

## WISA CPB Monitoring Field Methods

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Standard distance between call playbacks is 800 m (or more). Even at that distance, sometimes the same bird can be heard on successive points. Record such birds at both points, but make a comment (e.g. "same as previous"). Call playback equipment used for road monitoring are FoxPro 416 digital playback unit (or current equivalent NX4, etc) through a FoxPro SP108 speaker (a large megaphone with front bell dimensions of 25-cm x 17-cm). Make sure you have printed copies of "**WISA CPB Data Form 2016.xls**" field data sheets to use in the field. Just use 1-sided data sheets. Enter the date at the top of the page.

At each CPB point, enter name of the point, time of day (that you arrived at point), air temperature, sustained wind speed (Beaufort), speed of any wind gusts, cloud cover (1-4 scale where 1 = clear, 2 = <50% clouds, 3 = >50% clouds, 4 = overcast) and precipitation (None, Drizzle, Fog, Mist, Light Rain, Light Snow). Sampling can be conducted from around sunrise until before dusk (actual sampling hours in first week of April 2015 were between 630 h and 1830 h). Only sample if sustained winds are <Beaufort 4, and not in heavy rain. Light rain or drizzle and light snow are okay as long as winds are <3. Record maximum wind gust during CPB period separately from sustained wind speed. If sustained wind speeds are Beaufort 3 with gusts >3, then discontinue survey. Preference is for sustained wind speeds <3 allowing for occasional stronger gusts. If any doubt about WISA responsiveness, discontinue survey.

Each CPB point sample consists of three broadcasts of a 10-15 second Williamson's Sapsucker drum and call combination repeated three times changing direction each time. This is followed by a silent listening period of 3 minutes. This pattern of broadcasts was combined into one MP3 file, which takes 1:20 to broadcast (**01WISA\_sCall\_PB.mp3**). A stopwatch is started when the broadcast begins playing, considered to be time = 0 sec. This point is 5 seconds into the mp3 file to give you time to start the MP3 and then turn on the stopwatch. You can use your wristwatch as the stopwatch (my preference) or your GPS unit, or your smartphone. Continue listening until the stopwatch goes to 4:20, i.e., 3 minutes after the end of the last WISA call broadcast.

Record the time (min:sec) of any first WISA response from the beginning of the CPB. If a WISA is detected from a point before CPB started, it is given a time of 0 sec. Only record a single WISA once, but if another WISA starts calling, or is seen, record the time of that WISA's first detection as well. I think the maximum number I have ever had respond from one point was 7. Continue CPB with discretion even if a WISA is detected before a CPB starts or during the CPB because frequently the additional calls/drums that you play prompt additional WISA to begin calling or drumming.

For each detection record the sex (male, female, unknown or pair), the number and the type of responses (visual, drum and/or call), the estimated distance (m) and direction (compass

degrees) to its FIRST detection. Even if it comes closer later, which happens regularly, or even perches right on your shoulder, record the FIRST detection distance and direction. Anything else would go in comments. In open areas or over very short distances where the stand or tree where the WISA is first detected can be seen, measure distance using a laser rangefinder, and put distance to exact metre. If no laser rangefinder, record distance estimate to nearest 25-m multiple (e.g. 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, . . .). In closed forest, estimate distances based on the volume attenuation of the drum or call, which will not be as reliable as when the WISA can be seen.

Record results including NULL results on provided field sheets. Use 1-sided paper to save yourself some grief. If you want to stuff the sheet in a notebook, or you use a half-size clipboard that fits in the chest pocket of a field vest, use the half-size sheet page.

Use more than one line if >1 WISA detected. However, pairs detected nearly simultaneously in nearly the same spot can be recorded as P (for pair) on the same line (Total WISA = 2).

I have been recording all woodpeckers (including number of each species). Use “Woodsp” for unidentifiable drums - which usually turn out to be flickers. I’ve also been recording all other cavity nesters (but only presence, not numbers) and raptors. However, these are optional. If you are going to record them, be consistent and record at every point.

#### **GPS instructions:**

If you have a favourite waypoint upload method for your GPS, then use it. Waypoints are provided in shapefile, GPX or OziExplorer wpt formats.

If loading to Garmin 60 or 76 (older models), use GPSTabel (freeware). Load the .gpx file from your computer folder as file source (type GPX XML) to the USB-connected Garmin. The waypoints will then show up on the GPS unit.

If using a more recent Garmin (62, 78, Oregon, Montana, etc), you can just import the .gpx file into the correct folder on the Garmin (/Garmin/GPX). The waypoints will then show up on the GPS unit.

You may also use your phone as a GPS unit to navigate to waypoints. I use OziExplorer for Android (not free), but there are many other GPS apps (either free or not).

#### **Data Entry:**

If you are going to enter the data, enter into ***WISA 2016 Monitoring SPI-template.xlsx***. This is the latest version. Eventually, this should make its way to me (LG) for entry into the long-term master database of CPB points and of WISA observations. If not going to enter the data, just take a photo of each page with your phone (or etc), or scan as jpg or pdf, and submit the photos/scans.