

Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas II

Recording Coordinates

Coordinates identifying the exact location of an observation are some of the most important data that can be submitted to the atlas. Habitat suitability maps and breeding habitat descriptions can be created from these location data, and atlas coverage across the county can be more accurately evaluated. Coordinates should be within roughly 50 yards of where the actual bird was. Please avoid using the same coordinates for all observations on an entire road or large area.

There are several methods for recording coordinates while in the field and when at a computer. The general recommendation is to use whatever system that you find most manageable. This document describes three methods of recording coordinates that atlasers have found to be most useful.

1. Google Maps on a Desktop
2. Maverick: GPS Navigation app
3. Google Maps on a Mobile Device

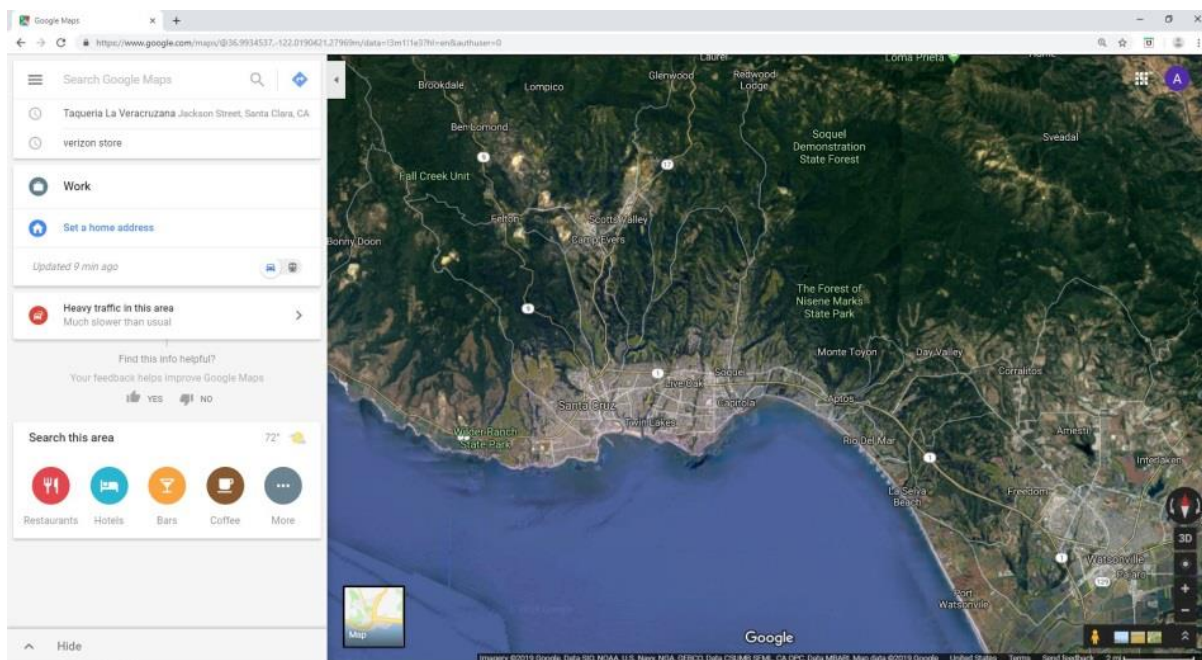


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Google Maps on a Desktop

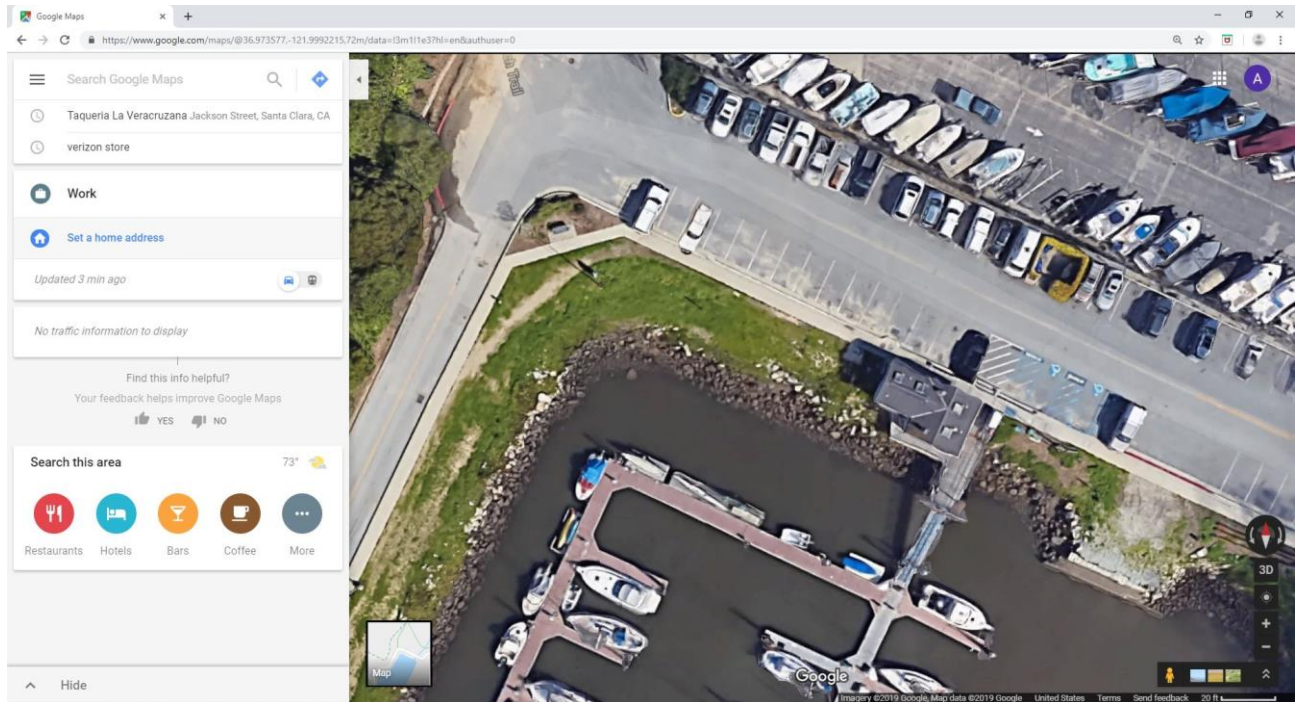
1. Open Google Maps in your internet browser.



