

INSTRUCTIONS

This form is intended for use by people travelling on ferries to and from Prince Edward Island. Since the aim is to gather data which will be analysed over the long term, it is important that the form be filled out carefully and completely.

Each form has two sections. The header section at the top records weather and other general data. The header is followed by three sighting sections, in which the actual bird sightings are recorded. Sightings are recorded as either "harbour watches" or "10 minute watches". Harbour watches are conducted while the ship is at or near the dock, whereas 10 minute watches are conducted while the ship is steaming. Typically when you board the ship you will go to the rail and begin looking for birds. All birds you see up to the time that the ship passes the outer breakwater or harbour entrance should be recorded in a sighting section with "Harbour watch" checked. Once you pass the breakwater, start timing the first 10 minute watch, and record your results in a new sighting section. Detailed instructions follow, and are followed by an example of a completed 10 minute watch.

Header section.

1. Give date, your name, the ship's route and time.
2. Estimate weather as best you can. One kt (knot) = 1.15 miles per hour, or 1.85 kilometers per hour.

Harbour watches.

1. Put a check beside "Harbour watch", and give start and end time and the percent of water in the harbour area that is covered by ice.
2. Look for birds from any position(s) on the ship that you wish. Indicate species with standardized codes given below. Record marine mammals as well as birds. If the species is not listed write its name in full.
3. Indicate age, if known, as A (adult) or I (immature).
4. Write down the numbers of flying and sitting birds as you count them, with each count separated by a comma. If birds show a consistent flight direction, indicate the compass direction they are flying towards.
5. At the end of the watch, indicate the sum of flying and sitting birds in the totals column.

10 minute watches.

1. Stand at a side rail of the ship, and watch for birds in the area that is bounded by two imaginary lines, one leading straight forward from the ship, and one leading at right angles from the midpoint of the side of the ship that you are standing on. Scan the water frequently with binoculars to increase your coverage of distant birds.
2. Record birds you see in this area according to the instructions given under Harbour watches, and following the example given below.
3. If gulls are circling the ship, give your best estimate of the total number of different individuals that have passed through the observation area.
4. After you finish one ten minute watch, start another one and record its results in the next sighting section. You may conduct ten minute watches continuously if you wish, with one watch beginning at the same time the previous one ends.
5. If you conduct more than three watches on a crossing, you will need more than one form. Give page numbers and the total number of pages on all forms. On the second and subsequent pages, indicate the date and the ship leaving time in the header section.
6. If the ship reaches port before the end of a ten minute watch, record the results as a harbour watch.

Submit completed forms to the PEI Natural History Society, Box 2346, Charlottetown PEI C1A 8C1. Additional blank forms may be obtained from the same address.

Harbour watch ___ 10 min watch Start time 1436 End time 1446 Ice cover 0 %

species	age	number flying	number sitting	tot fly	tot sit
IG	A	3, 2, 5, 1	2, 1	11	3
HG	A	1, 10, 1	8	12	8
NG	A	2E, 3E, 4	0	9	0
NG	A	1E	0	1	0

RTL Red-throated Loon	CG Canada Goose	KE King Eider	GBBB Grt Black-backed Gull
UIL unidentified Loon	BD Black Duck	UIE unidentified Eider	HG Herring Gull
NG Northern Gannet	CG Common Goldeneye	WWS White-winged Scoter	UG unidentified Gull
GC Great Cormorant	BG Barrow's Goldeneye	SS Surf Scoter	AT Arctic Tern
DCC Double-crested Cormorant	UIGE unidentified goldeneye	BS Black Scoter	CT Common Tern
UIC unidentified cormorant	OS Oldsquaw	UIS unidentified scoter	UIT unidentified tern
GBH Great Blue Heron	CE Common Eider	IG Iceland Gull	