

Trout Creek Ranch Bird Monitoring

Teresa 'Bird' Wicks, Phd
Bird Alliance of Oregon

Background

- Importance:
 - Historic regional focus on waterfowl
 - Diverse breeding birds in meadows
- Purpose:
 - Document baseline bird species
 - Document response to restoration
- Routes:
 - Two routes in wet meadows
 - One route in Spring Creek Area



Field Methods

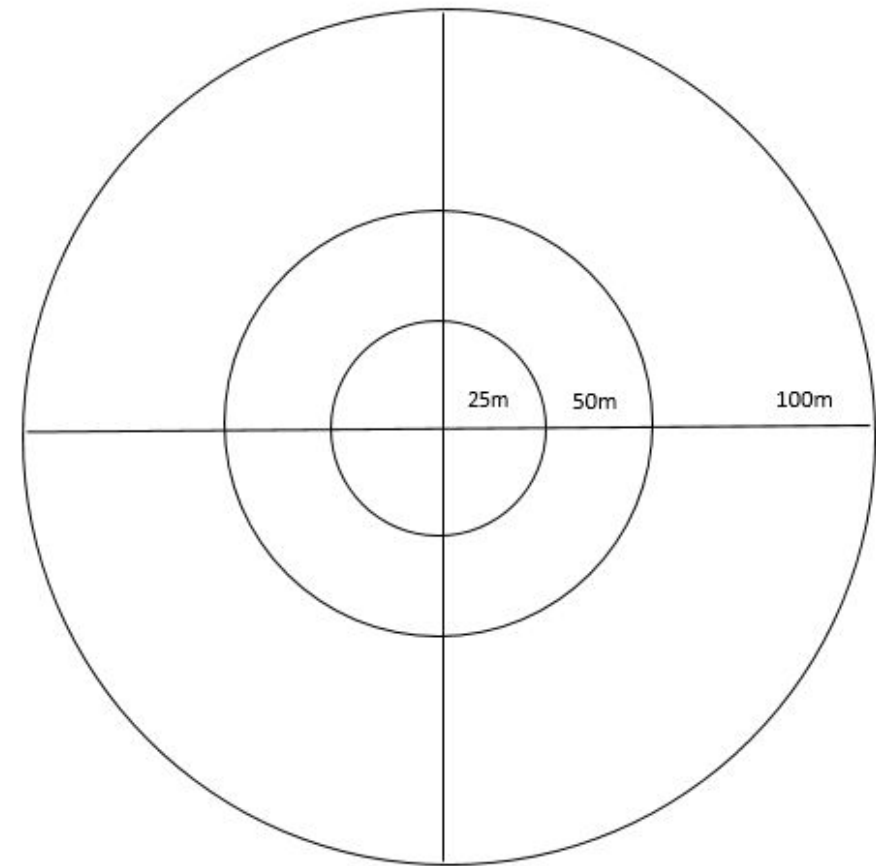
- Timing:
 - Surveys start in mid-May and end in early-July
 - Three rounds, >10 days apart
- Conducting survey:
 - Start 15 min before sunrise
 - End by 10:00
 - Each survey is 5-min long
- Weather:
 - Record temp, cloud cover, wind speed
 - No surveys if rainy or windy













Recording data

- Metadata
 - Weather
 - Time
 - Point
 - Route
- Bird data
 - Time-bin
 - Distance
 - Behavior

Date:	Observer:	Start time:	End time:
Area:	Point:	Temp:	Sky:
			Wind:



MAPPING SYMBOLS

CODE			CODE		
S		Position of singing male	M		Male observed
S		Approximate position of singing male	F		Female observed
S		Simultaneous song of 2 males	C		Calling, sex unknown
S		Known change in position	P		Pair together assumed mated
S		Assumed change in position	O		Observed, sex unknown
N	MAWA *	Nest			

Data

- Entry = web portal
 - Wildtrax
- Analysis = R
 - Relative abundance
 - Diversity
- Combined with passive monitoring
 - Bird community
 - Interannual change



