

TIEE

Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology - Volume 8, April 2012

This is a short posttest about the group assignment Module 2 – Drivers of Avian Local Species Richness. This is part of a multi-institutional project that has the objective of developing new high-quality exercises in ecoinformatics. The data will be saved for analysis, and possibly be incorporated into a future publication.

You are required to enter information below (first street address, name of first pet) that I can use as an anonymous code to track performance. The records will be anonymous as to your identity, and risk is minimal. Your participation in completing this test is voluntary, and you will not be penalized for submitting a form that is blank. If you have any concerns, you should contact the Clarkson Institutional Research Board irb@clarkson.edu . This study has certificate of exemption number 11-03 E

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First street you lived on _____

Name of your first pet _____

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1. We make an accurate count of the number of butterfly species on our college campus: there are 10 species. Other colleges all across North America do the same and all are accurate. The species number among college campuses varies from 2 to 50 species. What are at least three different, plausible hypotheses to account for the variation in species number across North American college campuses?

2. You are asked what the percentage land use and land cover in the region of your college campus is cropland. How large a radius around your campus do you measure? Justify and explain why your radius is better than a smaller or larger radius?

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Circle your agreement with each statement:

1. I learned ecological concepts by doing this exercise.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

2. I improved my research skills by doing this exercise.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

3. I improved my skills at locating and acquiring data from the internet.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

4. I improved my skills at communicating my research by doing this exercise.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

5. This exercise was complicated and difficult to understand.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

6. This exercise required a lot of time and effort to complete.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

7. This exercise was fun.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

7. Overall, what is your evaluation of this exercise as a tool to learn ecology?

8. What would you change, if anything, about this exercise to make it a better tool to learn ecology?