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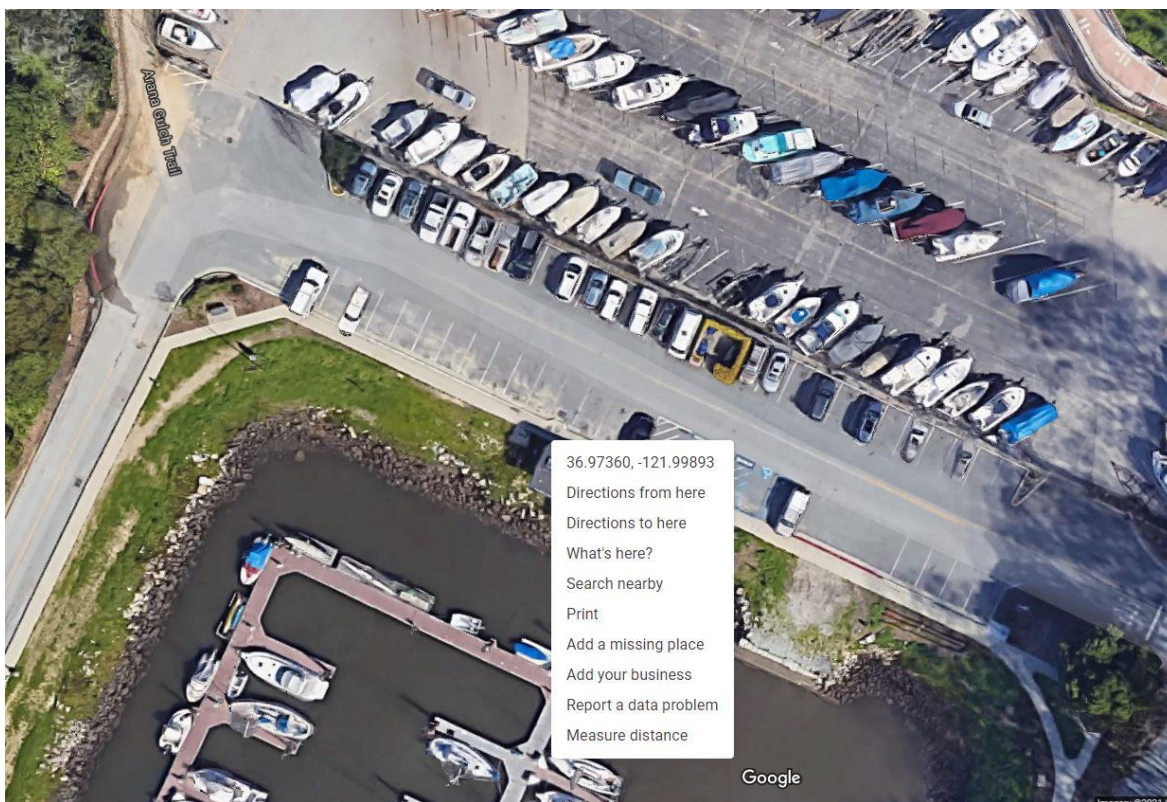
2. Zoom in to where your observation was. Use landmarks and street names to pinpoint where the observation was. The location of the observation may be off-trail or off-road relative to where you were observing from.



