

Bird Point Count Database



Photo Taken by: USDA

- **The Challenge:** The Bird Point Count Database is a web-based, collaborative effort to enable efficient storage and sharing of bird survey data among state and federal agencies and other partners. Supported by USGS and the FWS National Wildlife Refuge System, the database acts as a data management tool for several widely established survey protocols. Normally such data are not captured in a standardized format, making collaborative studies more difficult. Using this database and website, researchers and managers can coordinate data collection and entry for a study across a broad area, then download it or share it for analysis.



Photo Taken by: Dominic Sherony

- **The Science:** An example of the kind of collaboration the Bird Point Count Database supports is the Eastern Painted Bunting Population Assessment project. Partners from four states and several agencies, meeting as a working group, decided that existing information did not give a clear enough picture of the status of this species' east coast population. The group designed and implemented a three year study to arrive at population estimates, and roughly 70 participants conducted the surveys, and entered and managed all their data in the Point Count Database.



Photo Taken by: USFWS

- **The Future:** The Marshbird Population Assessment and Monitoring Project is a specialized subset of this database. It supports all surveys conducted using the National Marshbird Monitoring Protocol, designed by Courtney Conway at the University of Arizona USGS Coop Unit. Having this website in place allows those studying marshbird populations (~160 study areas, over half of which are National Wildlife Refuges) to focus on research and land management rather than data management. With little additional cost, other such specialized programs could be added to this system.