

Beech Mountain Wind Farm Carcass Monitoring

Carcass searches should be conducted at least weekly and after significant weather events (low cloud ceiling, fog) during peak migration times (April-May 10 and August 15-October 20). Searches should be conducted as early in the morning as possible. You may pick up carcasses for identification purposes. Birds that cannot be identified may be removed and frozen for ID. Please notify me within 24 hours of collection of carcasses as it is illegal for you to have them in your possession. Flag locations and estimate distance to tower and guy wires. Label flags for ease of remembering locations.

On the data sheet please list species (use attached species alpha code list) and assign the carcass a number. I suggest a letter representing a turbine (A,B,C etc or manufacturer if that makes it easier). Please make a rough map with locations marked and an ordinal mark (north) on it for the file. "M tower" is an estimate of the distance to the tower and "M guy" is an estimate of distance to closest guy wires in meters. Quad is the ordinal direction from the tower (E,W,N,S). Then a bird carcass under tower A would be A001 for example. Write this on the flag and place next to the carcass. Then even if you don't have time to check for carcasses the next day or two you should be able to update the old ones as to condition or removal by walking straight to the flag and checking that carcass. On the form COD is "cause of death" Sometimes it is obvious with guy wire strikes as head, neck or shoulders are well skinned from the impact. Other times the neck is broken but this is difficult on a fresh bird as the neck is really floppy normally. CON on the form refers to "condition" and the following are some short hand abbreviations:

FR = fresh kill

ID = Insect decomposition (this includes bees, ants actively working and seen)

SB = Skin and bones (most muscle tissue removed and carcass still whole, usually from insects and dessication)

FP = Feather Pile (often just wings and tail with the rest gone)

SC = Scavenged (carcass completely removed)

O = Other (explain in comments or on back) Sometimes a bird will be partially scavenged like decapitated etc but is atypical in some respect

If a carcass stays more than three checks just start a new line with the same carcass number and note that you are doing that on the comments line.

By leaving the carcasses in the field we can come up with a removal rate to adjust for more sporadic checks in later years as the project goes forward.

Please contact me for assistance or questions. If you experience a large kill or have identification questions please contact me at 828-265-0198 or 828-262-5425 or email me at csmalling@audubon.org. Thank you for your help.

Swept area for small wind tower carcass monitoring



