

2013 ENHANCED COUNTY LISTING SPREADSHEET

by Matt Bartels & Michael Hobbs

Intro:

In 2003, I made available an excel spreadsheet for use in easily tracking county life lists. It is based on the abundance codes maintained by Washington Birder [aka Ken & Laurie Knittle, with help from local birders], and I've updated it whenever new taxonomical changes and county firsts have come out. Last year, Michael Hobbs put together this new version of the spreadsheet, using his magical skills as a programmer. The new version starts with the same basic format as the previous spreadsheet, but goes way beyond it in creating helpful tools for the county lister.

My strongest recommendation: If you liked the old version you'll love the new version – take a little time to plough through the intro materials below with a copy of the new spreadsheet open [ideally, with your data already imported]. Once you've got the hang of the various bells & whistles, it is easy to use. If you've never used the old version, there's no reason not to just dive in with the new one.

Matt Bartels
mattxyz@earthlink.net

Instructions for using the new 'enhanced' county spreadsheet.

System requirements: You'll need at least Excel 2007 to be able to use all the functions in these sheets.

This new version of the spreadsheet includes a lot of helpful extras that make use of 'macros' in more recent versions of excel. We are still learning about glitches as we test this on PCs and Macs, so please let us know if/when you run across problems. When you open the file, you may be asked whether or not you would like to 'enable macros' – always say 'yes' to this question, or the extras won't work.

Sometimes on Macs, when you push one of the buttons mentioned below you'll receive an error message. In all the cases I've come across so far, you just click ok and everything will be fine.

If you are not familiar with the 'traditional' county spreadsheet we've made available here, I'd recommend first reading the instructions for that spreadsheet to get a sense of how to enter your county 'ticks' into the base spreadsheet.

To begin with this spreadsheet, either paste in a copy of your most recent spreadsheet data [see below] onto the Master sheet in the new file [using the instructions provided at http://wabirder.com/bartel_co_checklist.html], or re-enter your data onto the Master sheet. As with all the earlier updates, it can be a bit confusing and cumbersome to do this periodic transfer from an older to a newer version -- I recommend you save backup copies before you start the process. The short version of what you need to do:

1. Sort the new spreadsheet and your old one in a common sort order [AOU 52nd supplement is a good one to use, since your list is probably already in that order].
2. Add rows in your old sheet where new species have been added, and delete rows of species that have been removed from the list.
3. Check the row number for House Sparrow on both sheets to make sure they are the same.
4. Copy the data field from your old list [everything from the first Clallam species to House Sparrow in Yakima, but not the species & county names or total columns/rows].
5. On the new sheet, click into the first box and select 'paste special' [not paste] and then select 'values' on the dialog box that opens.
6. Double-check the totals look the same as in your old version.
7. Sort the new spreadsheet according to the newest tax order.
8. Play.

Here's a summary of the various features of the new enhanced spreadsheet:

Sheet 1: Master Sheet– this works just like the old version – totaling county lists, state , eastern & western WA totals and # of counties in which you've seen each species. You'll need to be on this sheet to access a couple other features mentioned below.

