BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL – TRACY AVIARY - 2016

FIELDS OF THE FORM:

Point: The number/code of the point you are surveying

Date: mm/dd/yy

Visit: The number of the visit- Is it your first time there? Your third?

Observer Initials: of the scribe and observer. If you **DO NOT** have middle name use **X** in replacement. E.g. Steve Brahm = SXB.

No. of people who asked about the project: tally numbers if people asked you about the project before, during, or after the survey.

Wind: **0** = smoke rises vertically, **1** = wind direction shown by smoke (bring your cigars), **2** = wind felt on face and leaves rustle, **3** = leaves and small twigs in constant motion, **4** = wind raises dust and small branches move, **5** = head for cover (**DISCONTINUE** after 3) – Beaufort scale.

Sky: **0** = clear, **1** = partly cloudy(1%-50% cloud cover), **2** = cloudy or broken clouds (51-90% cloud cover), **3** = overcast (91%-100% cloud cover), **4** = fog, **5** = drizzle, **6** = hard rain; **7** =snow, **8** = showers (OK if drizzle or fog with 250 m or more visibility; **DISCONTINUE** if 6, 7 or 8).

Temperature: Record the temperature (in fahrenheit) of the area when you started the survey.

Noise: As there is "urban noise" or water noise, use the scale provided to assess **how much does noise affects your ability to hear birds. Rank noise using other points as reference.** **1** - Gentle noise, probably not missing any bird; **2** - Might be missing some of the higher pitched songs and calls or some distant birds beyond 75 m; **3** - Probably detecting mostly those birds within ~ 50 m might and may be missing the high-pitched songs and calls or **4** - Probably detecting only the very loudest calls and songs within 25 m might be missing calls and songs farther than 25 m (adapted from Huff et al. 2000).

Type of Noise: The type of noise will either be "urban" for traffic, highway, etc. or "water" for areas with rushing water.

Survey start time: The time that you actually start the survey. Fill it **ONLY** when you are done filling all the fields in the form, have gotten your bearings and distance references. **Not before then**.

Water present: Is there surface water around the point (within 50m)? For example, do you see water around the point that resulted from rain or flooding, or a pond, river or creek? If so check Yes.

Snow present: Is there snow on the ground at the survey point (within 50m)? Check Yes or No.

Period: **one-minute intervals**, and a total of **six (6)** periods.

Species: Write the 4-letter code. If unsure about the code, write the full name of the species or clarify to the code you wrote (e.g., SASP = Savannah Sparrow) in the Notes section.

Cluster size: Number of individuals seen and/or heard per detection. Birds within 20 m are considered a cluster. Birds detected >20 m = different cluster.

Cluster Code: If you notice e.g., a cluster with 7 individuals, of which 4 are BCCH, and 3 YRWA, you will use two separate lines for each species. In the column Code, write the letter A to imply these were all in a cluster. If you run into another cluster of different species, label it B, and continue using the alphabet letters.

Detection: How did you first encounter the bird? Was it **C**alling (C), **S**inging (S), or was it **V**isually (V)? Or maybe you heard its wings noise, like a Hummingbird or Dove, or the Drumming of a woodpecker? That would be **O**ther (O). If you ever hear the bird SING or SEE the bird, and that is not how you first detected it, then add a S or V after the code for how you detected, separated by a coma.

Direction: Use the compass if needed, to note direction for each bird observation -where you first detected it- (north, south, east, west, northeast, northwest, southeast, or southwest).

Exact Distance: Use your range finder and record the exact estimated distance to the bird where you first saw it.

Flyover: Mark Yes (Y) only if the bird is flying far overhead and not using the habitat at all. Record distance category and direction of the flyover where you **first detected** it. **Only in the case** birds are detected flying directly overhead, **distance will be zero (0)**.

Sex/Age: If you see these details, include in the appropriate column. **N** = nest; **P** = obvious pair; **J** = juveniles; **M** = male; **F** = Female.

SURVEY GUIDELINES:

AFTER YOU FINISH THE SURVEY: