

# Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program

## Amphibian Survey Data Form Tips

By Kathy. Jones

October 2017

*Ontario Program Volunteer Coordinator, Bird Studies Canada, Port Rowan, ON*



## The Route/Contact Form



# Marsh Monitoring Program Contact and Route Information

Please complete and return original but keep a photocopy for your own reference.



Route #

Observer #

Observer Name

Year

20

Corrections

## Section A: Contact Information

Is the contact information above correct?

Yes  No

If No, please provide the correct information in the "Corrections" box to the right

Did you enter your data online?

Yes  No

Do you plan to survey this route next year?

Yes  No  Unsure

If you answered no or unsure please tell us why:

Have you changed the position of any stations on your route?

Yes  No

If yes, please specify:

## Section B: Route Information

Is the route information on the label above correct?

Yes  No

If the route information is incorrect and/or missing please fill in the following information:

Route/Marsh Name:

Closest town to route:

County:

Province/State:

## Additional Wetland Information

Does the surveyed marsh(es) for this route occur on  Private Land  Public Land  Mixed Ownership Land

Does your route contain any station in the interior of the wetland (i.e. >100 m from the perimeter)

Section C: Station Information please see page 2



Page 1

Section A: needs to be completed and returned annually

Sections B and C: only need to be completed for new routes or when you change your stations

# Marsh Monitoring Program Contact Sheet and Route Information

## Section C: Station Information

This section only needs to be completed for new routes, if you have changed the route, or if the volunteer coordinated has requested updated information. Station information is used to accurately map your route, ideally to within a few meters (yards). Accurate maps allow us to: work with geo-referenced data sets, share the information with other scientists and ensures future participants can find exactly where to survey.

The best way to find coordinates is in the field using a GPS unit or a GPS app on your smartphone. Alternatively, you can provide coordinates from a mapping program or provide a map that clearly shows each station's locations.

Here are a few tips:

- We prefer latitude/longitude in the decimal degrees format (e.g. 45.603 -125.2323).
- Beware, many GPS units default to degrees decimal minutes (dd mm.mm, e.g. 45 37.435 -125 13.80). The conversion formula is degrees + (decimal minutes/60) or as an example: 45 + (37.435/60) = 45.603 decimal degrees. Head's up! For longitude, add the "-" for the western hemisphere after you do the math.
- To learn how to find coordinates online the 1 minute youtube video "finding latitude and longitude using the google.avi" ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=krWf2ZVw6\\_M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krWf2ZVw6_M)) is really helpful.
- Google maps ([www.googlemap.com](http://www.googlemap.com)) readily converts degrees minutes seconds (dd mm ss) & degree decimal minutes (dd mm.mm) to decimal degrees (dd.dddd). Just enter the value into the search bar (e.g. 45 37 26 - 125 13 00), click search, and the appropriate value will appear.
- If you provide a map, choose one with enough detail that a stranger who has never been to the location can find your stations.

Focal Point Information (for the spot at each station where you stand to survey)				
Station ID (a - h)	Survey Direction	Coordinates: Latitude, Longitude (preferred)	Any useful identifying features	Ownership (Private, Public, Mixed)
Examples				
B	West	45.12563, -95.1245	Culvert at mile marker 456	Private
d	160°	49.15243, -84.152364	At wood duck box just north of the bridge on beaver marsh trail	Public

Additional Comments:

**C:** only need to be completed for new routes or when you change your stations or when you have been asked to provide new station information

# Marsh Monitoring Program - Amphibian Data Form

Return by 31 July  
Please write legibly (in pen).



- Remember to tell us about the visit conditions, which route and which station you are surveying.

## VISIT INFORMATION

Route #: 0N499 Route Name: Mud Lake Marsh  
 Observer #: 18649 Observer Name: Kathy Jones  
 Visit #: 1 Day: 15 Month: 04 Year: 2008  
 Cloud Cover (10th): 7 Temperature (°C or °F): 15C Beaufort Wind Scale (0-6): 1  
 Precipitation (check one):  None/Dry  Damp/Haze/Fog  Drizzle  Rain

- There will be definitions for codes on the very last page of your field form.

