

EEB 287: ORNITHOLOGY LABORATORY
SPRING 2008
EBIRD INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Ebird (www.ebird.org) is an online ornithological database that is completely free. You can post your bird sightings and see what other people are reporting. Unlike a rare bird alert webpage, birders generally post all of their species sightings to ebird and you can view these sightings by species, range of dates, or location. Ebird will store all of your sightings for your future retrieval. Ornithologists use all of the avian sightings posted to ebird to monitor species trends, calculate abundances, and track migration. By contributing your sightings you can help scientists develop a clearer picture of bird populations in North America. This is citizen science at its best!

YOUR REQUIREMENTS

To receive credit for your independent field observations, you will have to post the results of those point counts and your other birding activities to your online account. By May 2nd (the last day of classes) you must turn in a printed summary (directly from ebird) of your sightings [SEE End of Semester Report below].

GETTING STARTED

1) Go to www.ebird.org
2) Click on “Register as a new user” and set up a free account
3) After registering, click on the “Submit Observations” tab at the top of the webpage.
There are two ways to enter data into ebird. You can either type your observations in directly over the web or you can download a template Excel file from ebird, fill it in, and upload to your account. Both of these methods are very straightforward and easy to do. **However, before** you choose either of those options you will need to set up your birding locations (i.e. the point count stations). Ebird designates two types of birding areas: personal locations (your backyard, grandma’s house, etc.) and hotspots (sites that receive a lot of birding traffic like Hammonasset State Park or Mirror Lake). None of the 10 point count stations are listed as hotspots so each one of you will need to create these 10 point count stations as personal locations in your account. You will need the following information:

IDENTITY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
PLATFORM NORTH	41.81521383	-72.27038702
PLATFORM SOUTH	41.81676624	-72.26935387
BRUSHPILE	41.81770904	-72.26781269
DOWNHOME	41.81832502	-72.27243179
ROADPOND	41.81785916	-72.27470756
ROCKHILL	41.81627481	-72.26818459
STREAMSIDE	41.81779336	-72.27078281
WESTPOND	41.81689809	-72.27236599
WESTROAD	41.81715231	-72.27703228
BIKE TRAIL	41.81178300	-72.26859012

An example of entering data into ebird and creating a new location at the same time.

- 1) Log in
- 2) Click the “Submit Observations” tab at the top of the webpage
- 3) Click “Use Latitude/Longitude” [you only need to do this once for each site, and afterward you can just select the name of the site in the little window]
- 4) Enter the point count station name in the Location Name box
- 5) Enter the lat/long data in the respective boxes for decimal degrees on the left side of the page. YES, THERE IS A NEGATIVE SIGN IN FRONT OF THE LONGITUDE.
- 6) Under “How did you get your lat/long coordinates?” select ‘GPS’.
- 7) Select “Continue” to move to the next page
- 8) Select “Stationary Count” under Observation Type
- 9) Fill in the Date, Start Time, and Time Duration (5 minutes in our case)
- 10) Click “Yes” for the question, “Are you submitting a complete list of what you saw/heard?” You can also enter sex/age info for the birds if you want to.
- 11) For each species you detected, fill in the number of individuals that you saw/heard in the boxes. PUT AN X, if you don’t know how many you heard/saw. There is no listing for UNKNOWN SPECIES so you won’t be able to enter that data.
- 12) Click Next to review your data, and then click submit.

You can edit/delete your sightings later if you make a mistake.

END OF SEMESTER REPORT

- 1) Click “View and Explore Data” tab.
- 2) Under ‘Explore My Observations’ chose ‘My Summary Tables’.
- 3) Select “Year Report” and “January 1, 2008”, click “Continue”
- 4) Select all 10 point count stations, and click ‘Continue’
- 5) **VERY IMPORTANT!** Select the “Species Totals” tab.
- 6) After confirming that you are looking at the “Species Totals” report, select “Printable Version”
- 7) Print the report from the new window that pops up. Although ebird allows you to download this report to Excel, **I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING BUT A REPORT PRINTED DIRECTLY FROM EBIRD.** No exceptions.