

# Fluddle Wetland Shorebird Surveys

## Quick-reference guide for data collection

Surveys may be conducted at any time during the day between **April** and **May** and between **July** and **November** at any of the sites detailed below.

### Starting

1. Once you have arrived at one of the sites, navigate to the designated observation point (see maps below or visit this interactive [ArcGIS map](#)).
2. Start a checklist on the eBird Mobile App (with track enabled).

### Counting

1. **Tally all birds**, including non-shorebird species and birds not using the wetland, you **see or hear**. When possible, obtain exact counts of birds observed, though careful estimates are acceptable when observing larger flocks.
2. Add species comments for any “Rare” bird
3. Remember that “sp.” and “slash” categories can be used for birds not IDed to species. You should report a dowitcher sp. even if you’re unsure which one you saw!
4. Survey for between **5-60 minutes**
5. **Take a photo** of the fluddle and upload it as checklist media (habitat photo) after submission.
6. Even if no shorebirds are detected, please submit your checklist. **Absence data is just as valuable as presence data.**

### Ending

1. Tap “**Stop**” to end the checklist
2. Select **Stationary** as the observation type
3. Verify that the duration is correct
4. Enter the number of **observers**
5. Select “**Yes**” to indicate you are reporting all species you identified
6. Enter the following in the checklist comments:
  - a. Key-phrase: “**FluddlesIL**”
  - b. Any other comments
7. Select **location** (choose the appropriate hotspot or create a new personal location)
8. Share the checklist, if desired, with your party and the project’s eBird account (**FluddlesIL**). Make sure the number of observers is accurate.
9. Submit the checklist.

Please contact Alex Smilor via email ([awsmilor@illinois.edu](mailto:awsmilor@illinois.edu)) with any questions about the project.