## CALL LEVEL CODES

Code 1: Calls not simultaneous, number of individuals can be accurately counted  
 Code 2: Some calls simultaneous, number of individuals can be reliably estimated  
 Code 3: Full chorus, calls continuous and overlapping, number of individuals cannot be reliably estimated

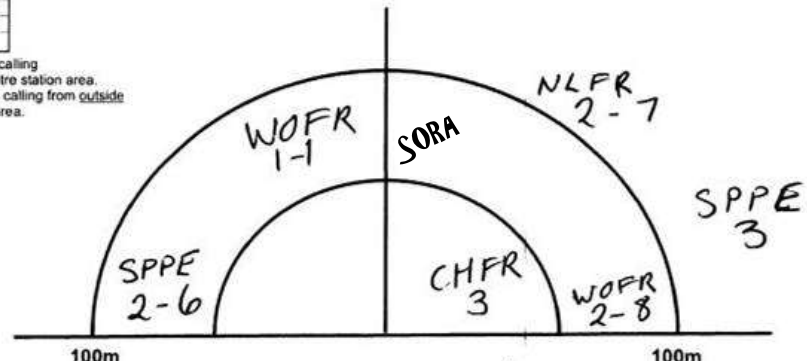
Amphdfm2008.cdr, rev 02/2008

- By telling us the focal point direction we can double-check and ensure your location matches our records

Species	In*	Out**
AMTO		
BCFR		
BULL		
CHFR	✓	
CGTR		
FOTO		
GRTR		
GRFR		
MIFR		
NLFR		✓
PIFR		
SPPE	✓	✓
WOFR	✓	✓

\* Check if species is calling from inside 100-metre station area.  
 \*\* Check if species is calling from outside 100-metre station area.

Station A  
 NNE  
 23°  
 Station Start Time (24 hr): 2245  
 Background Noise Code (1-4): 3



Near Road - lots of traffic!



# Marsh Monitoring Program - Amphibian Data Form

Return by 31 July  
Please write legibly (in pen).



- Record all that you hear **regardless of distance.**

- Tell us which species are **in or outside of 100 m with a simple checkmark.**

- Do not record calls behind you.

## VISIT INFORMATION

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 Precipitation (check one):  None/Dry  Damp/Haze/Fog  Drizzle  Rain

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Code 1: Calls not simultaneous, number of individuals can be accurately counted  
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Amphdfm2008.cdr, rev 02/2008

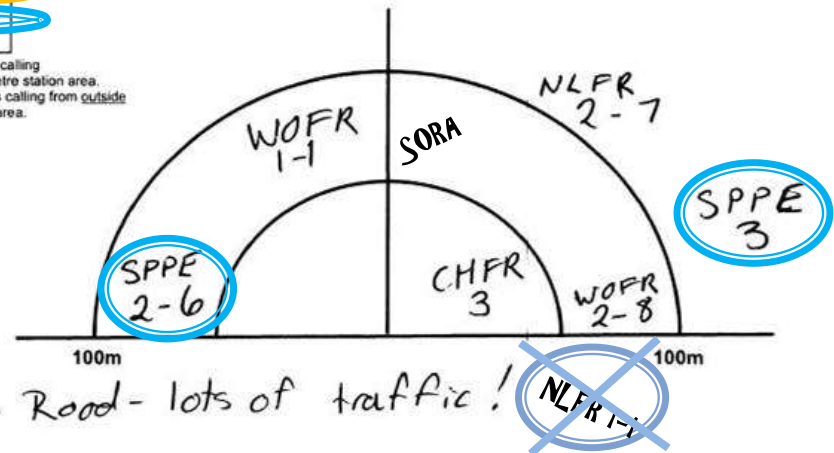
Species	In*	Out**
AMTO		
BCFR		
BULL		
CHFR	✓	
CGTR		
FOTO		
GRTR		
GRFR		
MI-RR		
NLER		✓
SPPE	✓	✓
WOFR	✓	

\* Check if species is calling from inside 100-metre station area.  
 \*\* Check if species is calling from outside 100-metre station area.