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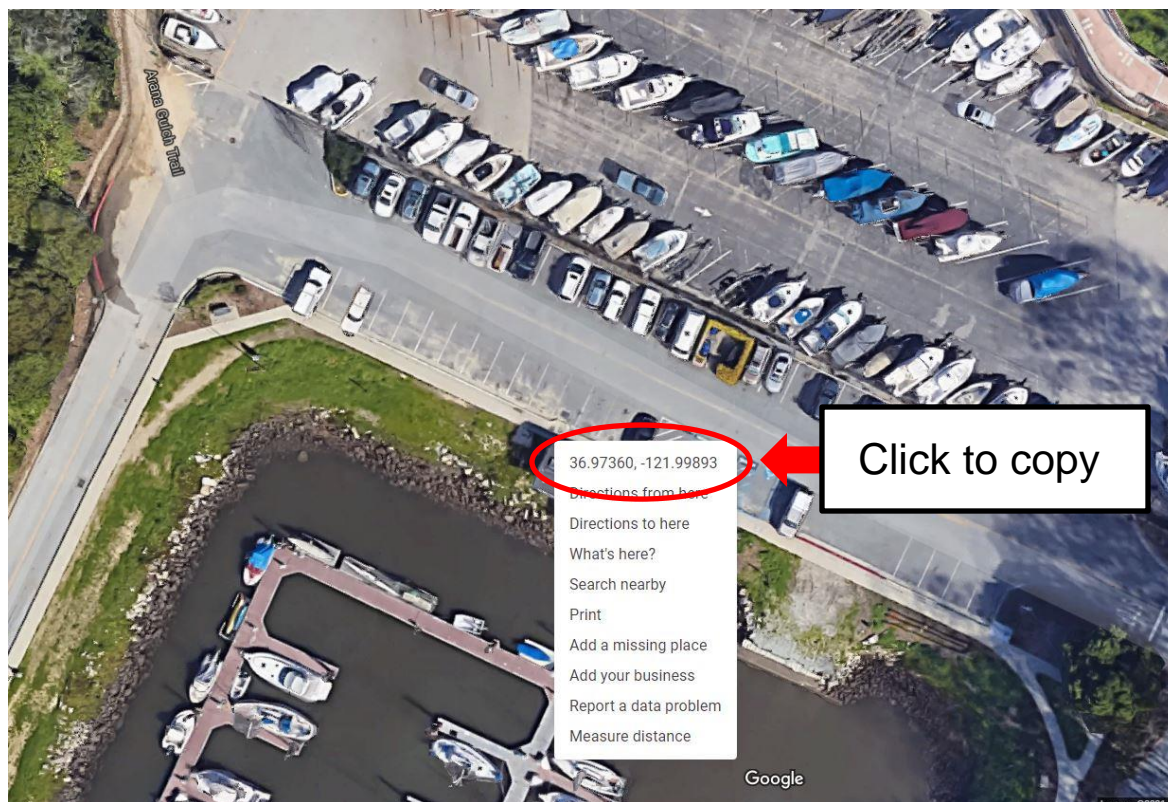
3. Right click on the map where your observation was. A dropdown menu will appear on the map.



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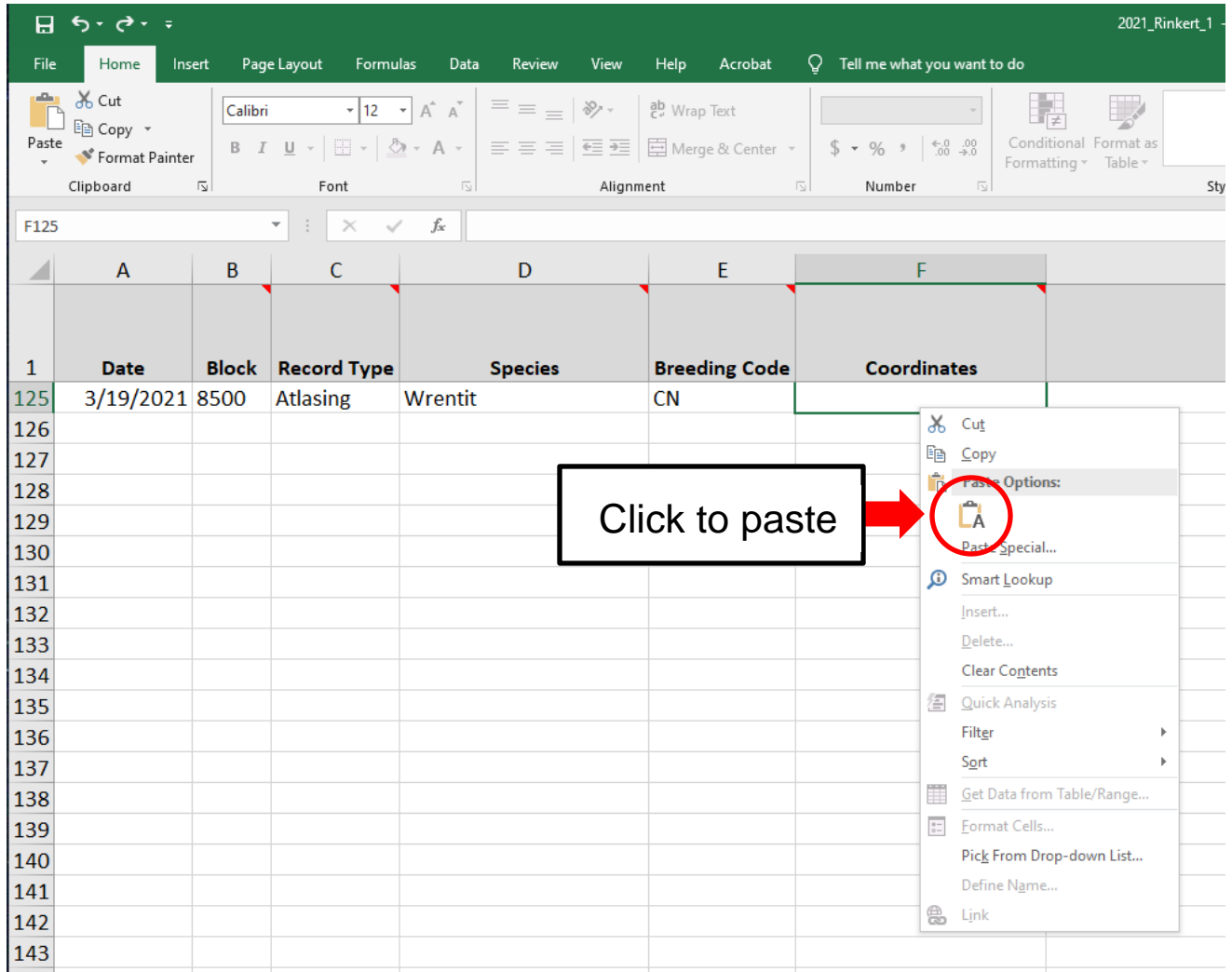
4. Click on the coordinates in the top row of the dropdown menu. They have been automatically copied to your clipboard.



