



Exercise 2: Enter Point Count Observations

Purpose: The purpose of this exercise is to learn how to enter survey data, including site conditions, in the Biologists tool. Steps include creating a sampling event, entering observation and site condition data, and proofing the data.

Key Terms and Definitions:

Sampling Event – Represents the survey itself with a unique combination of location, date and time, person/people, and the protocol employed.

Sampling Observation – Observations made at a sampling event; these observations will differ depending on the specific AKN Observation Protocol being used but will contain some core fields such as species and count.

Site Condition: Site conditions capture covariates at a Sampling Unit at a given date and time. Site condition fields apply to the entire sampling event, not just a single observation or record and can include fields such as weather conditions, vegetation cover, disturbance, percentage of colony surveyed, and species lists. Site condition protocols define all of the site condition fields collected, including how they are organized in the user interface. Site conditions protocols can be applied to multiple projects if desired.



DoD Workshop 5-minute Point Count

Date (month/day/year) 03/05/2020

Transect _____

Temp (F) 18 Clouds (%) 10

Wind (mph) 3

Start Time	Point #	Species				Count and Distance	
		B	A	W	W	<50m	>50m
6:42	1	B	A	W	W	1	
6:42	1	C	O	Y	E		2

1. Navigate to the **Biologist** application and log in if needed. You can find a link to the Biologist application under “Manage Data” tab on the DoD AKN Portal (dodakn.org).
2. Select the project on the left **DOD_DEMO**
3. Click on “**Point Count Surveys**” in the list on the right, under “Project Observation Types”
4. Find your service branch and the transect you created in Exercise 1 and click on it. (Note: if there is a long list, you can search the list by using “CTRL+F” to search for and find your transect name quickly).
5. Under “Create a new visit”, select the protocols we added to the project:
 - a. Observation Protocol: **5m50M+**
 - b. Site condition Protocol: **WEATHER**
 - c. Click the **Start** button.

Biologists Project: DOD_DEMO (Project Leader) Type: Point Count Location: ABC (ABC)

Visits
Would you like to add a new visit and observations, or review / edit an existing visit's details?
[Quick Tips >>](#)

Create a new visit
Choose from the protocols below and select the *Start* button.
[Quick Tips >>](#)

Observation protocol

5m50M+ - 5min w/ 50,>50m

Site condition protocol

WEATHER - Weather Conditions

Start

Notice that the top bar reminds you the project (DOD_DEMO), observation type (Point Count), and sampling unit (ABC) you are entering data under.



6. Under “General”, fill out the section using the information in the data sheet above:
 - a. **Date** – (Use the calendar to select a date; or enter month, day, and year in any format. It will automatically be converted to yyyy-mm-dd).
 - b. Visit (1)
 - c. **Data sharing level** - set to RAW and cannot be changed.
 - d. **Observer** - you will see everyone in the project can be selected. For this exercise, select yourself.
7. Under “**Points Surveyed**”, check the box next to your point (this should be the only point listed), and fill out the **Start Time**.

+ New Point Count Visit

What did you see during your visit?

General
Enter the following information about your visit.

[Quick Tips >>](#)

Date **Visit** **Data Sharing** **Observer**

Points Surveyed
Check the points you surveyed and enter a start time for each (end time will be calculated from protocol definition). Mark here if you visited a point but no species were detected.

[Quick Tips >>](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Point	Start Time	End Time	Detections?	Notes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ABC_1	06:42	06:47	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	

After you enter Start Time, note the End Time is automatically populated

8. Under “Site Conditions”, enter your observations from the top of the form.

🌳 Site Conditions

Enter the following data about your visit for this date.

[Quick Tips >>](#)

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

Temperature

WIND CONDITIONS

Wind Speed

CLOUD COVER CONDITIONS

Cloud Cover %

Notice how the drop-down menus for this site condition protocol make it flexible for different data collection methods. For example, temperature can be Fahrenheit or Celsius, and wind can be measured in mph, kph, Beaufort scale, etc.



9. Under “Observations”, enter your data. (Tip: Use your “Tab” key to quickly move between columns and down to the next row).
 - a. **Point** – use the drop down box to select the point you created.
 - b. **Species** - we enter using 4 letter codes - IBP/AOU list + unknowns + common uncertain ids. (Also some mammals!)
 - c. **Distance bins** - enter Count as collected on datasheet.

If you do not know the species code, click the **Search the species database** link above the grid to look up species by scientific name, common name, or 4 letter code. You can also find a link to the species lookup tool on the DoD AKN Portal under the Manage Data tab.

Observations
 Enter the species you observed at the points selected above.

[Quick Tips >>](#)

[Search the species database](#)

For distance bin columns, you will enter Count and Detection together in *Dot Notation*

Protocol: 5m50M+
 Detections: NR (Not Recorded)

#	Point	Species	0 - 50	> 50	Notes
1	ABC_1	BAWW	1		
2	ABC_1	COYE		2	
3	Select point...				
4	Select point...				

- d. Click **Save to Database** when finished.
 - i. If you made any errors or forgot to fill in a required field, you will get a red message at the top of the screen. Go correct the error and click the Save to Database button again.
 - ii. If you are successful you should see a green message at the top of the screen.
- e. After saving to the database, you will be taken to the proofing page. You can review what you entered to make sure you didn't make mistakes.
 - i. If you find a mistake, you can double click on the field and edit the field to correct.
 - ii. Click the **Add more** button if you forgot to add a line, such as an entire species, to the event.

Overview

[Quick Tips >>](#)

Project: DOD_DEMO
 Transect: ABC (ABC)
 Date: 2020-03-05
 Observation Protocol: 5m50M+
 Visit: 1
 Observer: Gillespie, Caitlyn
 Data Sharing Level: RAW

[Delete this visit](#)

Any field next to a blue vertical line can be edited on the proofing page— simply double click on it to edit. For example, if I had entered the wrong date, I could change it here.



Data status is currently RAW. When you have finished proofing and reviewing this visit, click:

✓ Proofing completed

- f. When you are satisfied, click the blue **Proofing Completed** button near the top of the page.
- g. Your data entry for this survey is complete. You will see your survey in the list of surveys, and you should see that the Data Sharing Level is set to CLEAN.

Note: If you want to enter data at a new transect within the same project, click on the “Location” link at the top of the page. This will take you back to the screen to select a new transect.

Biologists **Project:** DOD_DEMO (Project Leader) **Type:** Point Count **Location:** ABC (ABC)

Thinking Ahead: Once the data is entered in Biologists and the proofing step has been completed, the data will be marked CLEAN. Data that is marked CLEAN will load into the data warehouse overnight, making it available in analysis tools such as Analyst and Data Downloader. AKN users who collect data, but aren't project leaders, can be granted access to the Biologists application to enter and proof their own data at the conclusion of each survey. Project Leaders are responsible for granting access to the project, adding the correct observation and site condition protocols to the project, and setting up sampling units.