

Preface to 2011 KM_B field observer forms

In interpreting these forms, the following information may be useful:

1. Transect designators were renamed after the field season as the monitoring protocol was finalized. Each field observer sheet lists a correct circled three-character transect identifier just below the page heading. The computer file data for 2011 reflect these three-character designators rather than the original transect names also found on the sheets.
2. Transect 021 had to be truncated due to cruise ship interference. The data obtained up to the stopping point were retained.
3. Because the frequency of observation can be so high in the field, corrections called in for observations already saved – even observations a few seconds old – cannot be immediately edited into the database, as this would require pausing the survey to make each correction. Instead, the correction is noted on the field observer form along with the approximate timestamp of the original recorded observation. These are then applied at the end of the transect or, if conditions require, at the quality control process following the field work. By way of illustration, a notation of “16:33 2U S/B 2M” is shorthand for the correction “at the observation stamped at time 16:33, 2 unidentified species murrelets should be 2 marbled murrelets.”

