



Field protocol

Keeping lists for MyBirdPatch is simple and fun:

1. Decide on a patch – garden, greenbelt, a park, local nature reserve, school, the grounds of a hospital, golf course, wetland, a section of river, your walking route around your neighbourhood, or even the route you walk every day between getting off public transport and your office. Basically any well-defined space from the size of a garden to a few tens of hectares.
2. Make a list of birds in the order that you observe them in your patch - but a simple tick list of species will also be fine.
3. Make a note of the start time and how long you spend observing. There is no minimum or maximum time but as patches are small anything from 10 mins to a few hours should probably suffice.
4. Make notes of the weather and/or any disturbance factors which you think may have an impact on the survey.
5. You only need to record the species once (presence/absence). A list can be made throughout the day and any new species recorded during the day can be added to the list.
6. Where possible, try and estimate the number of individuals of each species!. It is also possible to enter rough estimates based on the ranges approximately 1-9, approximately 10-99, approximately 100-999, etc.
7. You can mix and match. You can enter counts or estimates for some species, but simply have others on the list. It is OK to say there were two African Black Ducks, the small flock of Common Starlings that flew past contained roughly 10-99 birds and Red-eyed Doves were present (without any estimate of numbers).
8. Lists should be compiled over a one-day period, and can be repeated once a week, and/or once a month, depending on your schedule.
9. Repeated visits should, where possible, be done in the same way and in the same amount of time. The golden rule is to be consistent.
10. You can also take photos of any interesting species you may find, and/or of your patch, as these can be uploaded later when you capture and submit your card on-line.

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