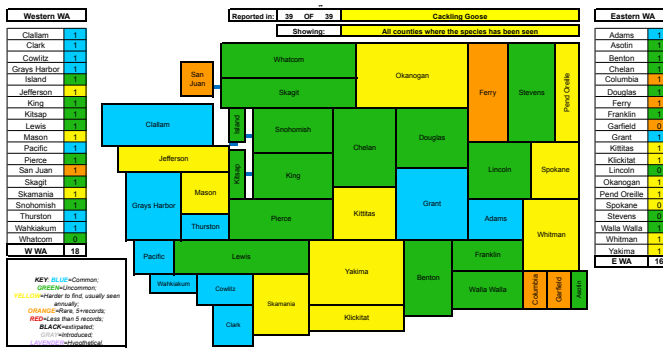
COMMON NAME(below) <i>(credits at bottom)</i>	Ben	Ber	But	Can	Cha	Clats	Columbia	Franklin	Gilliam	Grant	Harney	Hood	Klickitat	Lincoln	Linn	Multnomah	Polk	Sherman	Strom	Tillamook	Wasco	Wash	Yamhill	Yas	Yon	W	E	T	
	182	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188	
Fulvous Whistling-Duck																										0	0	0	
Taipei Bean-Goose																											0	0	0
Greater White-fronted Goose																										18	6	24	
Empidon Goose																										3	0	3	
Snow Goose																										6	15	21	
Ross's Goose																										2	1	3	
Brent																										14	0	14	
Cackling Goose																										18	18	36	
Canada Goose																										19	20	39	
Mute Swan																										1	0	1	
Trumpeter Swan																										18	5	23	
Tundra Swan																										16	15	31	
Whisper Swan																										1	0	1	
Wood Duck																										19	20	39	
Gadwall																										19	20	39	
Falcated Duck																										0	0	0	
Eurasian Wigeon																										19	12	31	
American Wigeon																										19	20	39	
American Black Duck*																										0	0	0	
Mallard																										19	20	39	
Blue-winged Teal																										13	17	30	
Cinnamon Teal																										14	17	31	
Northern Shoveler																										19	20	39	
Northern Pintail																										19	20	39	
Garganey																										0	0	0	
Belted Teal																										1	0	1	
Green-winged Teal																										19	20	39	
Canvasback																										17	16	33	
Redhead																										7	18	25	
Ring-necked Duck																										19	20	39	
Tufted Duck																										5	0	5	
Greater Scaup																										18	18	36	
Lesser Scaup																										19	19	38	
Stellar's Eider																										0	0	0	
King Eider																										2	0	2	
Common Eider																										2	0	2	
Harlequin Duck																										13	3	16	
Surf Scoter																										18	7	25	
White-winged Scoter																										18	1	19	

Western WA Average	Eastern WA Average	WA Average:
191.42	188.85	190.10

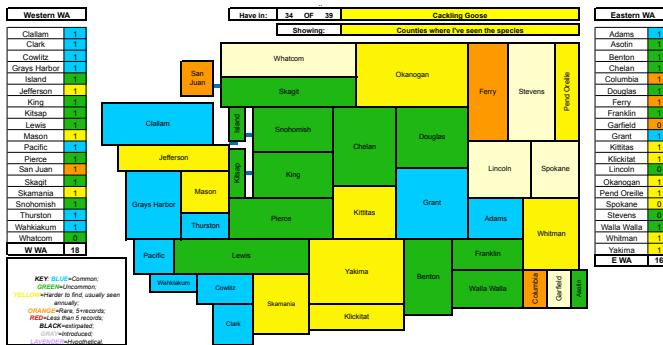
Above: A sample excerpt from the master spreadsheet

Sheet 2: Species Sheet – this sheet allows you to view species abundance in three different ways. When you open this sheet, you’ll see a map of Washington state in the center, with the counties delineated. Along each side are lists of the counties [divided into eastern & western WA lists]. At the top, towards the left side are the buttons you use to control the map creation. The first buttons in a row are arrows on either side of the ‘jump to a species’ button. The arrows allow you to step forward or backward through the taxonomic order of Washington birds. Click ‘jump to a species’ to see a pulldown menu you can use to get to a specific species quickly.

