HABITAT MONITORING DATASHEET TEMPLATE FOR MARSH BIRD MONITORING PROGRAM - DRAFT, 26 May 2009

General Disclaimer:

The below habitat datasheet was developed to match the fields that are in the Mars Bird Monitoring Database, (path: My Marsh Bird → Point → Habitat Desc → Add/Edit [click on the picture of the cattail and red-winged blackbird]). There are three items that are identified below and in the habitat protocol that are not yet in the database at the time of datasheet development. However, they will be added in the near future.

The below datasheet is a template for which surveyors or coordinators may modify to fit their needs based on their monitoring objectives. For instance, as recommended in the habitat measurement protocol, perhaps only a subset of the below habitat variables will need to be recorded to meet the marsh bird monitoring objective.

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General Information

Survey Date (DD/MM/YYYY)**:** _____

Observer (First two initials and full last name): _____

How was the point accessed? (Circle one): canoe, motor boat, walk, wade?

Edge Type (Circle one): roadside/marsh, ditch or berm/marsh, upland/marsh, open water/marsh, interior/marsh, not recorded

Land use surrounding the target wetland (Circle one)**:** pasture, hayfield, idle, burned, row crop, small grain crop, unknown crop, tilled, fallow, other:_____

Classification & Disturbance

NWI code (Record an NWI Code for the target wetland):_____

NVCS Alliance (Record an NVCS Alliance code or codes for the target wetland)*:_____

Most dominant plant species (Record the following 3 variables for each plant species):

USDA Plants Code**	Dominance Order (1, 2, or 3)	OR	% Cover*

***Record the 3 most dominant species as 1 = most dominant, 2=second most dominant, 3=third most dominant OR record the percent cover of each species of all the species (not limited to 3).

Disturbance (circle all that applies): Fire, ice damage, insect damage, road construction, selective harvest, trail construction, blow down/wind event, other:_____

Month/year (if known) of disturbance event:_____

Water characteristics

Daily tidal flux at survey point (nearest tenth of a meter):_____

Water conditions (brief description - 50 char. max):_____

_____

Salinity:_____

Water depth (m):_____

Method of water measurement: staff gauge, water gauge at water control structure, meter stick at site, other:_____

Habitat characteristics (for 50-m radius area)

Select (by placing an "X" under each % category) the % of wetland perimeter covered by the following characteristics:

Perimeter Char.:	<5%	6-25%	26-50%	51-75%	>75%
Shrubs					
Trees					
Bare soil					
Water					
Upland					
Mudflat					
Floating veg.					

Distance to vegetation patch edge (m):_____

Type of patch (Circle one): none, tree, shrub

Wetland Interspersion (%open water:%vegetation cover)**:**

Density of marsh vegetation (Circle one): None, sparse, moderate, rank

Estimated average marsh vegetation height (m): 0-1, 1-3, 3-6,>6.

Litter depth (cm):_____

Wetland Cover Class based on Stewart and Kantrud 1971 (*Record only if this variable is appropriate for your area;* circle one)***: Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, Type 4

Distance to physical characteristics

Water edge (m):_____

Ditch (m):_____

Mudflat (m):_____

Road or dike (m):_____

Upland area (m):_____

Large open-water area (m):_____

Small open-water area (m):_____

FOOTNOTE:

* **For NVCS Alliance codes, see** http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?init=Ecol

**USDA PLANTS Code (Obtain from http://plants.usda.gov/):

***Stewart and Kantrud (1971) wetland cover classes for natural ponds and lakes can be obtained from: http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/wetlands/pondlake/cover.htm