

QUICK-REFERENCE SHEET FOR FIELD USE

VISIT PROTOCOL FOR BFL STUDY SPECIES

- Observation Period (mandatory 10 minutes)
 1. Look and listen for predators, cowbirds, and study species
- Playback Period (mandatory 5 minutes per species)
 1. Species 1: play songs, calls, or drums for 1 minute
 2. Species 1: watch/listen for 1 minute
 3. Species 1: repeat songs, calls, or drums for 1 minute
 4. Species 1: watch/listen for 2 minutes

*Repeat steps 1–4 for each additional study species
- Behavior Watch Period (mandatory 10 minutes)
 1. Play eastern or western mobbing calls for 5 minutes while looking and listening for study species
 2. Watch/listen for 5 minutes

SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIPS

- Work in teams—Work in teams of two to four observers; one person records data while the others look and listen for the study species.
- Allow a settle-down period—Upon arriving at your survey point, stand quietly for one to two minutes to allow the birds to settle down and resume normal activity.
- Use a CD player—Note the track numbers of your study species before going into the field.
- Set tape prior to survey—If using tape(s), set to the appropriate species prior to beginning your survey. Rewind the tape as you travel to your next study site or during the settle-down period.
- Turn speaker in four directions—Broadcast the playback in all four compass directions, use the intervals between songs/calls/drums to turn speaker.
- Watch for movement—To detect birds, continually scan for movement, look from the ground to canopy while listening for vocalizations.
- Survey hawks last—When surveying hawks and other species at the same study site, be sure to broadcast the non-hawk playbacks before playing the hawk calls.
- Complete each of the three sections of the Visit Protocol fully—To standardize effort, complete the entire protocol for each species even if you detect your study species during the middle of one of these periods or during the Playback Period for another study species.
- Fill out the Field Form completely—The front side of the Field Form should be completed during your visits. Some of the questions on the back of the Field Form need to be answered in the field (Study Site Characteristics variables; hydrology, canopy height, percentage of low vegetation cover, etc.)