

Mapping Bird Migrations—Part III



Instructions for Mapping Bird Migrations Using Google Maps

ALASKA

- ⇒ On Google Maps, find the Search bar.
- ⇒ To the left of the Search bar, click on the 3 parallel lines.
- ⇒ Click on “Your Places,” then click “MAPS”, go to the bottom and click “CREATE MAP”. A new tab will pop up. This will be your online migration map!
- ⇒ Rename your “Untitled Map” anything you like, maybe “My Migration Map Online”?
- ⇒ Now click back on the Data Sheet tab.
- ⇒ Find the four rows of data for the Dunlin.
- ⇒ Highlight and copy (control-C) the first set of numbers (22.500035, 114.027945) in the column called “Location (Precise Latitude & Longitude)”.
- ⇒ Click back to the Google Maps tab.
- ⇒ Paste those numbers (control-V) into the “Search” bar.
- ⇒ Hit the “Enter” key on your keyboard and see where you land. This is the exact spot where you banded the Dunlin!
- ⇒ Zoom in and out by clicking the + and – buttons in the lower right on your screen, or use the zoom on your mouse.
- ⇒ Next, click on the “Add Marker” icon. It’s the grey shape on the toolbar, under the search bar, and just to the right of the Hand icon.
- ⇒ Click back on the map right next to where you landed, so that the marker is placed in the correct spot.
- ⇒ Rename the point “Dunlin Banding Site” or perhaps something more creative. There’s no need to rename the “Untitled Layer”
- ⇒ If you want to rename the point, click on the marker and select the “Edit” function (the little pencil icon).
- ⇒ Now click back to the Data Sheet tab.
- ⇒ Highlight & copy the next set of coordinates for the Dunlin, and paste them back into the Google Maps Search bar.
- ⇒ Add another marker here and name it something like “Dunlin Recapture Site #1”, or anything you like.
- ⇒ Zoom out, way out, until you can see both points, one in China, and one in Japan.
- ⇒ Keep plotting the rest of the Dunlin points and adding markers.
- ⇒ When you have marked all of the data for the Dunlin, zoom way out until you can see all four points on the map.
- ⇒ Select the “Measure” tool (the ruler on the far right side of the tool bar).
- ⇒ Click one time on the first point, in China. Click again on the second point, in Japan. Click again on the third point, in Russia. Click on the last point, in Alaska and click again in the same spot. Can you see how far the Dunlin flew?
- ⇒ Now get your printed out worksheet. Fill out the data table with the distance flown by the Dunlin.
- ⇒ Work through the data for the other four birds, using Google Maps and the Data Sheet. You can try making the markers to make each bird a different color. You can do this by clicking on the marker and selecting the “Style” icon and choosing a new color.
- ⇒ Fill out your printed out worksheet with the distances flown by all the birds.
- ⇒ Click back to the Data Sheet and look at the column called “Explore these sites.” Click on some of the links to find out more about the public lands and protected areas that your birds are using on their journeys!
- ⇒ Work through the rest of the worksheet and answer the questions.
- ⇒ Talk through your answers, and go through the Discussion & Thinking questions with a friend or family member.
- ⇒ Or email us at audubonalaska@audubon.org and let us know if you have any ideas or questions!