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5. Right click on the coordinates cell in the datasheet and click paste.



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the 'Home' tab selected. The ribbon includes options for Clipboard, Font, Alignment, Number, and Conditional Formatting. The active cell is F125. The worksheet contains a table with the following headers: Date, Block, Record Type, Species, Breeding Code, and Coordinates. The data row 125 shows: 3/19/2021, 8500, Atlasing, Wrentit, CN, and Coordinates. A right-click context menu is open over the Coordinates cell, and the 'Paste' option is highlighted with a red circle. A red arrow points from a text box 'Click to paste' to the 'Paste' option.

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|-----|-----------|-------|-------------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | Date | Block | Record Type | Species | Breeding Code | Coordinates |
| 125 | 3/19/2021 | 8500 | Atlasing | Wrentit | CN | |
| 126 | | | | | | |
| 127 | | | | | | |
| 128 | | | | | | |
| 129 | | | | | | |
| 130 | | | | | | |
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| 140 | | | | | | |
| 141 | | | | | | |
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| 143 | | | | | | |



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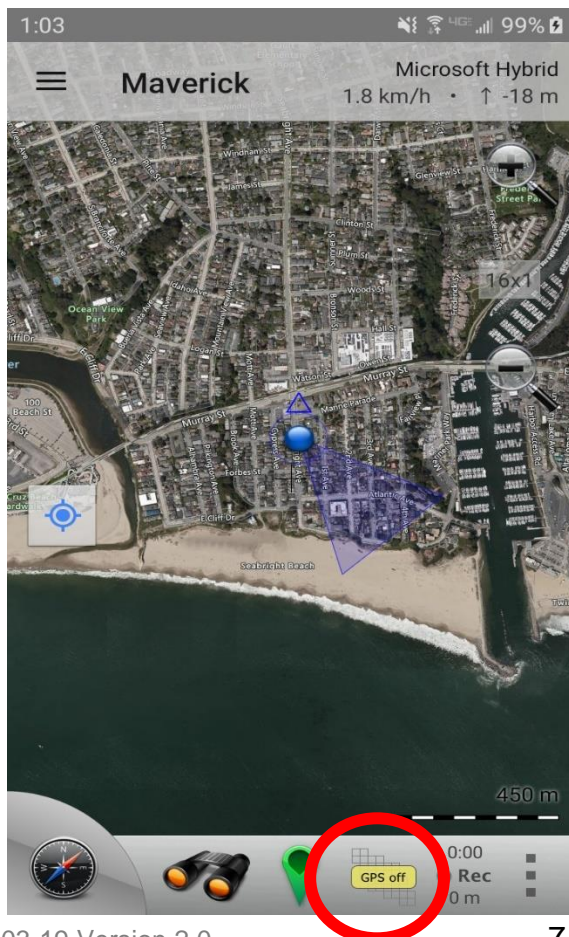
Maverick: GPS Navigation App

This app allows you to record locations in the app while in the field. The coordinates of these locations can then be transcribed onto the datasheet. This app works particularly well in areas where there is no cell reception.

App info:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.codesector.maverick.lite&hl=en_US&gl=US

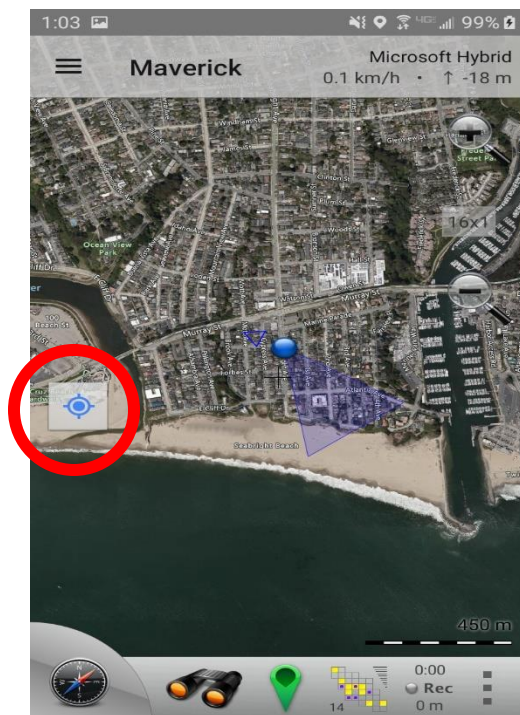
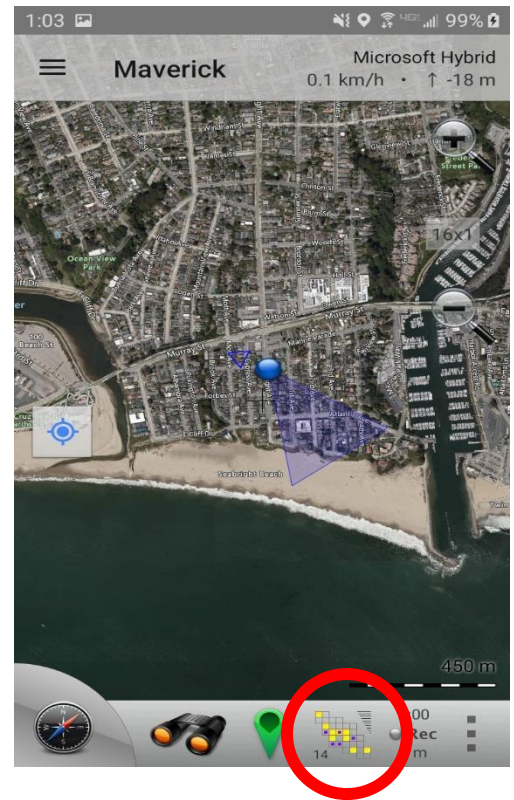
1. Turn on your phone's GPS location .
2. Open the Maverick app on your mobile device.
3. Click on the 'GPS off' button at the bottom menu to turn the GPS on.



