

# Conducting a digital point count survey: CHEAT SHEET

Overview of how to conduct an avian survey using a Zoom H2N for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. Use the Zoom to record a survey for **5 minutes**. For detailed instructions, including videos, see the Atlas web site [www.birdsontario.org/instructions](http://www.birdsontario.org/instructions)

## 1. Equipment



Ensure the Zoom is on a stable base  
Left and right microphones

\*Place the Zoom at a fixed location, a minimum distance of 5 meters away (to minimize sounds made by the observer) but a maximum distance of 20 meters away (to minimize error between the effective detection radius of the Zoom and observer)

### Prepare your equipment in advance of surveying Practice using the equipment before surveying



- Other equipment:
- SD cards
  - Batteries
  - Tripod

#### Zoom H2N Settings

Menu	Setting	Value
Input Setting	Lo Cut	On
	Comp/Limiter	Off
	Monitor	Home and Rec
	Auto gain	Off
Rec	Plug-In Power	Off
	Rec Format	WAV44, 1kHz/16bit
	Auto Rec	Off
	Pre Rec	Off
Play/Key Function	File Name	Date
	Play/Key Function	Mark only
	Spatial audio	Off

## 2. Surveys

- Arrive at your survey location
- Set up the equipment
- Turn on the Zoom
- Hit **Record**
- Speak:
  - State as: month, day, year, hour, minute, time zone
  - Roadside points: state the square # and point #
  - Off-road points: state square# and Lat-long (decimal degrees) or UTM Coordinates
- Move a minimum of 5 meters away
- Say **"START"**
- Conduct the survey
- Say **"STOP"**
- Hit **Record** to stop
- Turn off the Zoom



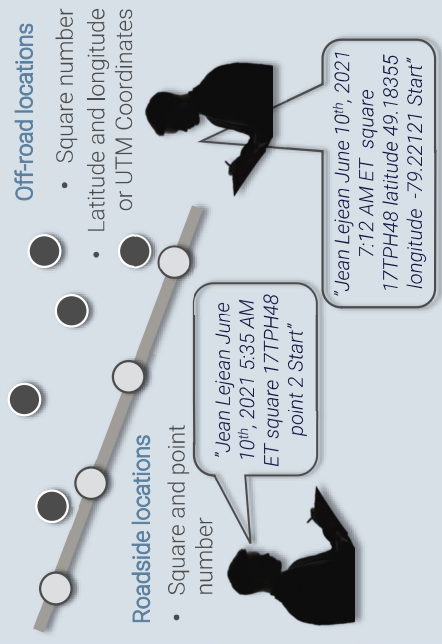
Do not survey in any precipitation conditions or if wind is greater than a light breeze (>11 km/h) or Beaufort 2

When surveying along or near a roadside:

- Add **1 minute** of survey time per traffic event\*
- Maximum survey time: **10 minutes**

\*A traffic event can be one or many cars passing at once. If traffic is heavy throughout the survey or very noisy, complete a **10 minute** count or cancel the survey.

### Follow standard Atlas point count protocols and do not speak during the survey



## 3. Data submission

Option A) Upload recordings to an FTP

- ▶ Lejean\_Jean
  - 210415-064548.WAV
  - 210415-071016.WAV
  - 210415-072234.WAV
  - 210415-074116.WAV
  - 210415-081214.WAV
  - 210415-083312.WAV
  - 210415-091117.WAV
  - 210415-101620.WAV
  - 210415-102231.WAV
  - 210415-105937.WAV

Option B) Return equipment to Regional Coordinator for upload

- Place all recordings into a **single directory\*** labelled with your **Lastname\_Firstname**

• Download an FTP client

PC	MacOS
Filezilla, WinSCP	Filezilla, Cyberduck

• Connect to the FTP

FTP Address  
[sftp://upload.wildtrax.ca](ftp://upload.wildtrax.ca)

Password  
Email [support@wildtrax.ca](mailto:support@wildtrax.ca) to confirm your identity and get a password



• Drag and drop your directory to the FTP in the OBBA directory

\*You can append recordings to the same folder for the entire season - they will be uniquely named by date and time

### Contact support if you're unsure how to proceed with data uploading or submission

## Questions?

Equipment and surveys: [atlas@birdsontario.org](mailto:atlas@birdsontario.org)  
Data submission: [support@wildtrax.ca](mailto:support@wildtrax.ca)