Station A

NNE  
23°

Station Start Time (24 hr): 2245  
 Background Noise Code (1-4): 3





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Return by 31 July  
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 Code 3: Full chorus, calls continuous and overlapping, number of individuals cannot be reliably estimated

Amphdfm2008.cdr, rev 02/2008

- Always include the code.
- Include the count for codes 1 and 2.
- Code 3's have too many individuals to count – so just provide the code.

Species	In*	Out**
AMTO		
BCFR		
CHFR	✓	
COWR		
FOTO		
GRTR		
GRFR		
MIFR		✓
NLFR		
SPPE	✓	✓
WOFR	✓	✓

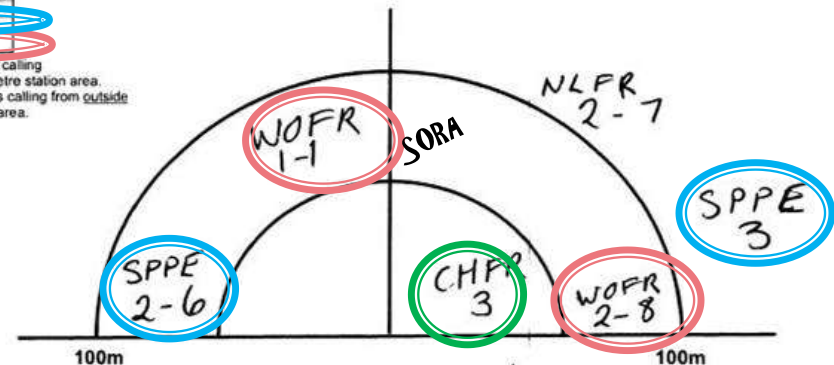
\* Check if species is calling from inside 100-metre station area.  
 \*\* Check if species is calling from outside 100-metre station area.

Station A

NNE

23°

Station Start Time (24 hr): 2245  
 Background Noise Code (1-4): 3



Near Road - lots of traffic!



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Return by 31 July  
Please write legibly (in pen).



## VISIT INFORMATION

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Amphdfrm2008.cdr, rev 02/2008

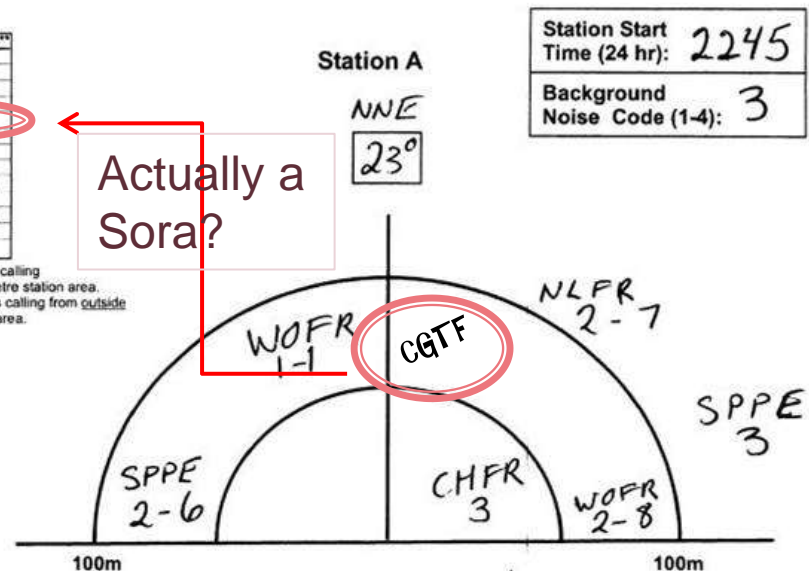
Are you sure it is an amphibian? Does that species:

- normally call that time of the year?
- in that habitat?
- are you within its range?

• Careful! There may be birds or insects calling.

Species	In*	Out**
AMTO		
BCFR		
BULL		
CHFR	✓	
CGTR		
FOTC		
GRTR		
GRFR		
MIFR		
NLFR		✓
PIFR		
SPPE	✓	✓
WOFR	✓	✓

\* Check if species is calling from inside 100-metre station area.  
 \*\* Check if species is calling from outside 100-metre station area.