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4. Give the phone ~30 seconds to lock onto your location, which will be represented by a yellow and red grid in the bottom menu.



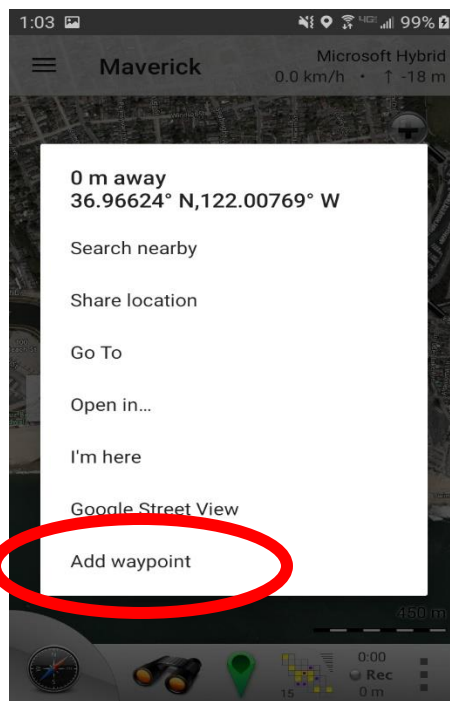
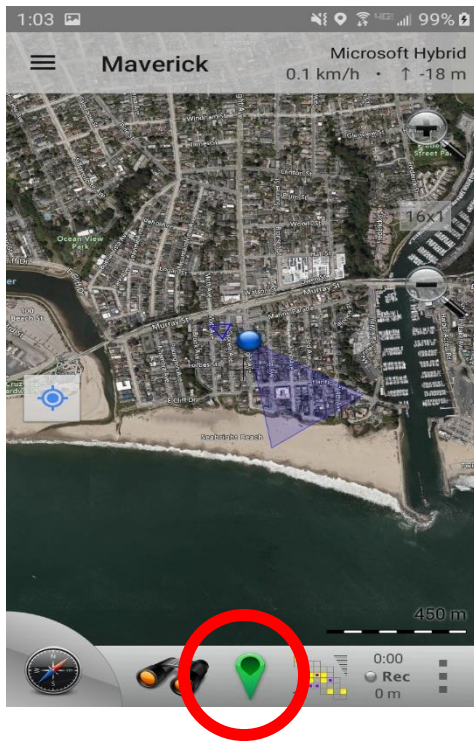
5. Click the blue centering dot on the left side of the screen. This allows you to drop a waypoint where you are.



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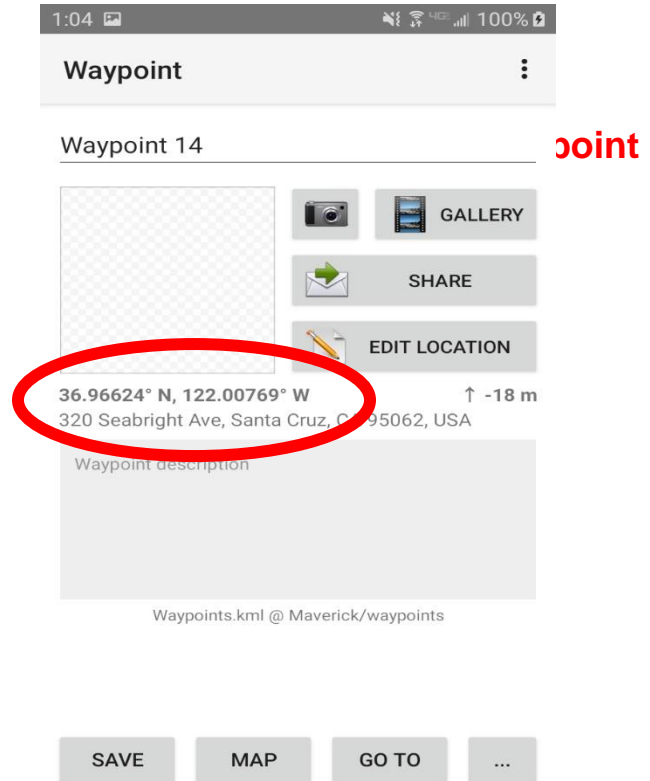
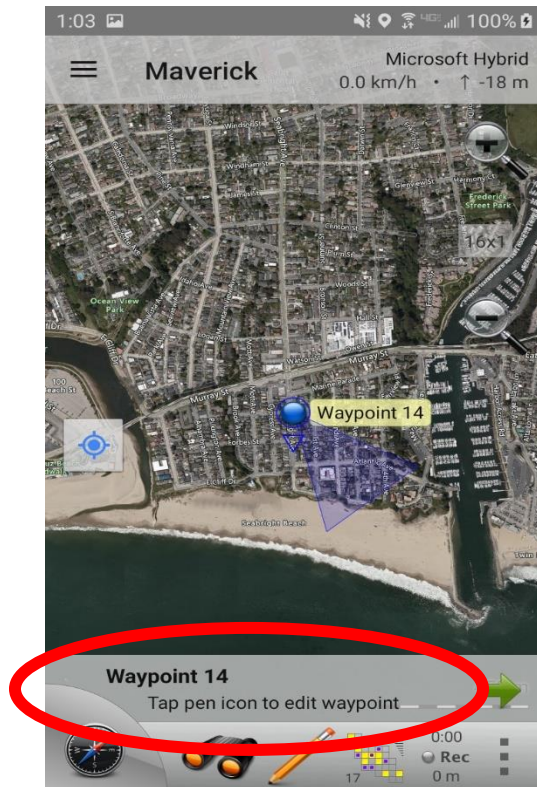
6. Click the green pin at the bottom of the screen. Click “Add waypoint”, the last option in the menu.