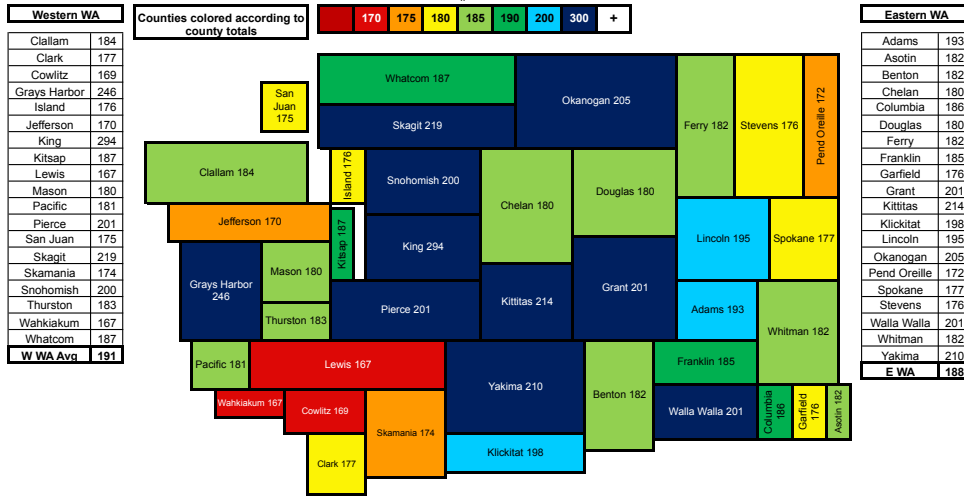
The button below this is labeled **“Change map Display Type”** – click this and a dialog box opens that allows you to select one of 3 map displays – the first option displays the color coded abundance for the species selected w/o regard to which counties you have seen the species. With the second option, you can see all the counties where you have already seen a species [and what the abundance is for that species in each of those counties]. Counties where you have not seen the species are colored either off-white or white. Those in off-white are counties where the species has been recorded previously. Those in white have never had a report of the species. With the 3rd display option, you can see all the counties where you have not yet seen a species [and what the abundance is for that species in each of those counties]. Counties in this display are color coded when the species has been reported before in that county, white when the species has never before been seen in that county, and off-white when you’ve already seen a species in that county.



Above: The first map shows the color-coded abundance for Cackling Goose in Washington State.



Sheet 3: Ranking Sheet – this sheet gives you a color coded ranking of your county lists in the state, represented on a state map. You set the thresholds for when a county moves ‘up’ in ranking, and using this you can quickly see which counties are your ‘best’ ones, and which ones still need more work.



Above: County Ranking Sheet: In the above screen grab, even with the text too small to read totals, you can easily interpret the colors to see that the southwestern counties are the ones where I need the most work [in red], and the counties surrounding King Co are the ones where my totals are highest [in dark blue]

Along the top are the county totals that serve as ‘thresholds’ for each color code on the map – play with those numbers to find a series of #s that give you a meaningful breakdown of your county totals -- once you’ve adjusted those thresholds as desired, and whenever you’ve added new county ticks to the master sheet, click on the button labeled “Update color ranking” to have your changes reflected in the map.

Important: This map does not automatically update when you add county ticks to the master sheet – always click ‘update color ranking’ when you come to this sheet to be sure it is reflecting your most current status.

County Needs Lists: Back on the Master Spreadsheet, click ‘control+N’ [for Macs, click through the error message]. This opens a dialog box where you select a county and click ok. After a bit of processing, you’ll have a single list of all the birds you need for a county, along with their abundance code. This list will appear in a new sheet with the county name on it, after the first three sheets.