Near Road - lots of traffic!





# Marsh Monitoring Program - Amphibian Route Summary Form



Route #

0.N.4.9.9

Observer #

1.8.6.4.9

Observer Name

Kathy Jones

Year

2,0,0,8

\*Please print with BLOCK CAPITALS, and mark each individual choice by filling in the corresponding circle. Please use pen (not felt tip).

\*\*Has the habitat on your route changed from previous years?  Yes  No  N/A

Visit Information:	Day Month		Wind Scale	Cloud Cover (10ths)	Temp	Precipitation (fill in one per visit)			
						<input type="radio"/> None/Dry	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Damp/Haze/Fog	<input type="radio"/> Drizzle	<input type="radio"/> Rain
Visit 1	1	5	0	4	1.5	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit 2	0	7	0	5	1.6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit 3	1	0	0	6	2.0	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Background Noise Code (0-4)								
Station Letter	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Visit 1	3	1	0					
Visit 2	2	1	1					
Visit 3	2	0	0					

Notes: Please fill the "Yes" circle for each station surveyed during the visit, please leave blank for any station not surveyed.  
 If no species were heard place a "0" in the count field for "No Calls Heard".  
 In column "CC" please print the maximum Calling Code (1-3) for the species.  
 For CC 1 and 2, please print the total combined number of individuals heard under Count.  
 Fill in the "In" circle if an individual of the species was calling within 100m.

Visit	Station Letter	A		B		C		D		E			
		Station Surveyed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes						
1	Station Start Time (24 hr)	2	2	4	5	2	2	5	5	2	3	0	5
	Species Name	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In
	No Calls Heard (Code 0)			<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>
	American Toad			<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>

Remember to tell us about your route, which stations you survey and to enter the noise and times onto the summary sheet.

## Marsh Monitoring Program - Amphibian Data Form

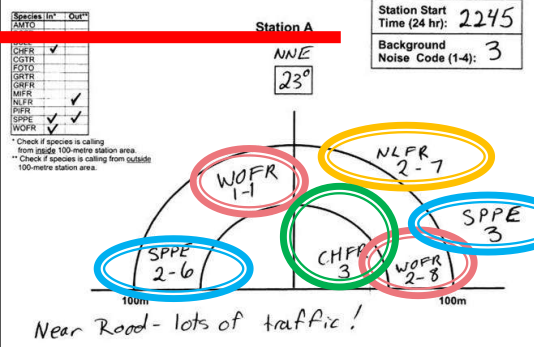
Return by 31 July  
Please write legibly (in pen)

VISIT INFORMATION

Route #: 0N499 Route Name: Mud Lake Marsh  
 Observer #: 18649 Observer Name: Kathy Jones  
 Visit #: 1 Day: 15 Month: 04 Year: 2008  
 Cloud Cover (10th): 7 Temperature (°C or °F): 15C Beaufort Wind Scale (0-6): 1  
 Precipitation (check one):  None/Dry  Damp/Haze/Fog  Drizzle  Rain

CALL LEVEL CODES

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 Code 2: Some calls simultaneous, number of individuals can be reliably estimated  
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# Marsh Monitoring Program - Amphibian Route Summary Form



Which Code do you report in the summary?

- the greatest code heard for each species.
- Code 3 for Spring Peeper and Chorus Frog.
- Code 2 for Northern Leopard Frog and Wood Frog.

Background Noise Code (0-4)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Station Letter								
Visit 1	3	1	0					
Visit 2	2	1	1					
Visit 3	2	0	0					

