

BIRD BEHAVIOR OBSERVATIONS

Introduction

Bird behavior observations are made as often as possible from mid-May through early July. They are confined to mornings to minimize time-of-day effects. To limit observer bias, only the resident scientist and principal investigator make these measurements. They can be made anywhere within the study area, though the observer should stay on grid lines to avoid trampling vegetation. Ideally, the observer covers the entire study area in successive visits.

Procedure

1. At the top of each data sheet, record date, observer, page, weather, and time beginning and ending. Each time a bird is encountered, the parameters listed in the data sheet components are recorded.
2. *Repeat observations.* In any encounter with an individual bird, it is possible to make several observations. A new observation can be recorded each time the bird changes activity, or if it moves to a new tree and repeats the same activity. In encounters with more than one bird, it is preferable to observe as many different birds as possible. Whenever a repeat observation is made, write "Rep" in the species column. If the repeat observation is not immediately below the initial observation, connect them with an arrow. If five minutes elapse between observations of the same individual, it is not considered a repeat.

Data Sheet Components

LOC: (Quadrat) Record the quadrat number.

SPEC: (Species) Record the species using abbreviations or numeric codes from the "Bird Species List" (see Table 4-2).

Repeat observations are recorded "Rep" in this column (see procedure 2).

SEX: 0 = male; 1 = female; 2 = unknown; 3 = juvenile.

TIME: Record in 24-hour time.

TREE: Record the numeric code of the species of tree orC(.) Tj0hrTj0 Tc(r)

BH: (Bird Height) Estimate the bird's height in the tree to the nearest meter (See Figure 4-1a). There are three trees marked at 2m intervals for training purposes. They are located where transect lines 4, 6, and 8 cross the center fence line (F/G).

CROWN: Record the bird's location within the tree as follows:

1=bole;

2=limb (>10cm diameter);

3=branch;

4=outer twigs and leaves; (see Figure 4—1b).

The assignment to a location should be based on where the bird's activity is focused rather than where it is perched. For example, a bird perched on a branch singing would be scored "3," but if it was reaching out to glean insects from leaves, it would be scored as "4." If the bird is on a dead branch, twigs, etc., the number should be followed by a "-1," e.g. 3-1.

CR: (Crown radius) Estimate to the nearest meter the mean crown radius at the height where the bird is located. This is the mean horizontal distance from the bole to the tips of the branches within one meter above and below the bird (See Figure 4—1a). This should be within a 90° quadrant with the bird along the bisecting radius of this quadrant.

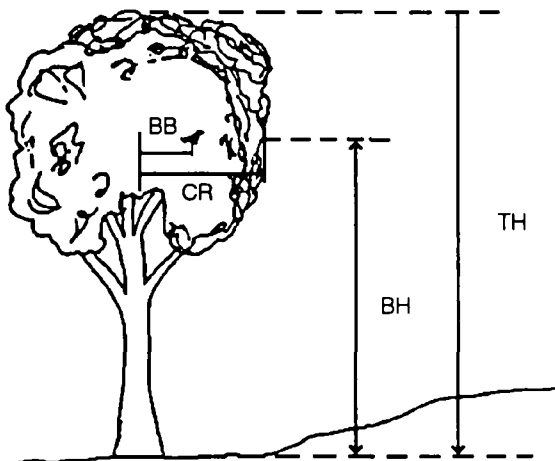
BB': (Bird-bole distance) Estimate to the nearest

Sing: (30) Loud, repetitive, complex vocalization usually given by males during the breeding season.

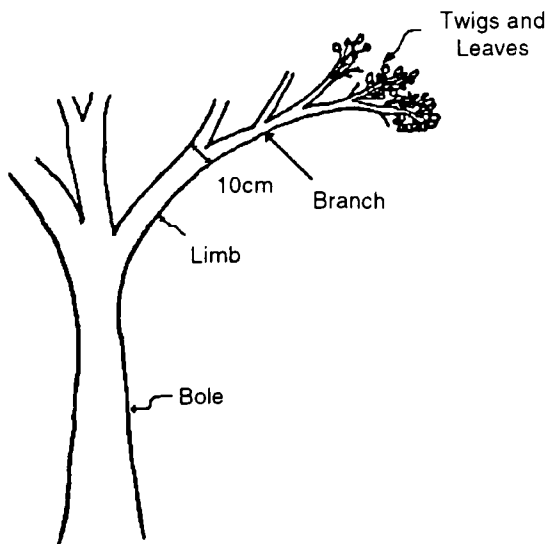
Call: (35) Any vocalization that is not a song.

Flush: (40) When a

Figure 4-1. Bird location measurements and crown locations.



a. Bird location measurements



b. Crown locations

