

Western Rivers Bird Count

Goal

Collect bird counts to inform baseline estimates of bird abundance along rivers across the southwestern US where Audubon works. Over time, these counts will help characterize bird responses to stream management.

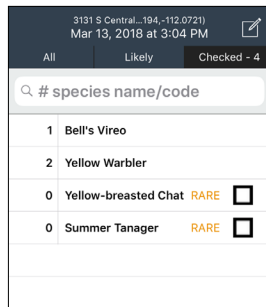
Why

Trees and shrubs along rivers are a critical component of healthy watersheds and are a main source of biodiversity in the Southwest. Monitoring will help us understand the impact Audubon is having on Southwestern ecosystems.

When and How?

The bird count can occur any time during May and June. Visiting the same site multiple times per year, and during multiple years, allows us to detect changes in bird abundance over time. Submit your counts to eBird.

Protocol



Left to right: Yellow Warbler, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo

STEP ONE

- Identify an area to survey from the priority site map or from the list provided by your local coordinator.
- Register and find priority locations at: audubon.org/western-rivers-bird-count

STEP TWO

Once at the site, record your observations on a datasheet or enter them directly into the eBird application on your smart phone.

STEP THREE

Conduct either a stationary count (standing in one place) or a traveling count (walking) with the following limitations

- Traveling count may not cover more than 1 km (0.6 mi) of distance
- Counts, both stationary and traveling, must be between 5 and 60 minutes.
- If you bird for more than 60 minutes or travel more than 1km, submit separate checklists for each 60-minute period or 1km of distance traveled.
- Record counts for all bird species seen, but particularly these target species: Yellow Warbler, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Bell's Vireo

FOR EACH EBIRD CHECKLIST, PLEASE RECORD:

- Start time
- Number of observers (preferably 1 or 2)
- Latitude and longitude (automatically generated if using eBird app)
- Total number of each species you see or hear.
- In eBird, please answer "yes" to the question "Are you submitting a complete checklist of the birds you were able to identify?"
- Submit a checklist regardless of whether or not you saw any target species during your counts.

NOTES:

- If you collect data on a datasheet, enter the finished tally to eBird.org.
- Share your eBird checklists to westernwater@audubon.org

Contacts

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