

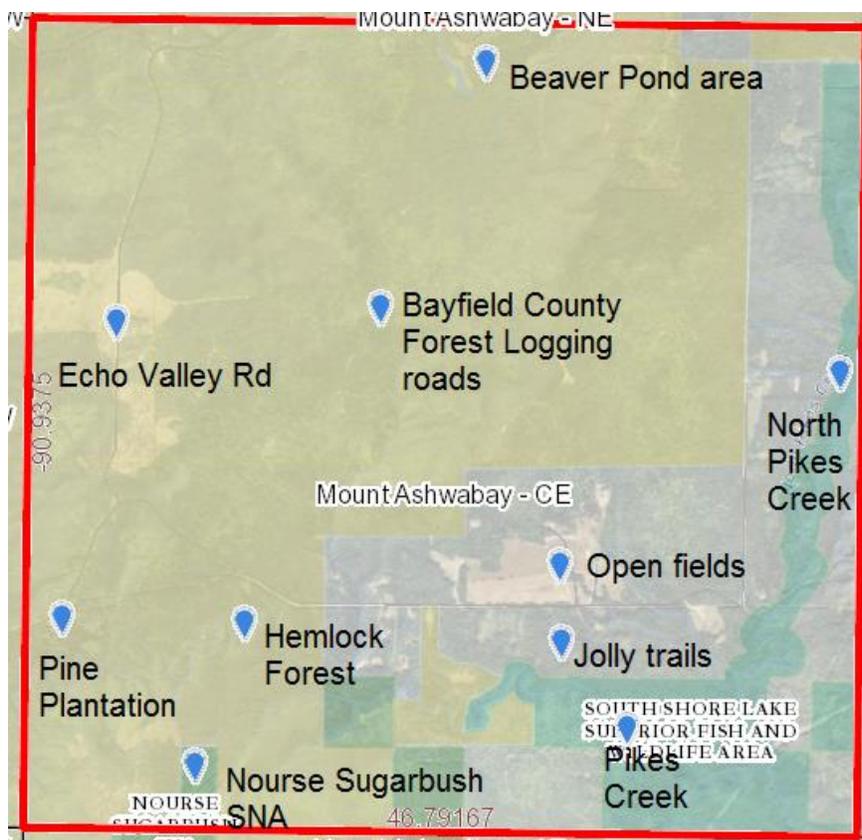


Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

Location Precision Guidelines

It is most useful to split the block into a number of separate areas either by property type or ownership (e.g., State Natural Areas, County Forests, or National Wildlife Refuges; see Fig. 3). Depending on the configuration of your block, you might also want to create separate lists for significant natural features (e.g., a beaver pond, conifer swamp, marsh, or open field; see Fig. 3), but this is a lower priority than separating by property ownership. Please also keep separate lists by county if your block is divided by a county line, as eBird and the Passenger Pigeon Seasonal Field Notes summarize observations at the county level. All these data will be summarized at the block level but keeping separate lists facilitates producing a list of all the birds observed on a specific property and provides more precise information for rare species, which is critical information for land managers.

Fig. 3. An example of sub-block checklists you might use if this were one of the main blocks you were covering.



We recommend traveling checklists not exceed 5 miles in length, because the farther the birds were from the point you plotted on the map, the less useful it is (eBird requires your entire checklist get entered at a single point, and does not allow you to map out routes or areas covered). We realize there

is a balance between the amount of work it requires to keep separate checklists and the value of these checklists, but we suggest you give this a try and before long you will likely find it is second nature to start a new checklist for a new sublocation.

There is an option during data entry called “Select an entire block as your location”. **We strongly discourage use of this option on a regular basis. Observations plotted at block level are MUCH LESS USEFUL than observations that can be assigned to a specific location and property.** There are a few instances where you might use this option — perhaps you were driving by on the highway and saw an osprey nest and you are confident about the block it was in but not exactly sure where it was. Or perhaps we have a secondhand report of a rare species that we want to put into the system, but with limited location information.