



Recording Form

CHECKLIST

1. At the site, record:
 - **Date, survey site name and number.**
 - **Names of surveyors** (*the first slot is for the surveyor who will take distance measurements*). It is helpful to have two people per survey: an observer and a notetaker.
 - *0° reference point* by using a compass to measure the magnetic bearing to your fixed reference point (e.g. a mountain or lighthouse on the adjacent shore). *You only need to measure this once but please record each survey (IGNORE IF COMPASS IS USED DURING SURVEY).*
 - **Survey start time** in military time (i.e. 0934 and 1336, not 9:34 or 13:36)
2. With your binoculars or scope, **scan from one side to the other**. Please record only birds on the water within 300 meters from the survey site, using your 300m landmark as a visual reference. Ignore birds in flight and beyond the 300m boundary. If you aren't sure if the bird is within 300m, please record it. Identify **species** to the best of your ability and record **count**, **bearing** (*using the included compass, please read the bearing to which the red needle points*) and **distance** (*in mm from the horizon*) for each bird or flock of birds. For **large flocks of more than 10 birds**, please record your "minimum", "maximum" and "best" estimates. **Record the counts of male(s) and female(s)** for species whose sex 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.
3. Record **survey end time** in military time (i.e. 1004 and 1406, not 10:04 or 14:06)
4. **SURVEYS SHOULD ONLY LAST 15-30 MINUTES** (*no less than 15 min and no more than 30 min*)
5. Tell us about the other conditions:
 - **Survey Conditions:** circle the word that best describes the weather conditions, the sea state, and the tide state during the survey.
 - **Visibility of Waterbirds:** circle the furthest distance where you still maintain VERY GOOD visibility of waterbirds present during your survey. If visibility was poor, please circle the reason for reduced visibility.
 - **Human Activity:** Please indicate the level of human activity during the survey by filling in the appropriate numbers in each descriptive box provided. If there was no activity during your survey, check the 'no activity' box.
 - **Raptor Activity:** record any raptor species (hawks/eagles/falcons) detected during the survey, including number, and how it may have affected the distribution of waterfowl
 - **Survey Equipment:** Circle equipment type and magnification used during the survey.
 - **Notes and Comments:** After the survey, please provide any further information which you feel is important or of interest, e.g. notes on unidentified species, details on rarity sightings, or notes on disturbances, etc.
 - **Oiling Rates:** If you recorded male Buffleheads, please record if any were oiled and, if so, please include notes on the extent and location of the oiling.
6. **"Optional Column":** please use this column to record species that are: in flight; beyond the 300m survey; and/or spotted after the survey end-time. Notes can include sex, count, plumage, etc.

