



# LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE SURVEY

**Instructions:** This survey is designed to take less than 5 minutes. It is critical that you record information at two sites; (1) where you first encounter the shrike(s), and (2) an unoccupied site in the first similar habitat type at least 1 mile away from the first site. This will shed light on key factors that shrikes use to choose habitat. It is also vital that you GPS both sites using the correct units and datum since landscape variables will be collected from remote satellite imagery for each site. Please return all forms to Nathan Klaus, GA DNR/WRD, Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program, 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029. For further information and questions, contact: Nathan\_Klaus@dnr.state.ga.us

Name:	Date:		
Daytime Phone:	Email:		
<b>SAMPLE SITE #1 (where a shrike was seen)</b>			
<b>State:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Lat. (decimal degrees, NAD 83):</b>	<b>Long:</b>
# of shrikes present:	Shrike Activity (circle one):	Nesting      Perching (circle one): Fence, Utility line, or Shrub/tree	In flight      Other (specify): _____
<b>Primary habitat type within 50 feet of the bird when first seen (circle only one of the seven habitat types):</b>			
1) Pasture			
2) Hayfield (circle type): Fescue    Bermuda    Unknown			
A) If pasture or hayfield (circle one): Actively grazed or Re-growing    B) Average grass height: 1" 2" 3" 4-6" 6-10" >10"			
3) House/lawn			
4) Parking lot			
5) Pine savanna			
6) Agriculture (specify type): _____			
7) Pine plantation			
8) Other habitat type (specify golf course, athletic field, industrial site, etc.): _____			
<b>OTHER FEATURES</b>			
<b>1. If shrike is near a roadside, what is the average height (inches) of the roadside grass?</b>			
<b>2. Describe habitat variables (below) within 250 feet of shrike sighting:</b>			
<b>Habitat Variables</b>	<b>Present w/in 250'</b>	<b>3. How far from the nearest road was this shrike first seen?</b>	
Bare ground >1 acre	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	0-50 feet	50-100 feet
Gravel patch	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<b>4. Define road type:</b>	
Grass < 1" (>1 acre)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Gravel/oil road (minimal traffic)	Paved road (minimal traffic)
Barbed wire	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Two-lane highway	
Cedar trees	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
Dead trees	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
Shrubby fencerow	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
Native groundcover	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		

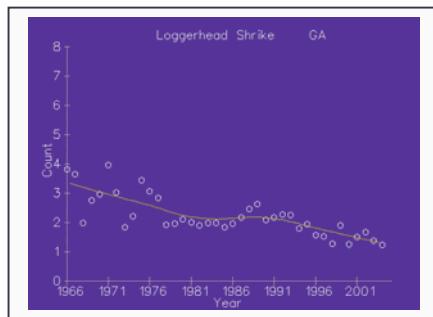
<b>SAMPLE SITE #2 (at least 1 mile away from SAMPLE SITE #1 - no shrikes present)</b>			
<b>State:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Lat. (decimal degrees, NAD 83):</b>	<b>Long:</b>
<b>Primary habitat type within 50 feet (circle only one of the seven habitat types):</b>			
1) Pasture			
2) Hayfield (circle type): Fescue    Bermuda    Unknown			
A) If pasture or hayfield (circle one): Actively grazed or Re-growing    B) Average grass height: 1" 2" 3" 4-6" 6-10" >10"			
3) House/lawn			
4) Parking lot			
5) Pine savanna			
6) Agriculture (specify type): _____			
7) Pine plantation			
8) Other habitat type (specify golf course, athletic field, industrial site, etc.): _____			
<b>OTHER FEATURES</b>			
<b>1. If site is near a roadside, what is the average height (inches) of the grass along the road?</b>			
<b>2. Describe habitat variables (below) within 250 feet:</b>			
<b>Habitat Variables</b>	<b>Present w/in 250'</b>	<b>3. How far is this site from the nearest road?</b>	
Bare ground >1 acre	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	0-50 feet	50-100 feet
Gravel patch	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<b>4. Define road type:</b>	
Grass < 1" (>1 acre)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Gravel/oil road (minimal traffic)	Paved road (minimal traffic)
Barbed wire	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Two-lane highway	
Cedar trees	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
Dead trees	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
Shrubby fencerow	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
Native groundcover	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		