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7. Click on the Waypoint # bar that appears on the screen bottom to rename and access coordinates. These coordinates can be manually transcribed into the datasheet.



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Google Maps on a Mobile Device

Contributed by Nick Levendosky

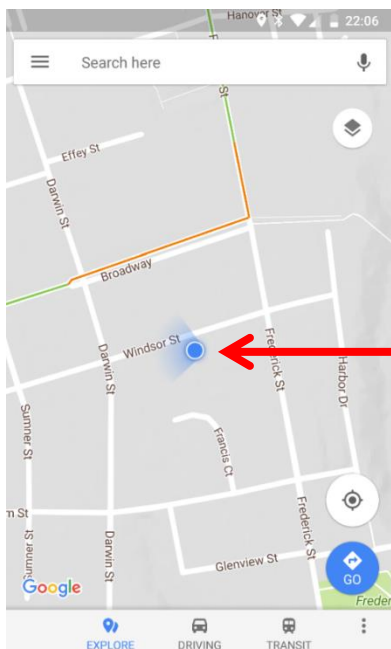
The easiest way I have found to save coordinates while atlasing is by using Google Maps on a mobile device. The following steps will hopefully assist you in recording coordinates of your observations, as well as give you instructions on how to access those coordinates on your desktop to paste into your datasheet. This method of recording coordinates makes it especially easy to keep track of the location of observations in forested areas.

1. Turn on your phone's GPS location



2. Open the Google Maps app on your mobile device.

3. Give the phone ~30 seconds to lock onto your location, which will be represented by a small blue dot.



Your location is the blue dot.

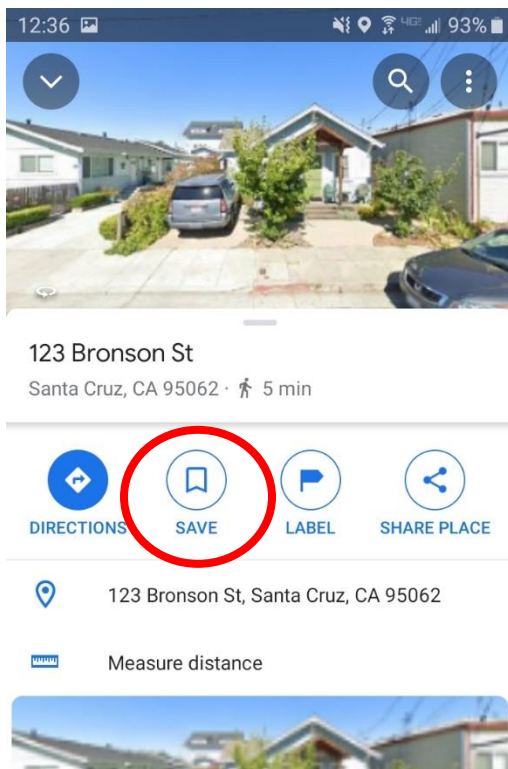
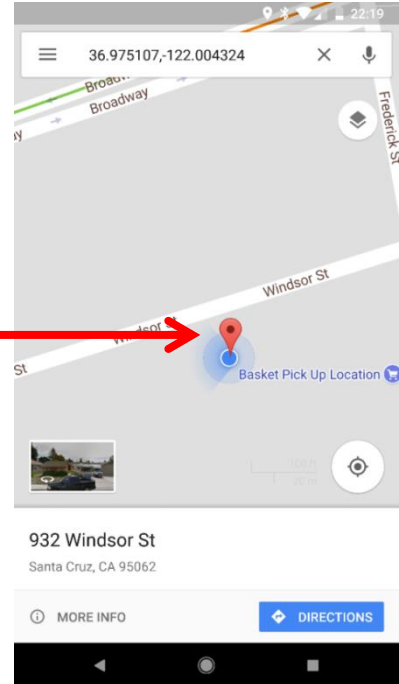


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4. Zoom in on the location of the observation (not necessarily the blue dot) and press a finger on the map until a red pin appears.

