

American Woodcock Singing-ground Survey (SGS)

GPS Data Collection Standards

The USFWS, Division of Migratory Bird Management (DMBM), is requesting assistance from state and province SGS observers to obtain GPS coordinates for routes that have not been previously collected or were incorrect. We are trying to finalize a spatial GIS database for the survey. This data will be uploaded into the NatureCounts website and allow for mobile data entry in the field. It will also be used to develop static route maps for coordinator distribution and stop location verification. In addition, the coordinates are necessary in any evaluations or studies that require the use of SGS spatial data.

Please only submit new GPS coordinate data to WeblessSurveyCoordinator@fws.gov and to your state or province coordinator. If you have submitted GPS data in the past and the stop locations have not changed, do not submit GPS data again, unless otherwise directed by the state/province or national coordinator.

GPS WAYPOINT COLLECTION PROTOCOL:

- 1) If GPS coordinates for a particular route have already been sent in to the USFWS office, then there is no need to send in the coordinates again unless otherwise directed to do so.
- 2) Each woodcock route is 3.6 miles or 5.4 kilometers in length.
- 3) Please collect coordinates at the starting location (stop 1) and continue until all 10 stops are completed. Stops are located at 0.4 mile or 0.6-kilometer intervals for a total of 10 stops (stop 1 = 0.0mi/km and stop 10 = 3.6mi/5.4km). To ensure the safe completion of survey routes, a slight deviation from the 0.4 m/0.6 km stop distance is acceptable, however this must be clearly explained when coordinates are submitted.
 - a. The **spatial reference** for the American Woodcock Singing-ground Survey GIS is:
 - 1) coordinate system = **latitude and longitude**,
 - 2) unit format = decimal **degrees** (e.g. 42.08472 N, 86.08861 W),
 - 3) datum = **North American Datum 1983**.

Be sure to adjust your GPS unit accordingly and **submit coordinates in this format**. If you collect coordinates in another format (e.g., UTM), please convert the coordinates to decimal degrees before submission. *

- b. Map out your coordinates before submitting them to check for errors. Make sure each stop location is representative of the official route map for that route.
- c. Submit latitude and longitude coordinates for each stop (not line data for the entire path of the route).
- d. Submit your GPS Coordinate data to WeblessSurveyCoordinator@fws.gov ** (no shape files please).

e. Metadata to accompany GPS coordinates must include:

- 1) Spatial reference
- 2) Date coordinates collected
- 3) Who collected the coordinates, their agency, and email address
- 4) State or Province
- 5) Route Number
- 6) County or Region
- 7) Route Name (if unassigned or a new route please recommend one)

*Helpful GPS format conversion website: <https://www.geoplaner.com/>

** Due to the volume of GPS data we manage, **we cannot accept shape files**. Please submit raw GPS coordinates in the appropriate formatted example shown below.

GPS Coordinates Submission Example

Observer Name:	Becky Rau			
Contact Info:	USFWS, rebecca_rau@fws.gov			
State/Province:	Maryland			
Route Number:	001			
County:	Garrett			
Route Name:	Bear Creek to Accident			
Spatial Reference:	NAD83, Decimal Degrees			
Date Collected:	April 30, 2009			
	WAYPOINTS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	Stop Description (not required)
Route Start (0.0 mi/km)	STOP 1	39.65566	-79.39327	
	STOP 2	39.65391	-79.38669	
	STOP 3	39.64944	-79.38248	
	STOP 4	39.6488	-79.38318	
	STOP 5	39.64251	-79.37292	
	STOP 6	39.64172	-79.36637	
	STOP 7	39.63683	-79.36299	
	STOP 8	39.6353	-79.35657	
	STOP 9	39.63345	-79.34892	
Route Finish (3.6 mi/5.4km)	STOP 10	39.63306	-79.34059	
	Comments	Stops 4 is 0.5 miles from stop 3 due to road hazards at the 0.4 mile stop location.		