

Breeding Bird Survey

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Objectives

- ★ To understand the purpose and methods of the Breeding Bird Survey.
- ★ To understand the the limitations of this form of census.
- ★ To be able to retrieve and use survey data appropriately.



Introduction

- ★ Started in 1966 by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- ★ Began with 600 routes east of the Mississippi.
- ★ Random routes and direction, stratified by region.
- ★ Primarily volunteers.
- ★ Great example of volunteer protocol.



Purpose

- ★ To quantify and document general bird population trends.
- ★ Suggests specific species health.



Methods

- ★ 24.5 miles, 50 stops for 3 minutes
- ★ Approximately the same day each year.
- ★ Begin 30 minutes prior to local sunrise.
- ★ Finish within 4-5 hours.
- ★ Count new birds seen and heard within 0.25 miles.
- ★ Do not count dependent or precocial young.
- ★ Do not call or coax birds.



Limitations

- ★ Requires high level of expertise – must know all birds by sight, song, and call.
- ★ Strict adherence to protocol.
- ★ Does not measure habitat.



Data Use

- ★ Data retrievable from the USFWS
<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html>

