Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative

2018 RCP Network Gathering
Bill Labich, Sara Barker, Matt Strimas-Mackey, and Hallie Schwab
Land Trusts collectively protect 56 million acres of private land nationwide!

Birds are catalysts for capacity building and conservation strategies.

Land Trust/Bird Conservation Nexus
Importance of Private Lands

More than 100 bird species are > 50% reliant on private land

Grassland Birds

Eastern Forest Birds

- Private Protected
- Other Private
- Public
- Tribal

- 80.7%
- 14%
- 4.4%
- 0.9%

- 81.2%
- 16.7%
- 0.4%
- 1.7%
Conducted National Needs Assessment
(N = 614 land trusts)

- Funding
- Conservation Resources
- Planning Tools
Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative

www.birdtrust.org

Save More Land
Use birds to strengthen easements and protect threatened habitats

Learn How
Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative

• Fundraising Directory / Land Trust Small Grants Program
  • Resources and Tips
  • 4 grants in 2017 (CO, WA/OR, VT, ME); 3 in 2018 (CA, ME, NY/CT)

• Conservation Resources
  • Landscape-scale Plans (SWAP)
  • BMPs
  • Citizen Science Projects
  • PIF/Joint Ventures/IBA Program

• Planning Tools
  • Bird Conservation Collaboratives
  • eBird (online checklist program)
is a an online database of bird observations collected by citizen scientists, providing real-time data about the global distribution and abundance of bird species.
one of the largest repositories of biodiversity data

500 million observations
415,139 eBirders
38.2 million hours in the field
10,409 species (98% of bird species)
eBird checklists span the entire globe
How can eBird help RCPs?

1. tools for monitoring birds
2. inform decision making & grant applications
3. engage an active community of birders
Monitoring

Mobile

Online
Bird Identification with Merlin

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Data Storage

• **Free, permanent** storage of bird monitoring data
• Managed by a team of database experts
• Accessible online with free tools for visualization and analysis
• Downloadable
• Privacy options
eBird Hotspots

- eBird hotspots are **public birding locations** visited by multiple people over time
- Aggregate data across an entire property
- Engage birders to collect data on your land
- Your land may already be a hotspot!
Decision Support

Explore Species
Maps, stats, photos, and sounds for any bird in the world, including personalized stats based on your eBirding.

Enter species name
 Surprise me!

Explore Regions
Recent sightings, checklists, birding activity, best hotspots, and top birders for a county, state, province, or country.

Enter a county, state, province, or country

MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE

Species Maps
Explore interactive range maps by species or subspecies — zoom in for details.

Search photos and sounds
Explore media through the Macaulay Library

Explore Hotspots
Discover the best places for birding nearby or around the world.

Bar Charts
Find out what birds to expect throughout the year in a region or location.

SPECIES YOU NEED

Target Species
Prioritized list of county, state, or life birds that you can expect to find in a region

Alerts
Reports and email alerts for rarities and species you haven't seen
# Bird Observations

**Location:** Sapsucker Woods  
**Date Range:** May, 2008-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Species</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
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*Image of a bird on the left and a bird on the right.*
Modeled results: Wood Thrush

Seasonal relative abundance

Breeding season trends
Modeled results: Wood Thrush
Engagement

# species

BHI--World's End, Hingham (TTOR)
Plymouth, US-MA

Year-round, All Years

234 SPECIES 914 CHECKLISTS

Bar Charts | High Counts | Directions

Submit Data | View Details
### Species List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Dennis Peacock</td>
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<td>Brant</td>
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<td>11 May 2016</td>
<td>Philip Edmundson</td>
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<td>Canada Goose</td>
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<td>David MacDougall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mute Swan</td>
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<td>15 Dec 2017</td>
<td>Marshall Iliff</td>
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<td>Blue-winged Teal</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>14 Apr 1991</td>
<td>Peter Norton</td>
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<td>Northern Shoveler</td>
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<td>14 Apr 1989</td>
<td>Joanne Norton</td>
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<td>Gadwall</td>
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<td>American Wigeon</td>
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<td>Nick Zenussi</td>
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<td>Mallard</td>
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<td>30 Oct 2018</td>
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<td>Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid)</td>
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<td>16 Dec 2017</td>
<td>Sally Chisholm</td>
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<td>Mallard/American Black Duck</td>
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<td>Northern Pintail</td>
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<td>Sean Williams</td>
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<td>Ring-necked Duck</td>
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<td>Jeff Peters</td>
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<td>Greater Scaup</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 Jan 2017</td>
<td>Steven Lamonde</td>
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### Recent Visits

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<th>Observer</th>
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<td>David MacDougall</td>
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<td>Ellen Freda</td>
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### Top eBirders

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<th>Score</th>
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<td>Matthew Dearman</td>
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<td>Glann d'Entremont</td>
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<td>Charlie Nims</td>
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<td>Kathleen Rawdon</td>
<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally Chisholm</td>
<td>118</td>
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### eBird Field Checklist

**BHI—World's End, Hingham (TTOR)**  
Plymouth, Massachusetts, US  
ebird.org/habitat/L469447  
234 species (~34 other taxa) - Year-round, All Years  

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<th>Duration:</th>
<th>Distance:</th>
<th>Party Size:</th>
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This checklist is generated with data from eBird (eBird.org), a global database of bird sightings from birders like you. If you enjoy this checklist, please consider contributing your sightings to eBird. It is 100% free to take part, and your observations will help support birders, researchers, and conservationists worldwide.  
Go to ebird.org to learn more!