Notes: Please fill the "Yes" circle for each station surveyed during the visit, please leave blank for any station not surveyed.  
 If no species were heard place a "0" in the count field for "No Calls Heard".  
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Visit	Station Letter	A			B			C			D			E			
		Station Surveyed	● Yes	○ Yes	Station Surveyed	● Yes	○ Yes	Station Surveyed	● Yes	○ Yes	Station Surveyed	○ Yes	○ Yes	Station Surveyed	○ Yes	○ Yes	
1		Station Start Time (24 hr)	2	2	4	5	2	2	5	5	2	3	0	5			
		Species Name	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In
		No Calls Heard (Code 0)			○			○			○			○			○
		American Toad			○			○			○			○			○
		Blanchard's Cricket Frog			○			○			○			○			○
		Bullfrog			○			○			○			○			○
		Chorus Frog	3		●	2	6	●	3		○			○			○
		Cope's Gray Treefrog			○			○			○			○			○
		Fowler's Toad			○			○			○			○			○
		Gray Treefrog			○			○			○			○			○
		Green Frog			○			○			○			○			○
		Mink Frog			○			○			○			○			○
		Northern Leopard Frog	2	7	○			○			○			○			○
		Pickrel Frog			○			○			○			○			○
		Spring Peeper	3		●	1	0	○	3		●			○			○
		Wood Frog	2	7	●	3	7	●	1	3		○		○			○

## Marsh Monitoring Program - Amphibian Data Form

Return by 31 July  
Please write legibly (in pen).



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 Precipitation (check one):  None/Dry  Damp/Haze/Fog  Drizzle  Rain

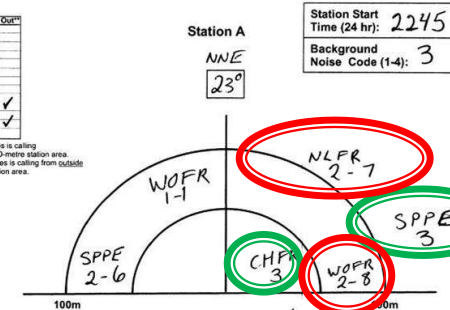
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Species (1-4)	Out*
AMTO	
BLCR	
BULL	
CHFR	✓
COGR	
COTR	
GRFR	
GRTR	
MLFR	✓
NLFR	✓
SPPE	✓
WOFR	✓

\* Check if species is calling from inside 100-metre station area.  
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Near Road - lots of traffic!

# What do you include as a count?

- if the greatest code is 3 there are too many individuals to count so you leave it blank (see Chorus Frog).
- If you have a code 3 chorus and a smaller chorus as shown here for Spring Peeper – you still have a code 3 so you don't include a count.
- For Code 1 and 2 you total the count:
  - For Northern Leopard Frog there is only one chorus and the count is 7.
  - For Woodfrog there are two chorus's and the count is 1+8 = 9.

Visit	Station Letter	A			B			C			D			E		
	Station Surveyed	● Yes			● Yes			● Yes			○ Yes			○ Yes		
1	Station Start Time (24 hr)	2 2 4 5			2 2 5 5			2 3 0 5								
	Species Name	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In	CC	Count	In
	No Calls Heard (Code 0)			○			○			○			○			○
	American Toad			○			○			○			○			○
	Blanchard's Cricket Frog			○			○			○			○			○
	Bullfrog			○			○			○			○			○
	Chorus Frog	3		●	2	6	●	3		○			○			○
	Cope's Gray Treefrog			○			○			○			○			○
	Fowler's Toad			○			○			○			○			○
	Gray Treefrog			○			○			○			○			○
	Green Frog			○			○			○			○			○
	Mink Frog			○			○			○			○			○
	Northern Leopard Frog	2	7	○			○			○			○			○
	Pickerel Frog			○			○			○			○			○
	Spring Peeper	3		●	2	1	○	3		●			○			○
	Wood Frog	2	9	●	2	7	●	1	3	○			○			○

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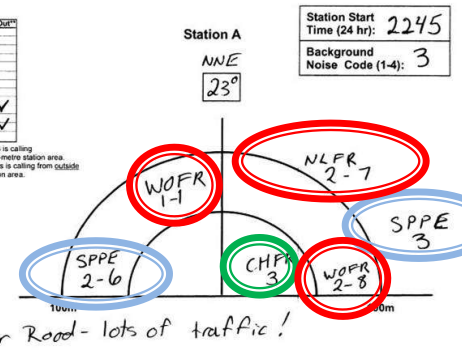
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Species (1-4)	Out*
AMTO	
BLCR	
BULL	
CHFR	
COGR	✓
COGR	
FOGR	
GRFR	
GRFR	
MLFR	✓
NLFR	✓
SPFR	✓
WOFR	✓

\* Check if species is calling from inside 100-metre station area.  
 \*\* Check if species is calling from outside 100-metre station area.



