Citizen Science: Birding

Assignment #2: Our local birds and state bird

1. Record the birds we saw today in [eBird](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/). If you cannot remember how to do this, revisit [Assignment #1](http://tceec.weebly.com/citizen-science-birding-session-1.html) for help.
2. While still logged in to eBird, visit the [Explore Data](http://ebird.org/ebird/eBirdReports?cmd=Start) page.
3. Click on Explore a Region.
	1. Enter your county. (For example, Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, etc.)
	2. A new page will open with lots of birding data! Click on Bar Charts.
	3. Another new page with lots of data will open! Change the Date Range for just this year from January to the present date. (This is found at the top of the page to the right.) Once set the bar charts should only show this year’s reports of birds.
4. Answer the following questions in your bird journal:
	1. Are there any birds that can be seen all year round in your county? What are they?
	2. What months are the most birds reported?
		1. List **three birds** found in your county during **spring migration** from March through May.
		2. List **three birds** found in your county during the **breeding season** from June through July.
		3. List **three birds** found in your county during the **fall migration** from August through November (you may have to look at previous year’s data).
		4. List **three birds** found in your county during the **winter** December through February.
	3. What is our state bird? If you do not know, do an internet search to learn our state bird.
	4. Is our state bird found in your county? If so, during what months was the bird reported? (Search under entire year for date range.)
5. Visit the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/commonloon.html) website to find out where our state bird lives in Minnesota and where it spends the winters. Record the answers in your birding journal.
6. List at least one fun fact about our state bird in your bird journal.
7. CHALLENGE: From your list of birds found in your county, choose at least one migratory bird and research where it lives in the winter months and where it breeds in the summer months.