Bird Species to Know



Meadow Songbirds



Savannah Sparrow

- High notes with buzzy trill



Horned Lark

- Series of high jumbled notes



Common Yellowthroat

- “witchity-witchity-witchity”

Meadow Blackbirds



Yellow-headed blackbird
• Mechanical song



Red-winged blackbird
• “konk-a-reeeee”



Bobolink
• 16-25 notes, R2D2-like

More blackbirds and family



Brown-headed Cowbird

- Water-like song



Brewer's Blackbird

- Gurgle-like song



Western Meadowlark

- Whistled notes followed by garbled warble

Riparian songbirds



Lazuli Bunting

- Sing 3-5 phrases repeated



Yellow Warbler

- “Sweet, sweet, I’m so sweet”



Song Sparrow

- 3 notes followed buzzy trill then 2 notes

Swallow species



Violet-green Swallow

- String of twittery "chee-chees"



Tree Swallow

- Water-like gurgles and chirps



Cliff Swallow

- Grating squeaks

Upland sparrows



Brewer's Sparrow

- Series of insect like buzzes



Lark Sparrow

- Series of clear notes mixed with buzzy phrases



Sagebrush Sparrow

- Series of high trills and chirps

Wet meadow Shorebirds



Wilson's Phalarope

- Nasal "hoh"



American Avocet

- Call high-pitched, "kleet"



Black-necked Stilt

- Call single-note, raspy

Dry meadow shorebirds



Willet

- “pill-will-willet



Long-billed Curlew

- Loud, harsh call



Wilson's Snipe

- Winnow, “chirp” call

Marshbirds



Sora

- Whinny, “soh-ra”



Virginia Rail

- Pig-like grunt; “tick-et”



Black-crowned Night Heron

- Screech-like “werp”

Other non-songbirds



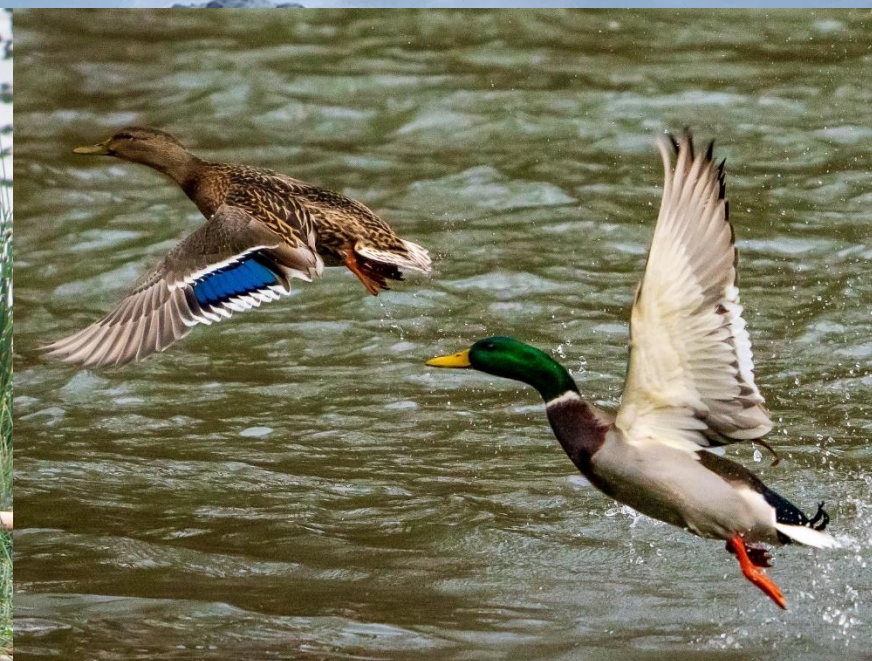
Killdeer

- “Kill-deer,” purr-like call



Gadwall

- Grating quack



Mallard

- Classic duck quack