

**WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION GUIDE
PASSERINE AND OTHER SMALL BIRDS**

Date of Survey _____ Time Start _____ Time End
Observer! Recorder _____ Weather _____
Name of landowner _____ Location _____
Current land-use practice/irrigation method _____
Project-related changes _____

GROUP MODEL

Representative Species: American robin, Black-billed magpie, Homed lark, Red-winged blackbird, Vesper sparrow, Yellow-rumped warbler.

Habitat: Nearly all terrestrial habitats used by this group; grassland, marsh, agriculture, sagebrush, woodland, forests, and others.

Special Habitat Requirements: Robins, magpies, and yellow-rumped warblers typically require trees for nesting. RWB typically nests in or near marshes or other tall reedy vegetation near water. Most members of this group require some amount of open terrain. Minimal water requirements.

Food Habits: Most feed primarily on insects, other invertebrates, seeds, and smaller amounts of fruit and berries. The magpie also feeds on carrion, small mammals, and eggs.

HABITAT INVENTORY

RATING

a. Cropland Quantity and Quality

a. ____

Percent of area in cropland:

41-60%	= 1.0
21-40% or 61-80%	= 0.5
11-20% or 81-90%	= 0.3
0-10% or 91-100%	= 0.1

Deduct 0.3 -0.5 points for any heavy (e.g., moldboard plow) tillage, burning, grazing, or other destruction of crop residue, or pesticide application that would reduce cover and food supply.

Rationale: Members of this group utilize a variety of habitat types.

Therefore, the assumption is that wildlife diversity is positively correlated with habitat diversity and a moderate percentage of cropland interspersed with other habitats will support many of the species in this group. Clean-farming practices and extensive use of pesticides are detrimental to these species.

b. Herbaceous Vegetation Quantity and Quality

b. ____

Percent of area with uncultivated herbaceous vegetation:

41-60%	= 1.0
21-40% or 61-80%	= 0.5

11-20% or 81-90%	= 0.3
0-10% or 91-100%	= 0.1

Deduct 0.3 -0.5 points for any heavy (e.g., moldboard plow) *tillage*, burning, grazing, or other loss of herbaceous cover that would reduce cover and food supply.

Rationale: Maximizing habitat diversity will increase species diversity. Clean-farming practices and extensive use of pesticides are detrimental to these species.

c. Woody Vegetation Quantity and Quality **c. ____**

Percent of area with woody vegetation (shrubs and trees):

41-60%	= 1.0
21-40% or 61-80%	= 0.5
11-20% or 81-90%	= 0.3
0-10% or 91-100%	= 0.1

Rationale: Maximizing habitat diversity will increase species diversity. Clean-farming practices and extensive use of pesticides are detrimental to these species.

d. Interspersion of Vegetation Types **d. ____**

Avg. distance between vegetation types <200 feet	= 1.0
Avg. distance between vegetation types 200-500 feet	= 0.5
Avg. distance between vegetation types >500 feet	= 0.3

Rationale: Maximizing habitat diversity will increase species diversity. However, most members of this group are highly mobile and often travel lengthy distances between feeding and roosting sites. However, longer distance between feeding and roosting areas could result in excessive energy expenditure.

e. Human Disturbance **e. ____**

Infrequently used roads; no occupied dwellings in study area; urban development at least 1/2 mile away;	= 1.0
Occasionally used roads; 1 occupied dwelling per 40 acres; urban development 1/4 to 1/2 mile away;	= 0.5
Study area <40 acres; contains 2 or more occupied dwellings or frequently used roads; within 1/4 mile of urban development;	= 0.3

Rationale: Human activity and harassment can sometimes deter members of this group from otherwise suitable habitat.

f. Lakes, Ponds, Wetlands, Streams **f. ____**

Avg. distance from any point in study area to perennial lake, pond, stream or other wetland is <1/2 mile.	= 1.0
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Avg. distance from any point in study area to perennial stream or wetland is 1/2 .1 mile or average distance from any point in study area to seasonal stream or wetland is <1/2 mile = 0.5

Avg. distance from any point in study area to perennial wetland is 1-5 miles or average distance from any point in study area to intermittent lake, pond, stream, or wetland is 1/2- . = 0.3

Avg. distance from any point in study area to a perennial wetland is greater than 5 miles or average distance from any point in study area to intermittent wetland is 1-5 miles. = 0.1

Deduct 0.2-0.5 points for any grazing, cultivation, burning, vegetation removal or pesticide use within 1/2 mile of lake, pond, wetland or stream.

Rationale: Wetland habitats are used extensively by many members of this group.

HABITAT VALUE

$$\text{Habitat value} = \frac{\text{Total Rating}}{\text{No. of inventory factors rated}}$$

LIMITING FACTORS

ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES