



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2026-0166; FXMB123109WEBB0-267-FF09M26000;

OMB Control Number 1018-0019]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; North American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection without change.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (please reference OMB Control No. 1018-0019 in the subject line of your comment):

- Internet (preferred): <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2026-0166.
- U.S. mail: Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W); Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358-2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind,

hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA; 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again inviting the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comments addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of

information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Abstract:* The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) designates the Department of the Interior as the primary agency responsible for managing migratory bird populations frequenting the United States and setting hunting regulations that allow for the well-being of migratory bird populations. These responsibilities dictate that we gather accurate data on various characteristics of migratory bird populations.

The North American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey is an essential part of the migratory bird management program. Federal, State, Provincial, Tribal, and local conservation agencies conduct the survey annually to provide the data necessary to determine the population status of the American woodcock. In addition, the information is vital in assessing the relative changes in the geographic distribution of the species. We use the information primarily to develop recommendations for hunting regulations. Without information on the population's status, we might promulgate hunting regulations that:

- Are not sufficiently restrictive, which could cause harm to the woodcock population, or
- Are too restrictive, which would unduly restrict recreational opportunities afforded by woodcock hunting.

State, local, Tribal, Provincial, and Federal conservation agencies, as well as other

participants, use Form 3-156 to conduct annual field surveys. Instructions for completing the survey and reporting data are on the reverse of the form and on the Internet.

Observers scan/email or scan/upload (via the link provided) Form 3-156 to State and Province coordinators and/or enter the information electronically through the Internet at <https://naturecounts.ca/nc/amwo/main.jsp>.

We collect observer information (name and email address) so that we can contact the observer if questions or concerns arise. Observers provide information on:

- Sky condition, temperature, wind, and precipitation;
- Stop number;
- Odometer reading;
- Time at each stop;
- Number of American Woodcock males heard peenting (calling);
- Disturbance level; and/or
- Comments concerning the survey.

Data results are entered via a web browser application by the observer or a State or Province coordinator. A mobile application which operates on portable electronic devices is also available to enter data while in the field. Substantial improvements are still being made to the browser that will mimic the user experience of the mobile application. The data entry feature for both will still be collecting data on all the same fields within the survey form. For those routes with spatial data within the mobile application, a mapping feature allows observers to see each stop location along the route and keep track of their current location. This will assist in stop location verification efforts and help maintain a verified spatial reference for the survey. Stop location verification, or more broadly, device location verification, is the process of confirming the physical location of a user's device (phone, computer) using GPS, Wi-Fi, or cellular network data.

The administrator sends paper-based survey forms to every observer; however, the observer is not required to submit the paper-based results to the Service. They are advised to send a copy to State and Province coordinators for data entry, quality assurance and quality control checks, and/or follow up.

We use the information that we collect to analyze the survey data and prepare reports. Assessment of the population's status serves to guide the Service, the States, and the Canadian Government in the annual promulgation of hunting regulations.

*Title of Collection:* North American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0019. *Form Number:* Form 3-156.

*Type of Review:* Renewal, without change, of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, Provincial, local, and Tribal Governments.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* Annually.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

Requirement	Average No. of Annual Respondents	Average No. of Responses Each	Average No. of Annual Responses	Average Completion Time per Response (Hours)	Estimated (Rounded) Annual Burden Hours
<b><i>Survey – US (App Submission)</i></b>					
Government	290	1	290	2.05	595
<b><i>Survey – CAN (App Submission)</i></b>					
Foreign Gov.	100	1	100	2.05	205
<b><i>Survey – US (In the Field App Collection and Submission)</i></b>					
Government	291	1	291	1.92	559
<b><i>Survey – CAN (In the Field App Collection and Submission)</i></b>					
Foreign Gov.	101	1	101	1.92	194
<b><i>Survey – US</i></b>					
Government	2	1	2	1.92	4
<b><i>Survey – CAN</i></b>					
Foreign Gov.	36	1	36	1.92	69
<b><i>TOTALS:</i></b>	820		820		1,626

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C.

3501 et seq.).

**Madonna Baucum,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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