Mountain Birdwatch Practice Point Count Instructions

If you'd like a bit of extra practice with your point count skills before you head out to survey your route, you have come to the right place! There are three files that will help you perfect your Mountain Birdwatch point count skills.

Step 1: Point Count Protocols- Volunteer Packet and Training Video

The first step is to familiarize yourself with the point count protocols. We suggest that you study the instruction manual that you received with your volunteer packet; you can also find a copy of the manual on the "Prepare for Survey" tab of our website. The Point Count Protocols video gives a step-by-step explanation of the protocols

Step 2: Practice Point Count (Audio)

Once you are familiar with the point count protocols and comfortable with your bird identification skills, you're ready to practice a point count on your own. The "Practice Point Count" audio file contains a 20 minute track with many of the sounds you may hear during your point count. Use a point count data sheet, keep track of time, and work through the entire 20 minute audio track for a comprehensive practice experience. This audio track has two channels and for best results, set up two speakers about 10 feet apart and sit between them; this will simulate birds singing and calling from different directions.

Step 3: Practice Point Count (Video)

After you've practiced the point count on your own, the Practice Point Count video will take you back through the 20 minute point count, identifying each song or call, discussing how to document your observations, and demonstrating how to tally your results after your point count. This video is the equivalent of the volunteer training workshop Grand Finale and should resolve many of your questions about implementing the protocols.

Good luck and happy birding!