Mountain Birdwatch

Observer Name _____   Assistant _____

Route Name _____   Route # _____   Survey Date _____

PROTOCOL REMINDERS

Revised June 2016

* The most important thing is your safety. Be prepared! Check the weather forecast for the high elevation before you head into the field and pack proper gear. Bring a cell phone and a friend.

* Please follow local camping regulations and practice Leave No Trace guidelines.

* Remember to conduct your survey in order, starting with Point 1 and proceeding to the highest-numbered point.

* Before you begin the count, fill in the top of the datasheet using the weather codes above.

* The dashed distance bands on the circle plots are only for estimating the distance to each BITH. For all other species, you only need to mark it as *in* or *out* of the 50-m radius.

* Record each minute you detect each individual BITH below the code marking its location on the circle plot. Use the minutes on your stopwatch as the minute it is detected, such that a bird heard 30 seconds after the start of the count is recorded as 0H ('0' for 0:30 and 'H' for heard).

* Continue tracking each individual BITH for the first 10 minutes using the SAME ID number for each individual. For example, if BITH1 is only heard in the first five minutes and BITH2 is heard in both the first five minutes and the second five minutes, record the second bird as BITH2 in the second period even though you are using a separate circle plot.

* Record whether you heard (H) or saw (V) each individual bird. For BITH, write the observation code next to the minute in which you detected it (e.g., 1H, 2H, 3V). For each of the other species, use the observation symbols shown below to keep track of whether each was heard or seen and to track the movements of individual birds.

* After the point count, conduct the cone count protocol and record the data on the back of this sheet.

* When you return home, transcribe your data into the boxes provided. Make photocopies for your records and mail to:

Mountain Birdwatch
Vermont Center for Ecostudies
PO Box 420
Norwich, VT 05055

OBSERVATION SYMBOLS:

BLPW   – individual observed

(BLPW)   – individual heard

(BLPW)--| |--(BLPW)   – 2 individuals heard

(BLPW)———>(BLPW)   – known change in position

(BLPW)- - - ->(BLPW)   – assumed change in position

CONE COUNT: Find the nearest Balsam Fir in each cardinal direction that is at least 4 m tall or 2/3 canopy height, of which you have an unobstructed view of the top 3 m. Count all visible cones and record in the boxes below. Repeat for the NEAREST Red Spruce of canopy height. If there are no suitable trees visible, place an 'X' on the datasheet to distinguish from there being no cones on the tree, in which case place a '0' (zero) on the datasheet.

Balsam Fir cones point up and Red Spruce cones hang down. Only count this year's green cones.

Point Number _____

\# of **Balsam Fir** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

\# of **Red Spruce** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

Point Number _____

\# of **Balsam Fir** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

\# of **Red Spruce** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

Point Number _____

\# of **Balsam Fir** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

\# of **Red Spruce** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

Point Number _____

\# of **Balsam Fir** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

\# of **Red Spruce** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

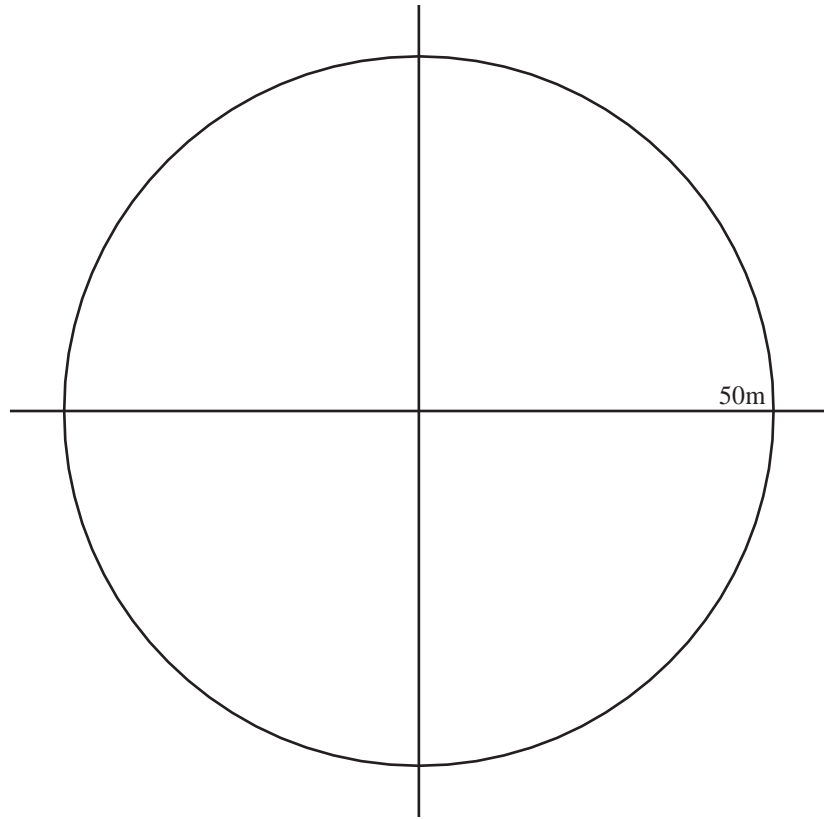Point Number _____

\# of **Balsam Fir** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

\# of **Red Spruce** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

Point Number _____

\# of **Balsam Fir** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

\# of **Red Spruce** cones: N _____   S _____   E _____   W _____

Comments:

1 | **0:00 - 4:59** | RT # ____ Cloud ___ Wind ___ Temp (°F) ____ Date _____ PT # ___ Start Time_____

25m   50m   100m

	< 50 m		> 50 m	
	#H	#V	#H	#V
YBFL				
BCCH				
BOCH				
WIWR				
BITH				
SWTH				
HETH				
BLPW				
FOSP				
WTSP				
RESQ				

Indicate observation type and distance category of each BITH observation.
Observation codes: h = heard; v = visual.
Distance codes: 1 = 0-25 m; 2 = 25-50 m; 3 = 50-100 m; 4 = >100 m

	0obs	0dis	1obs	1dis	2obs	2dis	3obs	3dis	4obs	4dis
BITH1										
BITH2										
BITH3										
BITH4										

2 | **5:00 – 9:59**

25m   50m   100m

	< 50 m		> 50 m	
	#H	#V	#H	#V
YBFL				
BCCH				
BOCH				
WIWR				
BITH				
SWTH				
HETH				
BLPW				
FOSP				
WTSP				
RESQ				

Indicate observation type and distance category of each BITH observation.
Observation codes: h = heard; v = visual.
Distance codes: 1 = 0-25 m; 2 = 25-50 m; 3 = 50-100 m; 4 = >100 m

	5obs	5dis	6obs	6dis	7obs	7dis	8obs	8dis	9obs	9dis
BITH1										
BITH2										
BITH3										
BITH4										

3 10:00 - 14:59

	< 50 m		> 50 m	
	#H	#V	#H	#V
YBFL				
BCCH				
BOCH				
WIWR				
BITH				
SWTH				
HETH				
BLPW				
FOSP				
WTSP				
RESQ				

50m

4 15:00 - 19:59

	< 50 m		> 50 m	
	#H	#V	#H	#V
YBFL				
BCCH				
BOCH				
WIWR				
BITH				
SWTH				
HETH				
BLPW				
FOSP				
WTSP				
RESQ				

50m