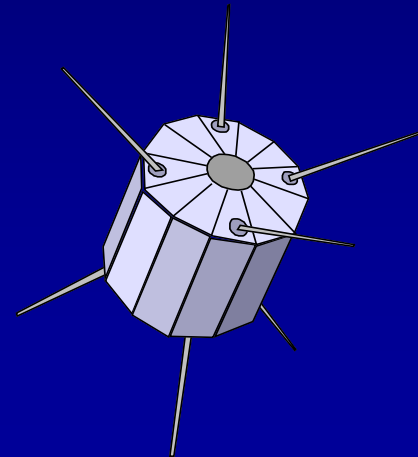
Detailed Methodology

- Spacing of Points
 - Place far enough apart to avoid counting birds previously recorded.
 - Standards recommend 250 meters.
 - In more open habitats, 500 meters.

More Details

- Marking Points

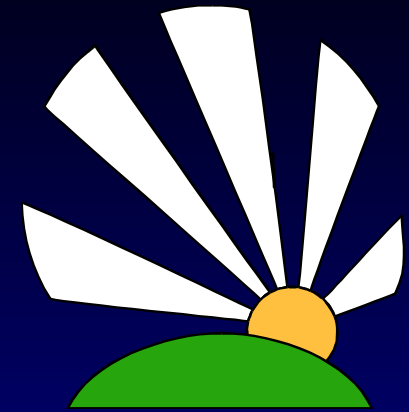
- Mark permanently with immovable object (post, metal tag on tree)
- Locate on detailed map
- use GPS



More Details

- Location of Points
 - For an entire management unit, place points systematically.
 - For specific habitats, stratify area by habitat, and assign points systematically.

More Details



- Timing of Visits

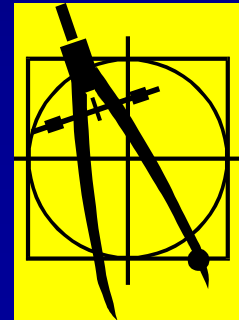
- Sunrise to about 4 hours after sunrise.
- For breeding birds, best time is from territory formation to early incubation. This is June in many areas, probably March-April in the desert southwest.

More Details

- Length of Count
 - 5 minutes recommended. Can do longer counts (up to 10 minutes) if travel between point count stations is great. Track counts from 0-3 minutes for comparison to other programs such as BBS.
 - The longer the count period, the more likely to double count individuals.

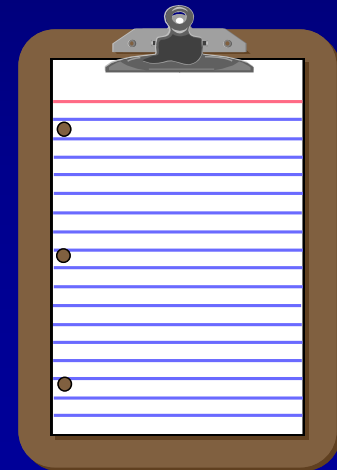
More Details

- Counting Radius
 - Fixed radius recommended. Record birds in 0-25 m, 25-50 m, and >50m. Can vary by habitat, with larger radii in more open habitats.



What to Record:

- Species - use 4-letter codes
- Distance interval or exact distance
- Age/sex
- Treat flyovers separately



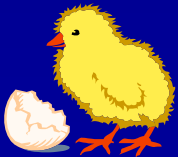
Pros & Cons



- Pros:
 - Predominant technique used in North America
 - Recommended by PIF
 - More sample points per effort
 - May detect species missed by other methods