#### Waterfowl
- Snow Goose
- Brant
- Canada Goose
- Mute Swan
- Wood Duck
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Mallard (Domestic type)
- American Black Duck
- Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid)
- Mallard/American Black Duck
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Redhead/Lesser Scaup
- King Eider
- Common Eider
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Scaup/Black Scoter
- scoter sp.
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead

#### Ailoids
- Common Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Common/Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Black, Red, or Red-breasted

#### Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull

#### Grebes
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe

#### Pigeons and Doves
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove

#### Cuckoos
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo

#### Swifts
- Chimney Swift

#### Hummingbirds
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird

#### Shorebirds
- American Oystercatcher
- Black-bellied Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid)
- Red-legged plover
- Least Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Red-necked Phalarope
- Least Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Red-necked Phalarope

#### Frigatebirds, Boobies, and Gannets
- Northern Gannet

#### Cormorants and Anhingas
- Great Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant

#### Herons, Ibis, and Allies
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Glossy Ibis

#### Martins and Swallows
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- swallow sp.

#### Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse

#### Nuthatches
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch

#### Wrens
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Carolina Wren

#### Gnatcatchers
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

#### Kinglets
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

#### Thrushes
- Eastern Bluebird
- Townsend's Solitaire
- Veery
- Gray-cheeked/Black-throated Thrush
eBird in Action: Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

- Developed a successful bird monitoring program using eBird
- Network of stationary counts created on two properties, with permanent eBird signs at each
- Monthly bird surveys to collect data and introduce eBird
- Data used to inform and evaluate management
Instructions: Horse Lake Reserve eBird route

Thank you for volunteering to be a citizen scientist, recording, entering, and sharing eBird data with CDLT. You will help us learn about patterns of bird use over time at Horse Lake Reserve. Our questions include:

- Which species of birds use each habitat types?
- How will bird use change over time, after the 2012 and 2015 wildfires?
- How do migrating birds use the preserve during spring and fall?
- How do birds use the preserve as nesting and rearing for young?

The CDLT protocol includes seven 10-minute Stationary Counts (HL 1-HL7) and a one-way HL Traveling Count. If you start but don’t have time to finish the project protocol, you can enter any collected data using the Horse Lake Reserve (CDLT) eBird hotspot.

Time of day: Our goal is for observations to be completed between 6:00 am and 11:00 am during Daylight savings time (April-Sept) and between 8:00 am-1:00 pm during Standard time, (Sept.-Nov.)

Total time & distance: The round-trip walking time takes 4-5 hours. Total walking round-trip distance is 5.3 miles. The one-way traveling count route is 3.1 miles.

Road Access: The property is closed and county-owned Horse Lake Road is gated at the end of the payment from Dec. 1 to April 1. Additionally, the county may choose to close the road after a storm event any month of the year in order to prevent roadbed damage. Call the CDLT Office to check on road conditions (509.667.9708).

Think Safety-First!

- It is best to have at least one other person accompany you.
- Print and take hardcopies of the project maps with you – provided with this protocol.
- Do not drive the narrow, steep, unimproved Horse Lake county road within 24-hours of a rainstorm. Several sections of roadbed are dangerous due to slippery clay. If a rainstorm starts during your bird count, immediately return to your vehicle and depart.
- Horse Lake weather is unpredictable and often very windy. Be prepared: bring water, food, sun protection, layers of clothing, a first-aid kit. Wear sturdy footwear. The property has good cell phone coverage.
- Be ready to see and protect all wildlife, including snakes. You will be walking on a footpath, able to see and easily avoid snakes.
- Take notes of any vandalism or problems you encounter and report these to CDLT.

Print forms to take to the field:

- Map of entire property showing the one-way Traveling Count and the seven Stationary Counts.
2015 Chelan Wildfire

- Horse Lake Reserve bird surveys provided a pre-fire baseline
- Survey data inform adaptive management practices in the wake of the fire
- How will birds’ use of the landscape change over time?
- When will shrub-breeding birds return to the landscape?
Benefits of using eBird for your RCP:

• Tools for monitoring birds
• Permanent data storage
• Decision support tools
• Evaluate management actions
• Inform grant applications
• Engage citizen scientists
Draft Initiative Goals

Goal 1.
Raise consciousness about the importance of birds where RCPs work, and awareness of how bird conservation can help advance regional priorities.
Draft Initiative Goals

Goal 2.
Encourage RCPs to adopt eBird as a tool for monitoring, decision-making, and engagement.
Draft Initiative Goals

Goal 3.

Improve and conserve habitats that support populations of two or more target species in New England and eastern New York
Start with RCP Priorities

ID forest and grassland patches of highest habitat value and greatest threat

Targeted land protection and stewardship actions
Why American Kestrel and Wood Thrush?
Why Wood Thrush?

- 50% decline since 1965 (BBS)
- Accelerated declines in north of range and higher elevations
- PIF Watchlist / threatened in Canada

Trend Map: 2007 - 2016

2016 January 4
Wood Thrush

eBird
Why American Kestrel?

- 50% range-wide, 93% decline in New England and mid-Atlantic from 1966 to 2015 (BBS data)
- Declines attributed to land clearing, “clean” farming practices, and pesticides
**Steward for Wood Thrush and Kestrel**

**WOOD THRUSH** = employ silvicultural techniques in eastern forests

- Create age class and structural diversity

(BMP guide: Managing Wood Thrush Habitat in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions; Audubon Vermont: Forester’s for the Birds Project)

- Open canopy to allow more light to build understory structure

**KESTREL** = manage in agricultural and open lands

- Install nest boxes
- Keep fence rows and posts
- Minimize pesticide use, especially in ag lands
- Incorporate delayed mowing programs in line with other grassland birds
Breakout Group Questions

• How are you already engaging with birds and bird conservation?

• How can you imagine your RCP or organization working with eBird?

• What do you like about the bird habitat conservation initiative and what would you change or encourage us to consider?