



BCN SURVEY MONITOR DESCRIPTION

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

- In physical condition to safely navigate over uneven terrain and through vegetation to monitor at points that may be off trail.
- Able to identify the expected breeding birds at your points by both sight and sound. The Merlin app can be used to confirm an ID, but should not be relied on to ID birds for you.
- Willing to work with a BCN Area Coordinator and register as a volunteer with one of our partnering land managers (if applicable for your site).

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- Follow the BCN Survey point count protocol:
<https://www.bcnbirds.org/monitoring/protocol/>
- Visit each of your points at least **twice between June 1 and June 30**.
- **Start as close to sunrise as possible**. During the month of June, sunrise ranges from 5:15 a.m. to 5:19 a.m. Surveys should be completed by 9:00 a.m. at the latest.
- Record all species seen or heard within **5 minutes** at each of your points.
- Enter data promptly into eBird via the Bird Conservation Network Project.

**Note some land managers may require 10 minute point counts or visits into July.*

TO LEARN MORE OR SIGN UP VISIT:

www.bcnbirds.org/monitoring/

JOIN THE BCN SURVEY

HELP US MONITOR CHICAGOLAND'S BREEDING BIRDS!

Becoming a BCN Survey monitor is one of the best ways that you can make a valuable contribution to birds in your area.

WHAT'S INVOLVED

1 Set Up Your Points

You will work with a BCN Area Coordinator and may also need to register as a volunteer with one of our partnering land managers. We will help you set up the locations of your monitoring points, enter data in eBird, and get established as a volunteer. Points are also often located out in the habitat rather than along a trail.

2 Visit Twice in June

You can contribute your sightings by visiting a site at least two times in June and following BCN Survey protocols to count birds there. Some land managers may ask for additional visits, and birders are also encouraged to optionally visit their site(s) during other seasons.

3 Start Close to Sunrise

Monitors are encouraged to start as close to sunrise as possible. During the month of June, sunrise ranges from 5:15 a.m. to 5:19 a.m. Surveys should be completed by 9:00 a.m. at the latest. Bird activity will drop off considerably after about 7:00 a.m. or 7:30 a.m. on a warm day.

4 Visit Each of Your Points

Monitoring is similar to normal birding except you stand still for five minutes at each point at your site to count all the birds you see and hear within a certain radius of where you are standing. The number of points you monitor will vary, but generally range between four and ten points.

5 Identify Birds Seen and Heard

Monitors record all birds seen or heard within the radius of the point count. Flyover birds should only be counted if they are below treetops and/or using the habitat within the point count circle.

6 Submit Your Data

Birders familiar with eBird will enter data much like normal except each point is set up as a separate location and other incidental sightings and flyover birds not using the site are recorded separately. Data is also entered using a special BCN Survey protocol in eBird. Some land managers may have other data entry requirements.

