

A "To Do" List and Reminders for Atlasers

Here is a list that may help in surveying your block. Each point is a reminder of an important part of the atlas methods.



1. When your atlas maps and materials arrive, review everything to insure that you have everything. This is the time to decide if you want to get additional maps (Forest Service maps, or Bureau of Land Management maps) of your block.
2. Contact any landowners before you visit your block. February and March would be the time to start making contacts.
3. Make your first visit sometime during March, April, or May. During this visit start considering which kilos you will visit for relative abundance estimates.
4. Travel time to a block or getting to a particular kilo within your block should be counted as travel time, not as observation time. Be sure to record both your travel time and your observation time.
5. During May - August, thoroughly survey at least some part of each habitat in your block. Also during May - August, visit a minimum eight kilos to conduct relative abundance counts. During relative abundance counts, observations of breeding behaviors are done in the same manner as at other time. The only difference is keeping a two-hour timed record of the species observed. The two-hour timed counts may be divided into smaller time periods to fit your schedule.
6. Confirm breeding of at least half of the species that you find in your block. If this is not completed in one year, fieldwork can be extended into a second or third year.
7. Spend at least 20-25 hours (over 4-8 occasions) of quality bird surveying in your block.
8. Take at least one trip to survey for species active at dusk, dawn, or night.
9. Record observations onto the field observation card during or soon after each survey.
10. Completion of the field observation card and the relative abundance is important. These data are the core of the atlas project, so these cards must be completed.
11. Completion of the out-of-block observation and nest observation forms are valuable but optional. Reporting out-of-block observations is a way to contribute atlas data from near your yard or neighborhood.