

Tools for Finding Birding Hotspots

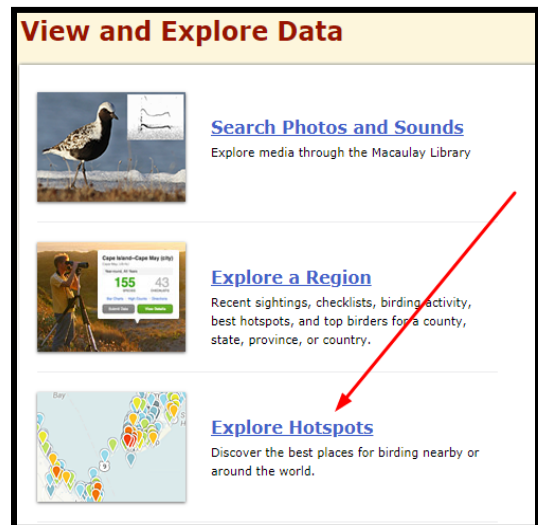
Using eBird to Explore Hotspots

Did you know that you can utilize free GIS technology to help you find the best spots to go birdwatching in your area? Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [eBird Program](#) has created a web application that utilizes citizen science data, which allows you to do this and much more! This exercise will walk you through the process for finding the [best birding hotspots](#) on eBird.

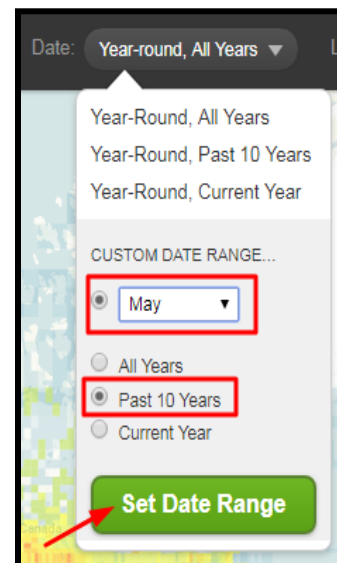
You do not need an eBird account to complete these steps, but please consider registering for a [free account](#) so you can submit your own bird data.

EXERCISE 1a: May is the peak of spring bird migration, and the month you are planning to go shopping at the [Clinton Crossing Premium Outlets](#) in Clinton, Connecticut. You want to know which locations in Clinton have the most amount of reported birds during May. How would you do this?

Navigate to [this link](#) and click “**Explore Hotspots**”.

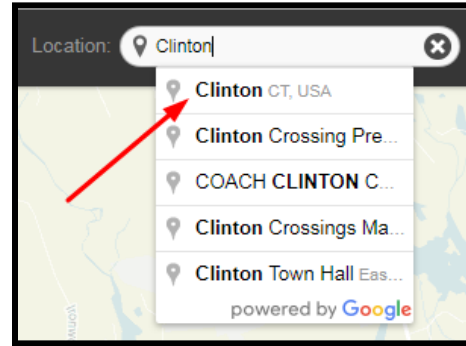


On the “**Date**” drop down at the top-middle of page, chose “**May**” in the “**CUSTOM DATE RANGE**” dropdown menu. Then click “**Past 10 Years**”. Lastly, select the “**Set Date Range**” button. This is going to show results of bird sightings across the world in May for the last 10 years. We want to focus our area of interest to Clinton!

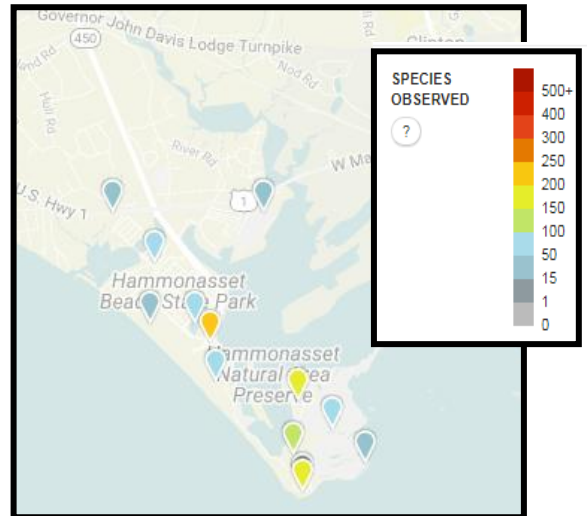


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On the “**Location**” search bar on the top right of the page, type in “**Clinton**” and Clinton CT, USA should appear. Click on it.

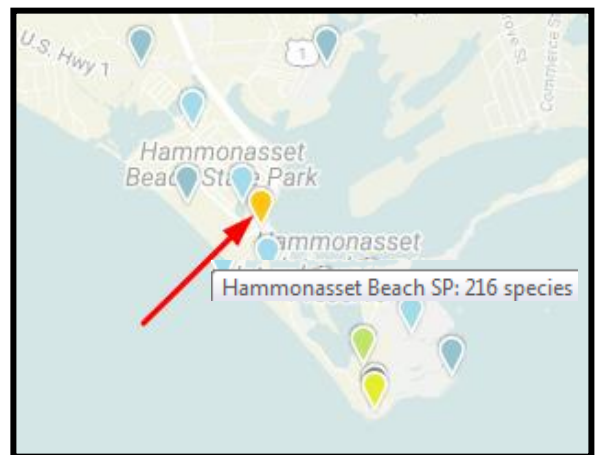


You should see something similar to the image on the right. The different colored pin points are [hot spots](#), with each color representing the number of species reported for the month of May. The legend at the bottom right of the webpage explains what each color means.



