

**DIRECTIONS TO FOREST BIRD MONITORING PROGRAM SITE AT**

**MERCK FOREST**

**RUPERT, VT**

Site established by Chris Rimmer circa 1989.

All bearings are Magnetic North (subtract 15° if your compass is declinated for True North).

To reach the Merck Forest site take Route 315 west from Route 30 north of Dorset. Go past the main entrance of Merck Forest and Farmland Center and turn left onto Route 153. Turn left onto East Street in the town of West Rupert (across from the general store). Take East Street for approximately 1.5 miles and turn left onto Hidden Valley Road. Take this road to the very end, past the last house on the left hand side and park in the small grassy clearing to the left. Notice the Merck Forest sign in the clearing.

**POINT 1** – Proceed from this grassy spot down the logging road for approximately 1/8 mile or less, and take the first trail to the right (Masters Mountain Trail). Follow this trail up and around the first switchback and walk for about 10-15 minutes. At the very start of the next switchback leave the grassy logging trail and head downhill approximately 10 meters to the first listening station on a **5” dbh hophornbeam**, marked with blue flagging and a metal treetag inscribed with “VINS MF #1.”

**POINT 2** – To reach station #2, travel 250 m directly east (90°N) to a **6” dbh Sugar Maple** marked with blue flagging and a treetag.

**POINT 3** – Still heading east, go another 250 m to station #3 on an **8” dbh Sugar Maple**.

**POINT 4** – Still heading east, go another 250 m to Station #4 on a **14” dbh Red Oak**.

**POINT 5** – To reach the last point, change your compass bearing to due South (180°N). Point #5 is on a **20” dbh Red Maple**.

*NOTE: Surrounding each point count station are 3 vegetation plots (15 in total) also marked with tree tags. The veg points are 25 m away from each point count on compass bearings of 105°, 225°, and 345°. Their labels follow the point count labeling system with the letters B, C, and D indicating the bearing (e.g. Point 1 veg. plots are labeled “VINS MF #1B, 1C, and 1D respectively).*

**Lat-Long Coordinates for Merck Forest Point Counts (decimal degrees, NAD 83).**

<b>Point #</b>	<b>Latitude (Northing)</b>	<b>Longitude (Easting)</b>
<b>1</b>	43.24232697	-73.20069202
<b>2</b>	43.24301898	-73.19761821
<b>3</b>	43.24371099	-73.19458731
<b>4</b>	43.24418306	-73.19151887
<b>5</b>	43.24242353	-73.19123992



### FBMP Transect at Merck Forest

