



## Changes to Survey Protocol

There are only a couple changes to survey protocol. The biggest change is the addition of a compass which can make bearings easier to measure and more accurate (see below)! These compasses will be included in a new **"PSSS Volunteer Packet"**: a storage clipboard which also includes a ruler, pen, copies of the protocol and recording forms on Rite-in-the-rain™ paper and a Velcro strap to attach the compass to a spotting scope for hands-free usage. Seattle Audubon will provide one packet for each team of volunteers.

The remaining changes reflect requests from lead seabird scientists in Puget Sound. These small extra steps will make the Puget Sound Seabird Survey that much more valuable.

- **Recording sex ratios for seabirds when males and females can be differentiated in the field** (e.g. scoters, goldeneyes and other sexually-dimorphic species and not species like Pigeon Guillemots and Canada Geese, etc.). New columns have been added to the recording form
- **Gathering baseline oiling rates for seabirds in Puget Sound.** It's actually quite easy. If there are male Buffleheads present, please record whether or not the white portions of their bodies were visibly oiled. There's a box at the end of the recording form where you can circle "YES", "NO" or "N/A".

### Calculating "bearing" using PSSS compass



*PSSS compass (with Velcro strap provided in PSSS Volunteer Packet) can be attached to a spotting scope to accurately measure bearing to a bird. **Please read and record the bearing to which the red needle points.** NOTE: line-up "N" on compass bezel with forwarding pointing arrow and place on a level location on top of the scope. Compasses can also be hand-held if surveyors do not use a scope but great care should be used to point the compass directly towards the bird.*