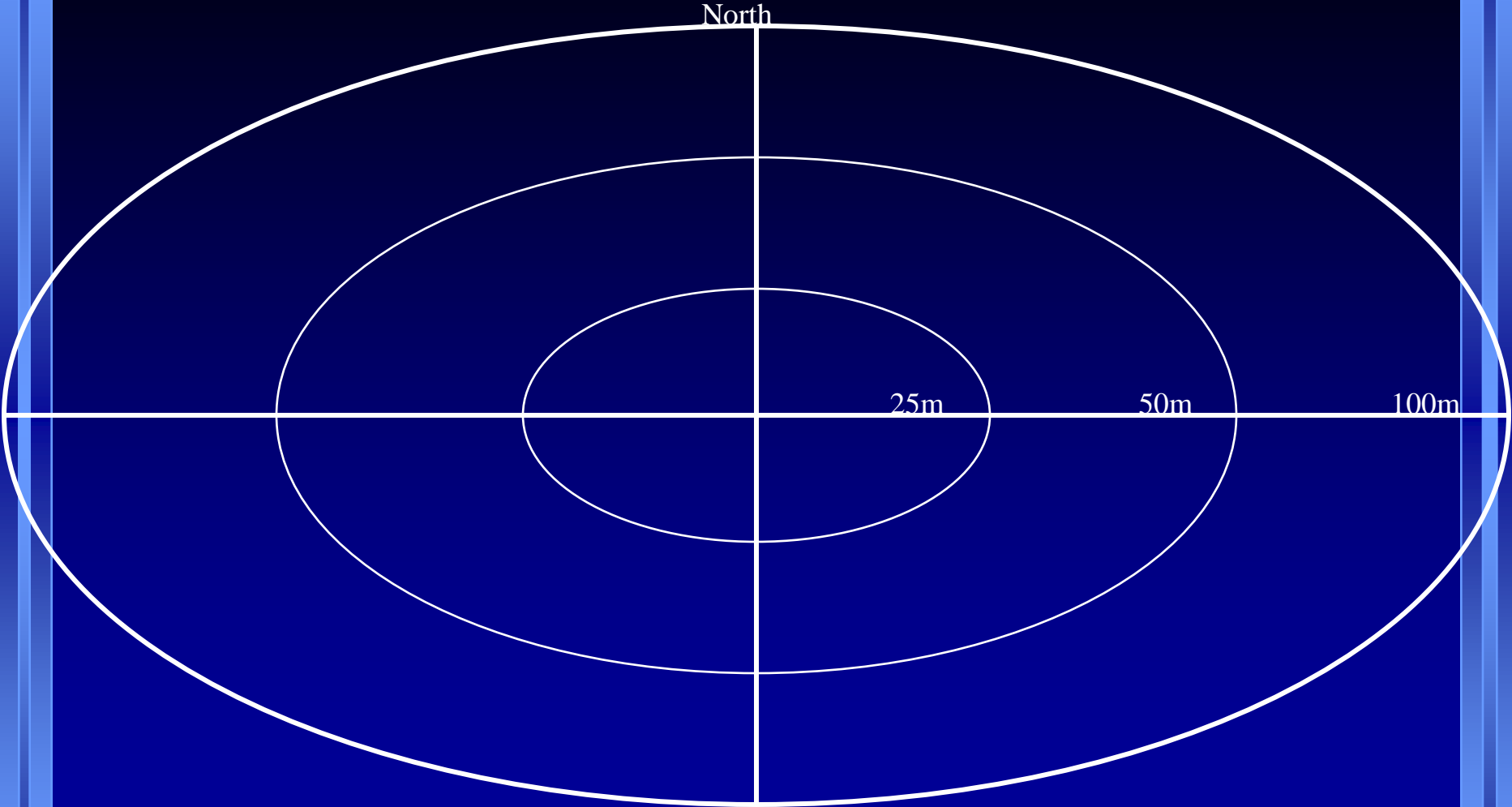
Pros & Cons

- Cons:
 - May flush birds as approach point
 - Not as efficient as transects in terms of detections per effort
 - Not useful for secretive, quiet species
 - Gives no information on productivity
 - Does not work equally well in all seasons



Variable Circular Plot (Point Count) Field Sheet

State _____ Station _____ Unit _____ Compartment _____ Road _____ Route # _____ Point # _____ Date _____ Observer _____ Time _____
 Temp C _____ Wind _____ Sky _____ Slope _____ Aspect _____ Habitat _____ Habitat Type _____ Habitat Quality _____



N-S Coordinate: _____ **E-W Coordinate:** _____ **Zone*:** _____
(N-S=Latitude; E-W=Longitude) *Zone = 0 for lat-long (geographic); else enter a UTM Zone.

Flyovers: _____
Comments: _____

Female Observed	
Male Observed	
Pair Together, assumed mated	
Observed, sex unknown	NOCA 0-3 minutes
	NOCA 4-5 minutes
	NOCA 6-10 minutes

