

BDBSA – Minimum Dataset Standards



Photographer: B. Furby, Survey: 0682, Year: 1996, Species: Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Minimum dataset standards are recommended for biological data, to ensure that field data being collected for projects are provided in a consistent and accurate format.

Benefits of dataset standards

The benefits of systematic field data collection and dataset standards are:

- All data collected contains the minimum information considered to make it useful.
- Data may be incorporated into the state's Biological Databases of SA (BDBSA).
- The dataset below represents the recommended minimum for species observation records.

Minimum Dataset Field Descriptions

SURVEYNR (PROJECTNR)	Required	Assigned BDBSA Project Number. Register for a Project Number online via Biological Project Registration Form . For further details refer to the information sheet BDBSA - Biological Project Registration .
ZONE	Required <i>Unless supplying Lat/Long coordinates</i>	Map Grid of Australia Zone. (MGA2020) MGA2020 Zone number entries range between Zone 52 to 54 in South Australia and correspond to Easting and Northing coordinates values.
EASTING	Required <i>Unless supplying Lat/Long coordinates</i>	Easting coordinate entries are the distance measured East from 0 m on the X axis and is expressed in metres. These entries must be recorded as a full 6-digit number e.g. 352678. Note; rounding the last number up to e.g. 352670 will degrade the accuracy of the position by up to 8 metres. Where necessary up to 3 decimals can be included.
NORTHING	Required <i>Unless supplying Lat/Long coordinates</i>	Northing coordinate entries are the distance measured North from 0 m on the Y axis and is expressed in metres. These entries must be recorded as a full 7-digit number e.g. 6065469. Note; rounding the last number up to e.g. 6065460 will degrade the accuracy of the position by up to 9 metres. Where necessary up to 3 decimals can be included.
LATITUDE	Required	Latitude coordinate entries are the distance measured South from the Equator (X axis) and is expressed in decimal degrees e.g. -33.73651.

	<i>Unless supplying E/N coordinates</i>	
LONGITUDE	Required <i>Unless supplying E/N coordinates</i>	Longitude coordinate entries are the distance measured East from the Prime Meridian (Y axis) and is expressed in decimal degrees, e.g. 139.29603.
LOCMETHODNR	Required	Location Method Number is a code describing the coordinate source. See Codes tab in BDBSA - Data Returns Template .
LOCDATUMNR	Required	Location Datum Number is a code describing the coordinate datum e.g. WGS84 = 1. The datum must be recorded regardless of whether Latitude/Longitude or E/N coordinates are used. Without it, incorrect assumptions can be made and cause accuracies to be out by as much as +/- 200 m. It is recommended that the GPS records locations in the datum of WGS84 (World Geodetic System, 1984). Ensure that the settings are checked and remain set at this datum at the beginning of each new session. See Codes tab in BDBSA - Data Returns Template .
RELIABNR	Required	Reliability Number is a code describing the location reliability, which is dependent upon what type of location method was used (method's inherent errors) and the physical distance from target at time of recording. Currently the accuracy of a Geographic Positioning System (GPS) is between 5 to 10 m. See Codes tab in BDBSA - Data Returns Template .
SIGHTINGDATE	Required	Sighting Date is the date of observation or collection and must be recorded in the date format of dd/ mmm /yyyy (e.g. 30/ JUN /20XX) in order to prevent confusion with the American date format (mm/dd/yyyy).
DATEACCURACY	Required	Date Accuracy is a code describing the date reliability and can be recorded as D = Day, M = Month (e.g. Day unknown but Month and Year certain), T = Decade and C = Century.
OBSERVERNR1	Required	Observer Number 1 is the name of the first observer and should be recorded in full but at a minimum, the first name, middle initial and last name should be recorded. Ideally, notes should be kept of the observer's address and affiliated organisation.
OBSERVERNR2	Desirable	Observer Number 2 is the name of the second observer and should be recorded in full but at a minimum, the first name, middle initial and last name should be recorded. Ideally, notes should be kept of the observer's address and affiliated organisation.
SPECIES TYPE	Required	Species Type is a code describing the species group, as follows: A = Amphibian, B = Bird, F = Fish, I = Invertebrate, M = Mammal, P = Plant and R = Reptile.
NSXCODE	Desirable	NSX Code is a code describing a species unique taxonomy. This is the preferred method for providing the scientific names of species. It enables better tracking of taxonomic changes, since the code ties the record to the taxonomic entity. Current NSX codes for plants and fauna may be obtained from the webpage Information sharing and will assist in easier data integration. Please record a Species Comment if the identification was uncertain.
SPECIES	Required	Species is the full scientific name of the species being observed, including Genus Name and Species Name. Sub-specific names may also be recorded if appropriate. Common Names are regarded as optional since they may vary considerably in common usage.
NUMBER OBSERVED	Required	Number Observed is the count of individual species observed. Value types include: individual numbers e.g. '34', number ranges e.g. '> 1000', quantity descriptions e.g. 'many', no count performed e.g. 'present but not counted', individuals searched for but none found e.g. 'none detected' (only available for projects using targeted survey techniques), 'zero', 'blank' or 'null' is invalid. Field cannot be blank.
METHODNR (Fauna)	Required	Method Number (Fauna only) is a code describing the observation or collection method. See Codes tab in BDBSA - Data Returns Template .

LOCDESC	Desirable	Location Description is the description of the location where the observation was made, including site name if appropriate, especially if site will be subject to repeat visits. This information is highly desirable for validating coordinates.
SIGHTINGCOMM	Desirable	Sighting Comment is any comments or notes relating to the sighting that would add value to the record.
HABITATCOMM	Desirable	Habitat Comment is a brief description of the habitat, where the observation was made.
SOURCEID	Desirable	Source Identifier is a unique number that is assigned to each record in the original source, when available.

Preferred way to cite this information sheet

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For more information

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Website:

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