



Quick Help 2: Creating a Point Count Observation Record

Objective: AKN users will learn how to create a 'new point' count observation record in the database

Audience: All AKN users with *Biologist* or *Project Leader* access

Benefit: Users will benefit from access to a collaborative national avian repository where they can store and manage their point count data and create data summaries and visualizations of their data and other data shared through the database and access the data for status and trend analysis

Step 1. Navigate to the correct project and transect/route

Start by logging in to the [Biologist application at https://data.pointblue.org/science/biologists](https://data.pointblue.org/science/biologists). From the home page, find your project (i.e., refuge) from the **Projects** list. Select your project; selected projects are highlighted in blue. Your selected project will also appear in the top bar, along with the database user role that you possess for that specific project (e.g., if you have *Project Leader* access for a project it will be listed next to the project name). Under **Project Observation Types**, click **Point Count Surveys**.

Biologists **Project: CRANEMEADOWSNWR (Project Leader)** **Selected project and user status**

Welcome to AKN Biologists

AKN Biologists is an application for entering and reviewing field observations in support of the Avian Knowledge Network, hosted by Point Blue Data Solutions

Projects

What project do you want to work in?

[Quick Tips >>](#)

- CRANEMEADOWSNWR - Crane Meadows NWR
- DAGMARWMA - Dagmar WMA
- DAHOMYNNWR - Dahomey NWR
- DARBONNENWR - D'Arbonne NWR
- DELAIRDIVOFGREATERIVERNWR - Delair Div of Great River NWR
- DEVILSLAKEWMD - Devils Lake WMD
- DRIFTLESSAREANWR - Driftless Area NWR
- DUMBIO - Test Project for trying out Biologists 2
- DUMMM - Dummy data in Plumas/Lassen
- EARLBUSSBAYOUVIEWWMA - Earl Buss Bayou DeView WMA
- FASTERNNECKNWR - Eastern Neck NWR

Project window

Project Observation Types

For project: CRANEMEADOWSNWR

What type of observations would you like to work on?

[Quick Tips >>](#)

- Point Count Surveys**
- Secretive marshbird Surveys
- Site Conditions ▶

Project Management Tools

Locations and Sampling Units

- Manage Sampling Units for Project ▶
- Download Locations to GPS, GIS and more ▶

Protocols

- Manage Protocols for Project ▶
- Protocol Research

Researchers and Users

- Assign Researchers to Project ▶
- Registered User Search ▶

Observations

- Download Observations ▶
- Data Sharing Levels ▶

Analysis

- Analyze Observations ▶

Feedback | Help | User: lisa_carter@fws.gov | Logout

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Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) Help Documentation

On the next screen, you will see a list of all transects/routes associated with your project. Click on the transect corresponding to where the point count observations were collected to enter data. If you do not see any transects, or if the transect you are looking for is missing, contact the project's *Project Leader* or your Regional Data Manager for help.

Biologists Project: DUMBIO (Project Leader) Type: Point Count

Point Count Transects or Routes

Where are the observations located?

Quick Tips >>

- [DUMBIO > BackTrail \(BACKTRAIL\)](#)
- [DUMBIO > Lower Dummy Creek \(DUMCKLOW\)](#)
- [DUMBIO > Middle Dummy Creek \(DUMCKMID\)](#)
- [DUMBIO > Upper Dummy Creek \(DUMCKUP\)](#)
- [Harris Neck NWR > Airfield Comp 1 \(AF_COMP1\)](#)
- [KCarlyle NWR > Bluebird trail \(BLUTRAIL\)](#)
- [KCarlyle NWR > Field Road West \(FRW\)](#)
- [KCarlyle NWR > Goat Prairie \(GP\)](#)
- [KCarlyle NWR > New Prairie Planting \(NPP\)](#)
- [KCarlyle NWR > Old Field South \(OFS\)](#)
- [KCarlyle NWR > Ridge Top Trail \(RTT\)](#)
- [R5Demo2 > Transect \(TRANSECT\)](#)
- [R5Demo > TrainingDemo \(TRAINING\)](#)
- [RoanokeRiverNWR > TSPlan \(TSPLAN\)](#)
- [WrongLocation > Misnamed \(UH-OH\)](#)

Step 2. Select the appropriate observation and site condition methods

Note: The AKN database uses the term 'protocol' to describe the various survey methodologies (i.e., observation methods) it supports. These methodologies include approved National I&M Protocol Frameworks, such as the Landbird Protocol (Knutson 2016), as well as other survey methods. For the purposes of this document, the word 'protocol' will only be used when describing an approved I&M protocol framework.

Under **Create a new visit**, you will need to select both an observation method and site condition method. For each category, click the down arrow to select the appropriate method. Once you have selected both an observation method and site condition method, click **Start**.

For point count surveys, your site condition method will always be **FWS_Landbird_Site_Info – FWS Landbird Site Information**. The observation method will vary depending on which survey method you used. The [Landbird Protocol \(Knutson 2016\)](#) is an approved FWS I&M National Survey Protocol Framework, supported by the AKN data structure, and is most commonly used. This protocol can be found in the AKN database as 0 to 9m25 50 100M+ KNUTSON. If you do not see your observation method listed you may contact your Regional I&M coordinator and Data Manager for help. Making modifications to the existing Landbird Protocol (Knutson 2016), or adding a new observation method to the AKN database, may be possible if aligned with an approved site-specific protocol framework. Contact your Regional I&M Coordinator for more information.