Which hot spots appear to have the most species? It looks like the orange pin point does! Hover your mouser over it, a dialogue box that says “**Hammonasset Beach SP: 216 species**” should appear.

NOTE: Number of species may vary as more birds are reported at this location.



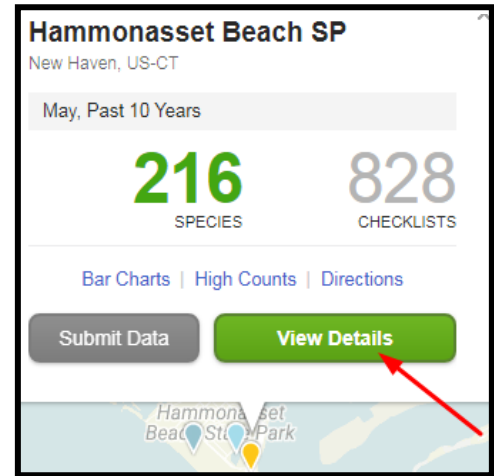
Congratulations, you found the best hotspot in Clinton!

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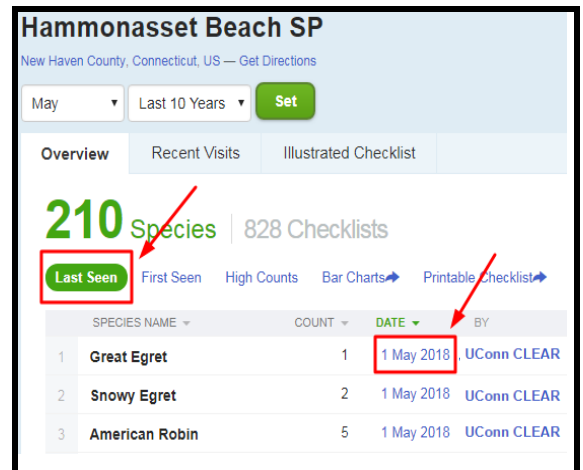
EXERCISE 1b: You want to familiarize yourself with which species are being reported in this hotspot, so you know what birds you can expect to find. How would you do this?

Click on the same orange pin point for this hotspot, a new dialogue box will appear like the one shown. Click on **“View Details”**.

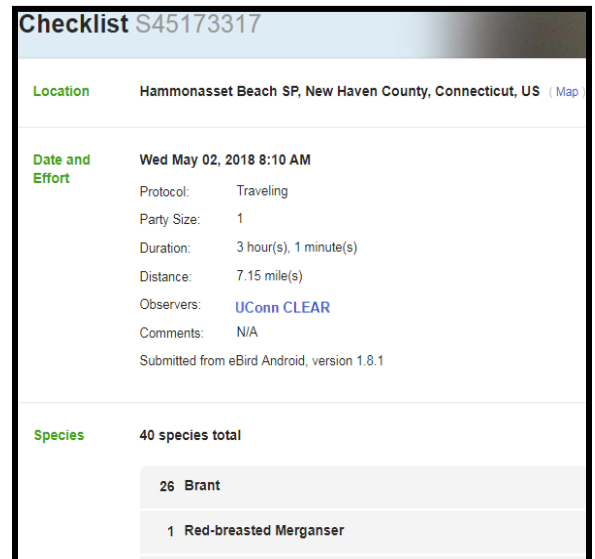


You will see a list similar to the one shown here although the bird species may differ, since this list is reporting the **“Last Seen”** (most recent) species being shown first. Scroll through these to see what birds have been recently reported.

Notice under the **“DATE”** column that the date is in blue. This is because if you click on it, it will direct you to that user’s [actual checklist](#).

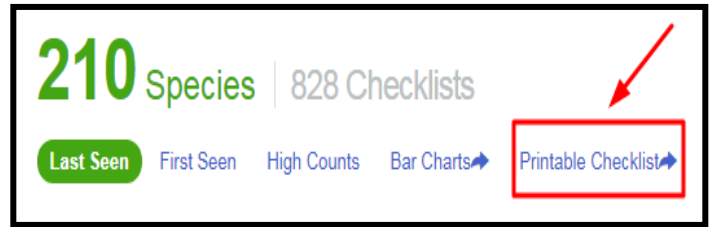


Example of an eBird checklist:



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Although there are other more advanced options on this page, let's explore one more useful basic function in this exercise. Click on the **"Printable Checklist"** option on the top of the page.



This will redirect you to a [printable checklist](#), which you can bring into the field or save to your mobile device. You can also embed this checklist onto your webmap or webpage. This checklist is specific to this hotspot, with all species listed being those reported for the month of May. Pretty cool, right?

eBird Field Checklist	
Hammonasset Beach SP	
New Haven, Connecticut, US	
ebird.org/hotspot/L298379	
210 species (+29 other taxa) - May, Past 10 Years	
Date: _____	
Start Time: _____	
Duration: _____	
Distance: _____	
Party Size: _____	
Notes: _____	
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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	
<input type="checkbox"/> goose sp.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mute Swan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard (Domestic type)	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard x American Black D	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	
<input type="checkbox"/> King Eider	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Eider	
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf Scoter	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Scoter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Scoter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf/Black Scoter	
<input type="checkbox"/> scoter sp.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser	
<input type="checkbox"/> duck sp.	
Grouse, Quail, and Allies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	

Congratulations, you now know which birds are at this hotspot!

eBird

For more info go to www.ebird.org
eBird Mobile App for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)