## Status and Conservation:

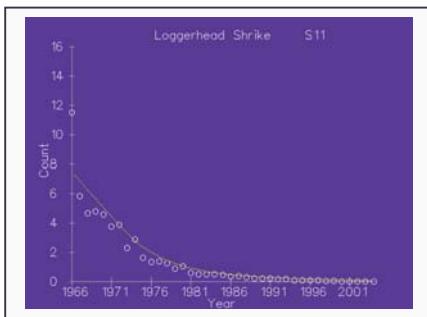
Also known as ‘Butcherbirds’ for their habit of impaling their prey, loggerhead shrikes are present year round throughout Georgia and surrounding states. While some of these birds breed locally, many migrate north to nest. Both local and migratory populations are declining quickly (4.7% annual decline in the Eastern U.S.) and many migrant populations are listed as threatened or endangered. Georgia’s shrikes are faring poorly as well (see BBS trends below), however we still have a good opportunity to conserve this species in much of the southeast if we can better understand the reasons for population declines.

Shrikes are usually found in old field/pasture habitats often hunting along roadsides, though they also use mature longleaf pine savanna. Reasons for their decline are nebulous, but may be tied to changes in land use, pesticides, car strikes (they often fly low across roads) or high nest predation rates (due to their habitat of nesting in linear fencerows). Most puzzling is an apparent abundance of seemingly unoccupied ‘suitable’ habitat. This study is designed to get at some of these questions by more precisely identifying their habitat needs.

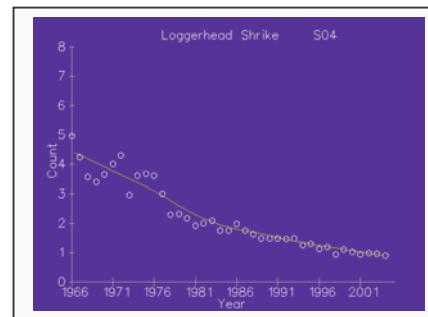
**Georgia Trends**



**Southern Piedmont**



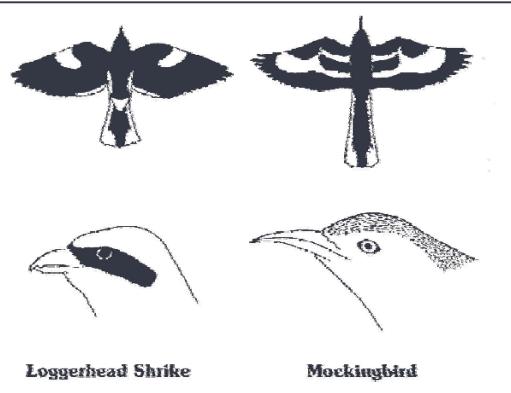
**Lower Coastal Plain**



## Tips on Identification:

Make sure you “get the right guy.” Beginners can mistake mockingbirds for shrikes. If in doubt, make sure you get a good look at the bird before proceeding. If there is any doubt about the bird’s identity don’t fill out a datasheet. It is better to miss a few records than ‘pollute’ the dataset with mistaken identities.

- Shrikes are chunky birds with heavy bills and heads, a black mask and no neck.
- Shrikes frequently perch in open agricultural areas most often on power lines and fences – But careful, so do mockingbirds. With a little practice you can pick them out when driving by.
- Shrikes typically fly low and fast. Their wing beats are shallow and very fast for a bird of their size.
- Both birds have a pattern of white in their wings



**Loggerhead Shrike**



**Northern Mockingbird**



For more information, contact:  
Nathan\_Klaus@dnr.state.ga.us