Red pin



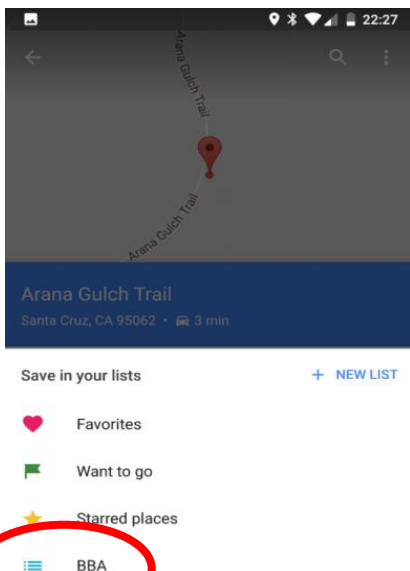
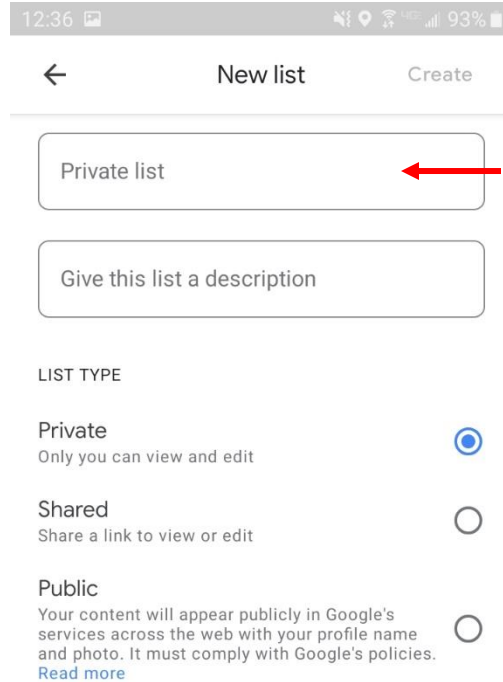
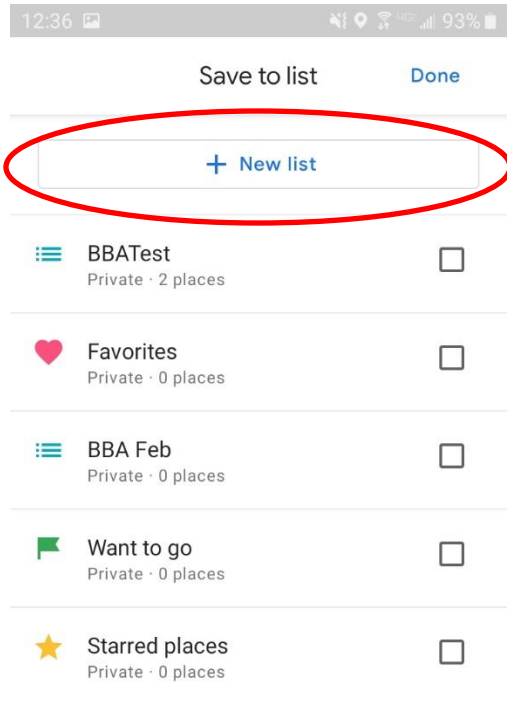
5. Swipe up from the bottom of the screen to show more options. Tap the 'SAVE' icon. This will allow you to save in your lists.



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6. To create a new list, tap '+ NEW LIST.' Where it says 'Private List', type "BBA".



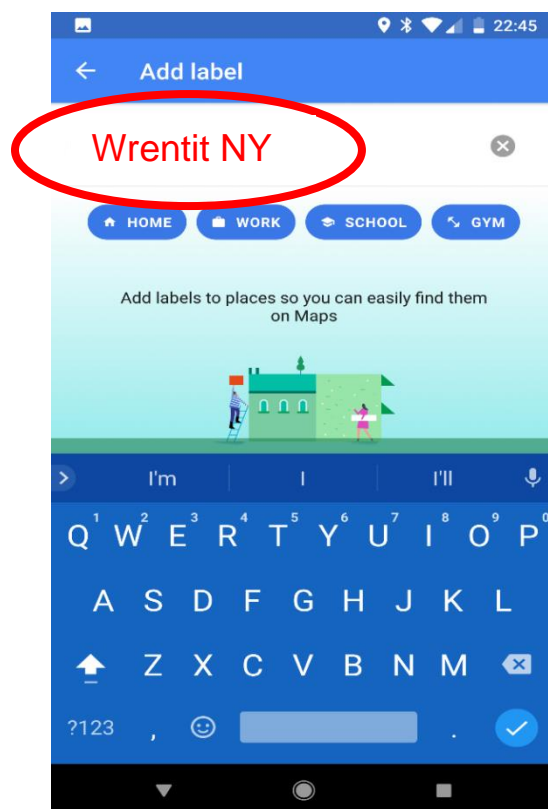
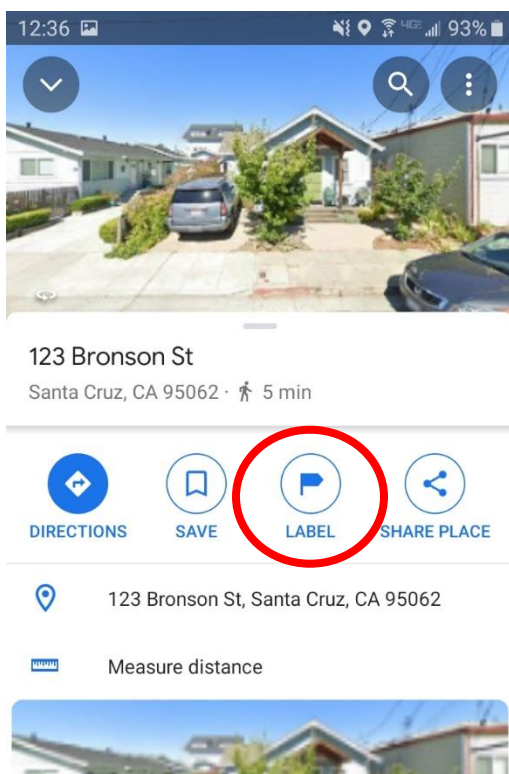
7. The next time you drop a red pin, the BBA list will show up as an option. Notice 'BBA' now appears.



