WHAT IS POINTCOUNT?

Pointcount Data Recorder is a program created by Rob Rempel (Research Scientist, OMNR) in collaboration with George Holborn (Wildlife Biologist, OMNR). The program facilitates the entry of songbird identification data.

- It can be used while in the field or while listening to songbird recordings.
- Data is automatically saved in a format (.csv) which is easily viewed in most spreadsheet programs and can be edited/added to at any time.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- The program uses a pointmap (2) much like a standard paper field identification form, where the observer (or recording device) is located in the 'crosshairs' (center of the circles). The large outer circle represents the entire aural range of the observer (assumed to be ~200m); the inner circle is designated for closer birds (<50m from observer).
- Clicks of the mouse make the same notations that would otherwise be written on paper. Observation types can be distinguished by choosing from a list of annotations (5).
Observed birds can be selected from a short list of ‘common’ species (3) or a longer list of any potentially encountered species (4); each of these lists is fully editable.

Dragging the mouse allows user to indicate a bird moving to a new location without counting it a second time in the dataset. The ‘position change’ annotation is entered in the data table as a different code and can therefore be filtered out for analysis.

Other pertinent data (date & time, site location, field conditions etc.) can also be added using pull-down menus and empty text fields (1). The user can choose to be prompted for this data to ensure it is always included in the observations. The pull-down menus for ‘Site No.’ and ‘Observer’ are fully editable.

LIMITATIONS/KNOWN ISSUES

- The short list of ‘common’ species may only contain 27 or less items.

- Currently the program will run on desktop or laptop computers (including Toughbooks for the field), but not Personal Digital Assistants or other hand-held devices.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The program will run on any computer operating with Windows 98, 2000, ME, NT, XP or Vista.

For more information or to obtain a copy of this software, please contact:

Dr. Robert Rempel
Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
c/o Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Rd.
Thunder Bay, ON Canada
P7B 5E1
Phone: 807 343-4018
Fax: 807 343-4001
rob.rempel@ontario.ca
http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~rrempel/ecology