# The Habitat Description Form





Please print with BLOCK CAPITALS, remain within the boxes and mark each individual choice by filling in the corresponding circle. Please use pen (not felt tip).

Day Month Year Route #  
25 05 2002 0N098

Amphibian Survey Y/N:  Y Station Letter:  A (A-H)  
Bird Survey Y/N:  Y Station Letter:  A (A-H)

Observer # Observer Name  
18203 KATHY JONES



(A) % of major habitats in 100 metre radius station area

herbaceous emergent vegetation cover: 8.0  
large patches of open water/floating plants: 1.5  
exposed mud/sand/rock: 0  
trees: 0  
shrubs: 5  
Total: 100

Note:  
These should sum up to 100%

(B) Floating plant cover in open water zones (fill in one)

none  slight  moderate  dense   
unknown  not applicable

(C) Wetland Permanency (fill in one)

permanent  semi-permanent  seasonal

(D) Overall marsh size (fill in one)

tiny  small  medium  large  huge

(E) Area within 100 metres behind you is mainly (fill in one)

marsh  field  forest  urban  other

(F) Human influences affecting sample area (fill in one or more)

none  dykes  channels  roadside  sewage lagoon   
urban  pollution  industrial  agriculture   
natural/protected area   
other

NNE  
23  
Compass Direction

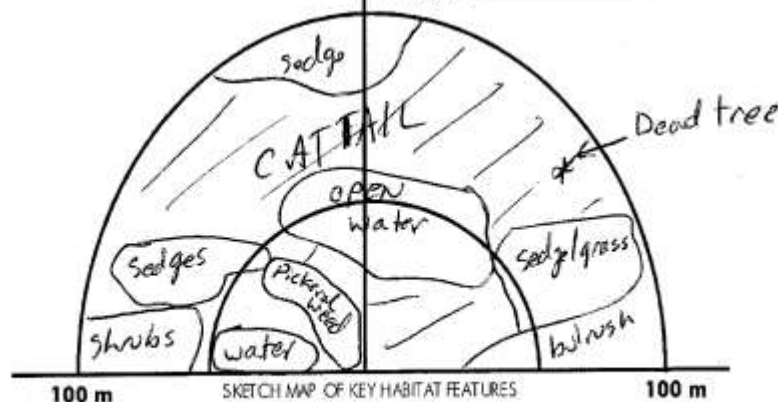
(G) Dominant Emergent Vegetation

Step 1: Identify the herbaceous emergent plants that dominate the station.

Step 2: Selecting the top 4, estimate the percent of their contribution (by area) to the total emergent vegetation.

cattail ( <i>Typha</i> ).....	5.0
reeds ( <i>Phragmites</i> and <i>Phalaris</i> )....	
grasses and grasslike sedges.....	2.0
rushes/bulrushes ( <i>Juncus/Scirpus</i> ).....	1.0
purple loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum</i> ).....	
water willow ( <i>Decodon</i> ).....	
pickerel weed ( <i>Pontederia</i> ).....	1.0
arrowhead ( <i>Sagittaria</i> ).....	
smartweed ( <i>Polygonum</i> ).....	
bur-reed ( <i>Sparganium</i> ).....	
wild rice ( <i>Zizania</i> ).....	
other	
other	
other	

Note:  
- Percentages do not need to sum to 100%  
- If "other" please double check that the plant is herbaceous (non-woody) and emergent (rises out of water)



## HABITAT FORMS

- Habitat forms should be completed annually – let our analysis decide if significant changes have occurred.
- But only once a year – usually about the time of the first bird survey or the second amphibian survey
- Remind us of your route id and the station id
- Remember to include the date.
- Don't review old forms or copy the data from old forms. This prevents us from looking for habitat changes.

Please print with BLOCK CAPITALS, remain within the boxes and mark each individual choice by filling in the corresponding circle. Please use pen (not felt tip).