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8. You can also label your pins. Touch the 'LABEL' icon and name your label (i.e., Wrentit NY).

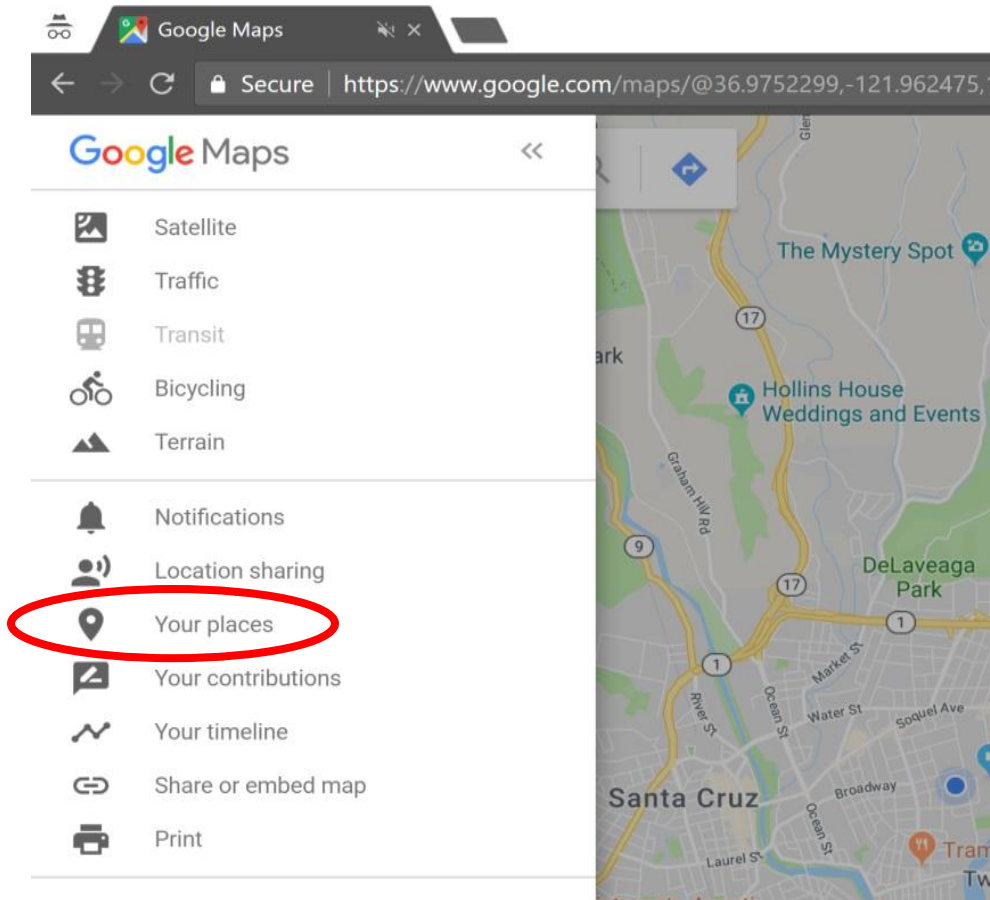


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After you have recorded coordinates in the field with the Google Maps app, there is an easy way to access and copy those coordinates into the datasheet. Open an internet browser, navigate to Google Maps, and sign-in if you are not already.

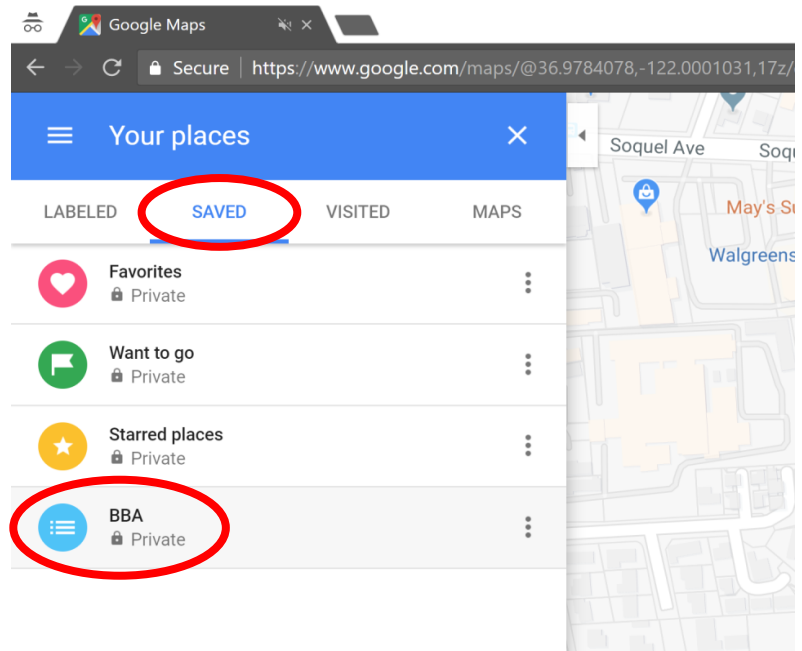
9. Click the menu bar (three horizontal bars) on the left side of the search bar. Then click on 'Your places' to see a list of the locations you have saved on your mobile device.



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10. Then click 'Saved' in the next set of menu options, then 'BBA'.



11. This will display a list of pins you dropped while atlasing. Right click on the pin to see the coordinates. Click on the coordinates in the dropdown menu, and then paste them into your datasheet.