Skamania County Needs: (Have 174)			
Snow Goose		Semipalmated Plover	
Ross's Goose		Lesser Yellowlegs	
Brant		Long-billed Curlew	
Blue-winged Teal		Sanderling	
Cinnamon Teal		Semipalmated Sandpiper	
Harlequin Duck		Pectoral Sandpiper	
Surf Scoter		Long-billed Dowitcher	
White-winged Scoter		Wilson's Phalarope	
Black Scoter		Red-necked Phalarope	
Long-tailed Duck		Red Phalarope	
Smew		Sabine's Gull	
Mountain Quail		Thayer's Gull	
Gray Partridge		Glaucous Gull	
Ring-necked Pheasant		Common Tern	
Ruffed Grouse		Parasitic Jaeger	
Spruce Grouse		Barn Owl	
White-tailed Ptarmigan		Western Screech-Owl	
Red-throated Loon		Burrowing Owl	
Pacific Loon		Spotted Owl	
Clark's Grebe		Barred Owl	
American White Pelican		Great Gray Owl	
Brown Pelican		Long-eared Owl	
American Bittern		Boreal Owl	
Cattle Egret		Northern Saw-whet Owl	
Green Heron		Black Swift	
California Condor		Black-chinned Hummingbird	
Northern Goshawk		Calliope Hummingbird	
Swainson's Hawk		Broad-tailed Hummingbird	
Rough-legged Hawk		Acorn Woodpecker	
Golden Eagle		Common Gray Owl	
Merlin		Red-naped Sapsucker	
Prairie Falcon		White-headed Woodpecker	
Sandhill Crane		Black-backed Woodpecker	
		Dusky Flycatcher	
		Ash-throated Flycatcher	
		Western Kingbird	
		Philadelphia Vireo	
		Blue Jay	
		Black-billed Magpie	
		Bank Swallow	
		Pymy Nuthatch	
		Rock Wren	
		Veery	
		Sage Thrasher	
		American Pipit	
		Bohemian Waxwing	
		Lapland Longspur	
		Chestnut-collared Longspur	
		Snow Bunting	
		Ovenbird	
		Northern Waterthrush	
		Tennessee Warbler	
		American Redstart	
		Yellow-breasted Chat	
		American Tree Sparrow	
		Clay-colored Sparrow	
		Brewer's Sparrow	
		Black-throated Sparrow	
		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
		Indigo Bunting	
		Yellow-headed Blackbird	
		Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	
		Cassin's Finch	
		White-winged Crossbill	
		Lesser Goldfinch	

Above: A sample of what a “County Needs List” looks like – my Skamania needs list

County Life List: To generate a list of all the species you have already seen in a county, follow the above procedure, but click ‘control+L’ – Life lists will appear as new sheets as well labeled with the county name and ‘life’ [I.e, “King Life”]

