

Bird Observation Protocol and Data Sheet

Period: _____ Group Number _____ Names: _____

Site (Circle ONE): N1, N2, N3, H1, H2, H3

Observation Times: _____

1. Place your iPad (screen side up) in the center of your observation area and set it to record audio using the "Sound ID" feature of the Merlin Bird ID app. *This can just continue to record in the background as you continue the next steps.*

Record any species suggested by the app here:

--

Note: The species ID in the app are suggestions. You will try and confirm them with your own observations, and will likely find species the app did not "hear" as well.

2. Silently listen for 1 minute - how many different bird calls did you hear? _____

Note: This will give you a rough idea of how many species you may find on your site, though there may be some quiet birds as well.

3. Stand in one spot for a few minutes. Use your eyes, and binoculars as needed to look for birds. In the chart below, record the species and number of each species that you see. If you cannot identify a species, write a short description.

Species or description	Number seen (use tally marks so you can add as you see more)

5. After 15 minutes, head to your OTHER site with the same number. For example, if you are at N1, go to H1. Repeat the procedure on the next sheet. If this was your second site, return to the classroom and work with your group to discuss your totals and certainty on the back side.

Jobs:	Name(s):
Audio Specialist - sets up and monitors Merlin Sound ID, responsible for returning iPad	1.
Head Bird Spotters - responsible for spotting and working with group to ID birds (responsible for returning binoculars)	1. 2. 3.
Group leader - responsible for reading steps, and recording data - group members report data to leader	1.



Back in the classroom (at the end): Discuss with your group and use the data you recorded above to come to a consensus.

a. How many DIFFERENT species were present on your site: _____

b. How many individual birds did you see and/or hear total: _____

c. How certain are you about your data? What challenges may have caused your counts to be off?