

Equipment

Volunteers will receive a kit with the following items.



Bushnell Trophy
Cam HD



Camera Lock Box



Cable Lock



SD Card



Battery Charger



Rechargeable
Batteries



Regular Batteries



SD Card Labels



Padlock and Key



Scent Bait

Establishing Camera Sites

Before each monitoring season, new volunteers will work with the project coordinator to choose their camera site(s). Sites are located in specific areas along the UWIN PDX transect, but volunteers are encouraged to choose sites that are easily accessible to them. New volunteers will then meet with the project coordinator to visit their site and receive training on the camera protocol.

Camera Placement

Placement Dates: First weekend of January, April, July, October

Week Before Placement:

- Charge camera batteries (batteries should be charged as close to placement date as possible)
- Check that the camera date and time is correct (use military time)
- Load camera with SD card

Set-Up:

- Place the camera about 3 ft up on a tree, tie the scent bait to another tree or branch about 10 ft away near the ground. Kneel down next to the scent bait and make sure that the camera lens is pointed at your eyes. Use sticks to tilt the camera down as needed. Clear the area so that the camera is not triggered by leaves or branches blowing in the wind.
- Record the time and date of placement.
- Record the camera ID (located near the batteries or on the top of the camera)
- Turn the camera to "ON", close the camera box, and secure it with a cable lock. You should see a red light flash a few times and go out.



Figure 2: An example site setup. (1) Wrap cords to keep them tight against the tree. Use pieces of wood to prop the camera at the correct angle; (2) Choose a site that has minimal vegetation between the camera and the [optional] lure to prevent windblown vegetation from falsely triggering the camera; (3) Ensure a stable object (tree, pole, fence, etc.) is within 3-5 meters of the camera to use for holding the [optional] lure in place.

Camera Check

Check dates: Mid-month January, April, July, October

- Unlock and open the camera case, turn the switch to "SETUP"
- Check that the battery indicator shows at least 1 bar
- Check the number of photos taken, replace the SD card if it is full
- Make sure that the camera is still angled towards the scent bait and that there are no leaves or branches near the lens.
- Turn the camera back to "ON" and place it back in the camera box. Secure with the lock and check that the red light has blinked.
- Record the date and time of check, note any replacements.

Camera Retrieval

Retrieval dates: Last weekend of January, April, July, October

- Remove the camera and scent bait
- Take out the SD card and place a label sticker on it, mark the SD card with the site ID
- Record the date and time of retrieval, make sure that the camera ID is recorded.
- Send the full season record sheet to the project coordinator
- Upload the photos to the shared Google drive, or the project coordinator can pick up the SD card(s).
- Log volunteer hours for the season
(<https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/>)