Asotin Life List: 182				
Cackling Goose (2)	Eared Grebe (3)	Least Sandpiper (3)	Olive-sided Flycatcher (1)	White-breasted Nuthatch (3)
Canada Goose (1)	Western Grebe (2)	Baird's Sandpiper (5)	Western Wood-Pewee (1)	Pygmy Nuthatch (2)
Tundra Swan (2)	Double-crested Cormorant (1)	Wilson's Snipe (3)	Willow Flycatcher (1)	Brown Creeper (2)
Wood Duck (1)	Great Blue Heron (1)	Ring-billed Gull (1)	Hammond's Flycatcher (1)	Rock Wren (1)
Gadwall (2)	Great Egret (2)	California Gull (2)	Gray Flycatcher (5)	Canyon Wren (1)
Eurasian Wigeon (3)	Black-crowned Night-Heron (4)	Herring Gull (2)	Dusky Flycatcher (1)	Bewick's Wren (1)
American Wigeon (1)	Turkey Vulture (3)	Island Gull (5)	Pacific-slope Flycatcher (4)	House Wren (1)
Mallard (1)	Coppy (1)	Glaucous-winged Gull (3)	Corvidae Flycatcher (2)	Marsh Wren (2)
Blue-winged Teal (2)	Bald Eagle (1)	Glaucous Gull (4)	Say's Phoebe (1)	American Dipper (2)
Northern Shoveler (2)	Northern Harrier (1)	Clayton Tern (3)	Western Kingbird (1)	Golden-crowned Kinglet (1)
Northern Pintail (2)	Sharp-shinned Hawk (1)	Common Tern (5)	Eastern Kingbird (1)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1)
Green-winged Teal (1)	Cooper's Hawk (2)	Foster's Tern (2)	Northern Shrike (2)	Western Bluebird (1)
Redhead (3)	Swainson's Hawk (3)	Rock Pigeon (1)	Cassin's Vireo (1)	Mountain Bluebird (1)
Ring-necked Duck (2)	Red-tailed Hawk (1)	Eurasian Collared-Dove (3)	Warbling Vireo (1)	Townsend's Solitaire (2)
Bullhead (1)	Rough-legged Hawk (1)	Mourning Dove (1)	Red-eyed Vireo (1)	Swainson's Thrush (2)
Common Goldeneye (1)	Golden Eagle (1)	Barn Owl (2)	Gray Jay (2)	Hermits Thrush (2)
Barrow's Goldeneye (1)	American Kestrel (1)	Great Horned Owl (1)	Steller's Jay (1)	American Robin (1)
Hooded Merganser (1)	Prairie Falcon (3)	Snowy Owl (5)	Black-billed Magpie (1)	Gray Catbird (2)
Common Merganser (1)	Virginia Rail (2)	Northern Pygmy-Owl (2)	American Crow (2)	European Starling (1)
Ruddy Duck (2)	Sora (4)	Short-eared Owl (3)	Common Raven (1)	Cedar Waxwing (1)
California Quail (1)	American Coot (1)	Common Nighthawk (1)	Horned Lark (1)	Orange-crowned Warbler (1)
Chukar (1)	Sandhill Crane (5)	Vaux's Swift (2)	Tree Swallow (2)	Nashville Warbler (2)
Gray Partridge (1)	Semipalmated Plover (4)	Black-chinned Hummingbird (1)	Violet-green Swallow (1)	Maccollivay's Warbler (1)
Ring-necked Pheasant (1)	Killdeer (1)	Calliope Hummingbird (1)	N. Rough-winged Swallow (1)	Common Yellowthroat (4)
Ruffed Grouse (3)	Black-necked Stilt (4)	Rufous Hummingbird (1)	Bank Swallow (1)	Yellow Warbler (1)
Dusky Grouse (3)	American Avocet (3)	Belted Kingfisher (1)	Coff Swallow (1)	Yellow-rumped Warbler (1)
Wild Turkey (1)	Spotted Sandpiper (1)	Williamson's Sapsucker (1)	Barn Swallow (1)	Townsend's Warbler (1)
Pacific Loon (5)	Solitary Sandpiper (4)	Red-naped Sapsucker (1)	Black-capped Chickadee (1)	Wilson's Warbler (2)
Common Loon (3)	Lesser Yellowlegs (3)	Downy Woodpecker (1)	Mountain Chickadee (1)	Yellow-breasted Chat (1)
Pied-billed Grebe (2)	Semipalmated Sandpiper (4)	Hairy Woodpecker (1)	Chestnut-backed Chickadee (2)	Green-tailed Towhee (4)
Horned Grebe (2)	Western Sandpiper (3)	Northern Flicker (1)	Red-breasted Nuthatch (1)	Spotted Towhee (1)

Above: A sample of a “County Life” list – my Asotin list.

A few other tips:

For those not too familiar with working with multiple sheets in excel files: Each sheet has a tab along the bottom of the file window. The first 3 sheets in this file are the ones we've mentioned above: Master, Species & Rank. As you create county need and county life lists, these will be added as additional sheets, with the tabs to the right of the first 3. New tabs appear just after the 'Rank' tab. I'd recommend rearranging your county needs sheets into a more manageable order – I alphabetize them, split between Western WA and Eastern WA.

County need & life sheets are not automatically updated – so you'll want to regenerate them periodically to reflect new totals. When you do this, if you have not already deleted the previous sheet for that county, the new sheet will not be given the default sheet name [County name or County name + life] – After you've deleted the previous version, you will be able to rename the new sheet with the standard name.

If you select a tab and right-click [or control-click on a Mac], you'll see a menu of helpful options – renaming sheets, moving tabs, deleting sheets. You can do the same things with other maneuvers, but this is the one-stop option for most 'tab' needs.

Please send questions & feedback as you get used to the spreadsheet – We'll do our best to help.

Matt Bartels & Michael Hobbs