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Biologists

Project: DUMBIO (Project Leader)

Type: Point Count

Location: BackTrail (BACKTRAIL)

Visits

Would you like to add a new visit and observations, or review / edit an existing visit's details?

[Quick Tips >>](#)

Create a new visit

Choose from the protocols below and select the **Start** button.

[Quick Tips >>](#)

Observation protocol

0_to_9m25_50_100M+_KNUTSON - 0,1,2,...,9min w/ 25,50,100,>100m (Knutson 2008)

Site condition protocol

FWS_LANDBIRD_SITE_INFO - FWS Landbird Site Information

Start

Tip: If at any point you need to go back to one of the previous screens (e.g., if you selected the wrong project, type of survey, location, or visit) you may do so by clicking on one of the options provided in the top bar. For example, if you selected an incorrect transect you may click on **Location** to be taken back to the previous screen and select a new location.

Biologists

Project: DUMBIO (Project Leader)

Type: Point Count

Location: Airfield Comp 1 (AF_COMP1)

Visit: New

Protocols: 0_to_9m25_50_100M+_KNUTSON
FWS_LANDBIRD_SITE_INFO

New Point Count Visit

What did you see during your visit?

General

Enter the following information about your visit.

[Quick Tips >>](#)

Date

Enter date of event

Visit

1

Data Sharing

RAW

Observer

Johnson, Jaclyn



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Step 3. Create a new point count visit

Fill in the **General Survey** information:

- **Date:** Select the survey date from the calendar or type the date directly in the box.
- **Visit:** Select the visit # for the survey.
 - Visit number represents the number of times observations have been made at a set of points within the same transect or route within the year.
- **Data Sharing:** Default is “RAW” and not editable until you save the record.
 - Refer to the *Step by Step Guidance for Promoting Historic Marsh Bird and LandBird Point Count Data* in [ServCat](#) for help editing the data sharing level.
- **Observer:** Select the observer from the dropdown list.
 - If the observer is not listed, they have either not registered or have not been added to the Project (i.e., refuge) as a *Biologist* or *Project Leader*.
 - **Note:** To avoid duplicate records, the *Project Leader* for your project must confirm that an observer’s name is not already in the AKN database before adding a new user. Refer to the [AKN Quick Help Guide 1 in ServCat](#) for instructions on how to search the database.

Scroll down to next section - **Points Surveyed:**

- **Point:** Select points surveyed for the selected route and date.
- **Start Time & End Time:** Enter the start and end times when the survey began and ended at the specified point.
- **Detections?:** Default is “yes.” If you observed zero birds, select “no.”
- **Notes:** Add point-specific notes (optional).

If you do not see the point that you surveyed, contact the project’s *Project Leader* or your Regional Data Manager.

Scroll down to next section - **Site Conditions:**

Record site conditions for *each point surveyed*. Tabs separate out individual points.

- **Background Noise Code, Temp. Units, Temperature, Tide Code, Wind Speed Beaufort Scale, Wind Direction, and Sky Code:** Enter the recorded value/code from field datasheet.



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Site Conditions Location ①

Select each of the points below and fill out the site conditions for each.

OFS1	OFS2	OFS3	OFS4	OFS5	Point Tabs
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WEATHER AND TIDE

Background Noise Code ①

Select one...

Temp. Units ①

Select one...

Temperature ①

Tide Code ①

Select one...

WEATHER AND TIDE (CONT'D)

Wind Speed Beaufort Scale ①

Select one...

Wind Direction ①

Select one...

Sky Code: ①

Select one...

Scroll down to next section - **Observations:**

- **Point #:** Select the point where the observation was made.
- **Species:** 4-letter AOU code for the observed species.
 - Start typing the common name or AOU code into the box to get a drop-down menu with possible options.
 - Alternatively, you can **Search the species database** if you are unsure of which code to use.
- **Time Bin:** Select the time bin from the dropdown list (0-9min).
- **0-25 / 25-50 / 50-100 / >100 / FLY:** Enter count and detection type (A = Auditory, V = Visual, B = Both). If the observation protocol you used does not use detection types, enter count only.
- **Note:** Enter any notes about the observation (optional).

Continue entering rows for every species detected, at each point, time bin, etc., until you have entered all observations. New rows will default to the same point and time bin as the previous row. Click the **+ 20 rows** button to add more rows of data, when needed. Review your entire record for completeness and accuracy. Click **Save to database** when finished. If at any time you make a mistake and need to delete an entire observation, click the **red X** to the right of the row you wish to delete.

Observations

Enter the species you observed at the points selected above.

[Quick Tips >>](#)

[Search the species database](#)

For distance bin columns, you will enter Count and Detection together in *Dot Notation*, such as 2S (see "Quick Tips >>" above for details). Valid Detections are listed below.

Protocol: 0_to_9m25_50_100M+_KNUTSON

Detections: A (Auditory (any)), B (Both (visual/auditory)), V (Visual)

#	Point ①	Species ①	Time Bin ①	0 - 25 ①	25 - 50 ①	50 - 100 ①	> 100 ①	FLY ①	Notes ①	
1	LKU07	RWBL	1min		2A					X
2	LKU07	RWBL	2min		1B					X
3	LKU11	YEWA	2min		1V					X
4	LKU11	YEWA	2min				2V			X
5	LKU11		2min				5V			X