



Describing Habitat Structure: Estimating Land Cover in Your Point Count Circle

The following technique can be used to estimate the coverage in your 20m radius circular study area:

- 1) Take two pieces of string and divide the plot into 4 equal sections, so the strings cross in the middle.
- 2) Mark the string every four meters. Start marking the first string at meter zero, and the second string at meter 1.
- 3) At each point place a meter stick. In the first column of the data table, record the type of cover beneath your feet and less than 0.15m. Also, in the appropriate column, record the vegetation that is between 0.15m to 1.5m tall and/or that which is taller than 1.5m. Only write down the type of land cover that is at that point and touching your meter stick. The land cover type can be "building" or "cement" as well as plants.
- 4) For each type of ground cover, add the number of times it was recorded, divide by the total number of points and multiply by 100. For example if you recorded "shrubs" at 5 of the points and there were 20 points, then shrubs would be 25% of the land cover ($5/20$ times 100).



Data Table For Describing Land Cover in your Point Count Circle

Point	0 - 0.15 m				0.15m - 1.5m	>1.5m
	Lawn	Gravel or Soil	Pavement or Building	Other Vegetation	Shrubs	Tree Canopy
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

TOTALS:

Lawn $\frac{\quad}{20} = \quad\%$

Other Vegetation $\frac{\quad}{20} = \quad\%$

Gravel/Soil $\frac{\quad}{20} = \quad\%$

Pavement/Building $\frac{\quad}{20} = \quad\%$

Shrubs $\frac{\quad}{20} = \quad\%$

Tree Canopy $\frac{\quad}{20} = \quad\%$