

## Hemlock Point Count Protocol

1. Choose a forest stand that has more than 50% hemlock. Use the online map provided to help find suitable sites.

Western Nova Scotia:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1lWY8w\\_IR4JmUPr\\_loZOrkrYBeIaIqo97&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1lWY8w_IR4JmUPr_loZOrkrYBeIaIqo97&usp=sharing)

Eastern Nova Scotia:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hvH6oh2R1zlxHKYz56IjcejFlwaL7Y\\_F&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hvH6oh2R1zlxHKYz56IjcejFlwaL7Y_F&usp=sharing)

2. Choose a survey route that passes through the interior of the stand to avoid the edge effect of different forest stand types, wetlands, or field habitats. Above all, choose a route that you think is safe and within your comfort zone.
3. Point counts should be 200 meters apart, with ideally 5 points total. Mark and measure your route with a GPS. If you don't have a GPS or smartphone with GPS app, pace off the route and mark each point count location.
4. Point counts must be completed within 5 hours after sunrise on a day of low wind and no precipitation.
5. Each point count is 10 minutes in duration. Use a separate Point Count Data Form for each point count.
6. If you do a point count route between May 25 and June 14, try to re-survey it a second time from June 15 and July 5. This enables your surveys to better capture the full range of nesting songbirds and to compensate for times when low bird song periods are encountered. It will also be more comparable to Parks Canada surveys at Kejimikujik. If you can do the route twice, do it in reverse order and preferably 2 weeks apart.
7. For safety purposes, everyone is advised to carry a phone with them or conduct the route with a partner.
8. If the hemlock stand is on private property, the landowner should be contacted if possible. It is respectful of the landowner to ask permission first, and it would be useful to know if the owner is planning on cutting the stand in the near future.

### Codes for data sheets

#### Sex of bird:

M = male  
F = female  
U = unknown  
Y = young (not breeding age)

#### Vocalizations (or other sounds):

S = singing  
C = calling  
Q = quiet (no sounds)  
D = drumming on wood (woodpecker, grouse)  
W = wing noise made in flight

**Date:** continental dating system (e.g., 7 May 2007)

**Time of day:** 24 hr clock, AST, (e.g., 09:45)

**UTMs (NAD 83):** record only if measured with GPS in field

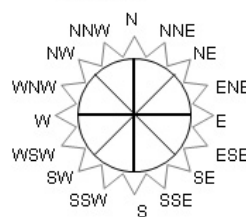
#### Sky: (% cloud cover)

1 = clear <10%  
2 = hazy  
3 = scattered 10-50%  
4 = broken 50-90%  
5 = overcast  
6 = fog or smoke  
7 = slight drizzle  
8 = showers\*

#### Wind Scale (Beaufort):

0 = Calm - no wind; Smoke rises vertically (< 1 km/hr)  
1 = Light air; Wind motion visible in smoke (2-8 km/hr)  
2 = Light breeze; Leaves rustle, wind felt on face (7-12 km/hr)  
3 = Gentle breeze; Leaves & small twigs in constant motion (13-18 km/hr)  
4 = Breezy; Small branches move, raises dust & loose paper\* (19-26 km/hr)  
5 = Windy; Small trees sway, moderate-sized branches move\* (27-35 km/hr)

#### Wind Direction (use compass):



#### Distance Categories

1 = Less than 50 meters  
2 = 50-100 meters  
3 = Greater than 100 meters

\* do not conduct point counts under these conditions