Day Month Year Route #  
 25 05 20 02 0 N 09 8

Amphibian Survey Y/N:  Station Letter:  (A - H)  
 Bird Survey Y/N:  Station Letter:  (A - H)

Observer # Observer Name  
 18203 KATHY JONES

**(A) % of major habitats in 100 metre radius station area**

herbaceous emergent vegetation cover: 80  
 large patches of open water/floating plants: 15  
 exposed mud/sand/rock: 0  
 trees: 0  
 shrubs: 5  
 Total: 100

Note:  
 These should sum up to 100%

**(B) Floating plant cover in open water zones (fill in one)**

none  slight  moderate  dense   
 unknown  not applicable

**(C) Wetland Permanency (fill in one)**

permanent  semi-permanent  seasonal

**(D) Overall marsh size (fill in one)**

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**(E) Area within 100 metres behind you is mainly (fill in one)**

marsh  field  forest  urban  other

**(F) Human influences affecting sample area (fill in one or more)**

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 urban  pollution  industrial  agriculture   
 natural/protected area   
 other

NNE  
 23  
 Compass Direction

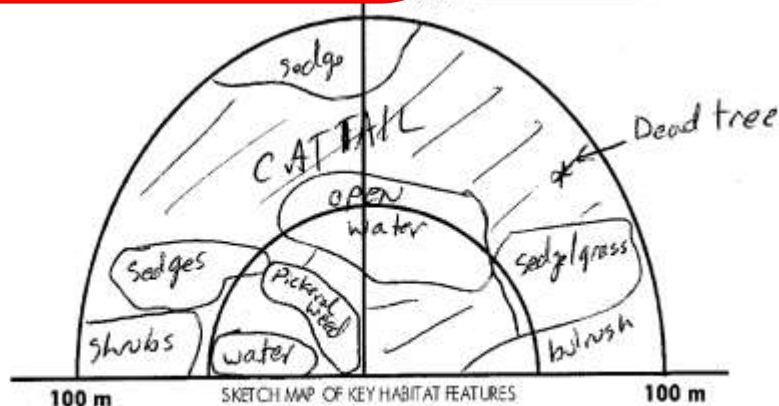
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Step 1: Identify the herbaceous emergent plants that dominate the station.  
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purple loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum</i> ).....	
water willow ( <i>Decodon</i> ).....	
pickeral weed ( <i>Pontederia</i> ).....	1.0
arrowhead ( <i>Sagittaria</i> ).....	
smartweed ( <i>Polygonum</i> ).....	
bur-reed ( <i>Sparganium</i> ).....	
wild rice ( <i>Zizania</i> ).....	
other	
other	
other	

Note:  
 - Percentages do not need to sum to 100%  
 - If "other" please double check that the plant is herbaceous (non-woody) and emergent (rises out of water)

- Need definitions for these?
  - Flip the page over and look at the back.
- Did you print the form yourself?
  - Remember to ensure you take page 2 (the definitions) into the field with you.





# Returning Data

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## Limit your paperwork

use the MMP forms in the field , not field books

Don't forget who you are: provide route and volunteer identifiers on all forms

Photocopy or scan prior to returning so that you have a copy at home.

Send the originals to us – by July 31<sup>st</sup>.





# Online Resources

- Need help when BSC staff are not available?
- Try online options
- Maps of available routes
- All training and protocol resources
- All forms
- Online data entry

## Websites

Main Great Lakes MMP website: [www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/glmmmp](http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/glmmmp)

Secure volunteer resource website: [www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/mmp](http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/mmp) (you will need to create a login and be approved).

Interactive Route Map:

<https://fusiontables.google.com/DataSource?snapid=S370464v3tg> (click on any dot for more details and for a link to the station locations).





- ▶ Thank you for your continued support of the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program
- ▶ If you have any questions or concerns contact  
Kathy Jones  
Great Lakes MMP Volunteer Coordinator  
[volunteer@birdscanada.org](mailto:volunteer@birdscanada.org)  
888-448-2473 ext 124 (toll free for most volunteers in  
Canada and in the U.S.)  
@BSCOnt