

## Rusty Blackbird Survey





## **What is/was the eBird Rusty Blackbird Survey?**

- Pilot study from 1-7 April 2007
- Goal to better understand RUBL migration
  - Engage birders in data collection
  - Use eBird as a data gathering tool
- Use eBird output tools for data exploration
- Raise general awareness of RUBL conservation issues



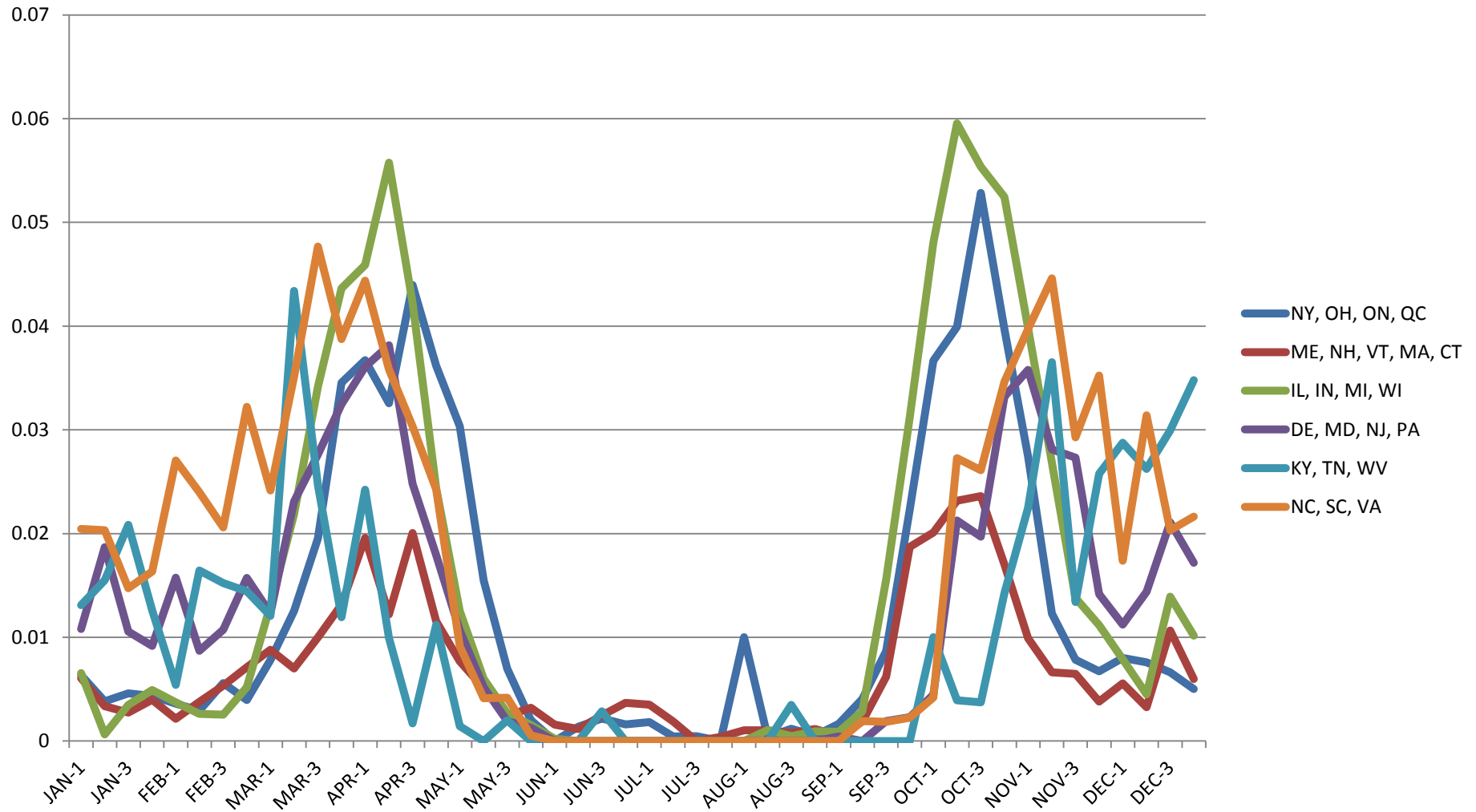
## **How does it work?**

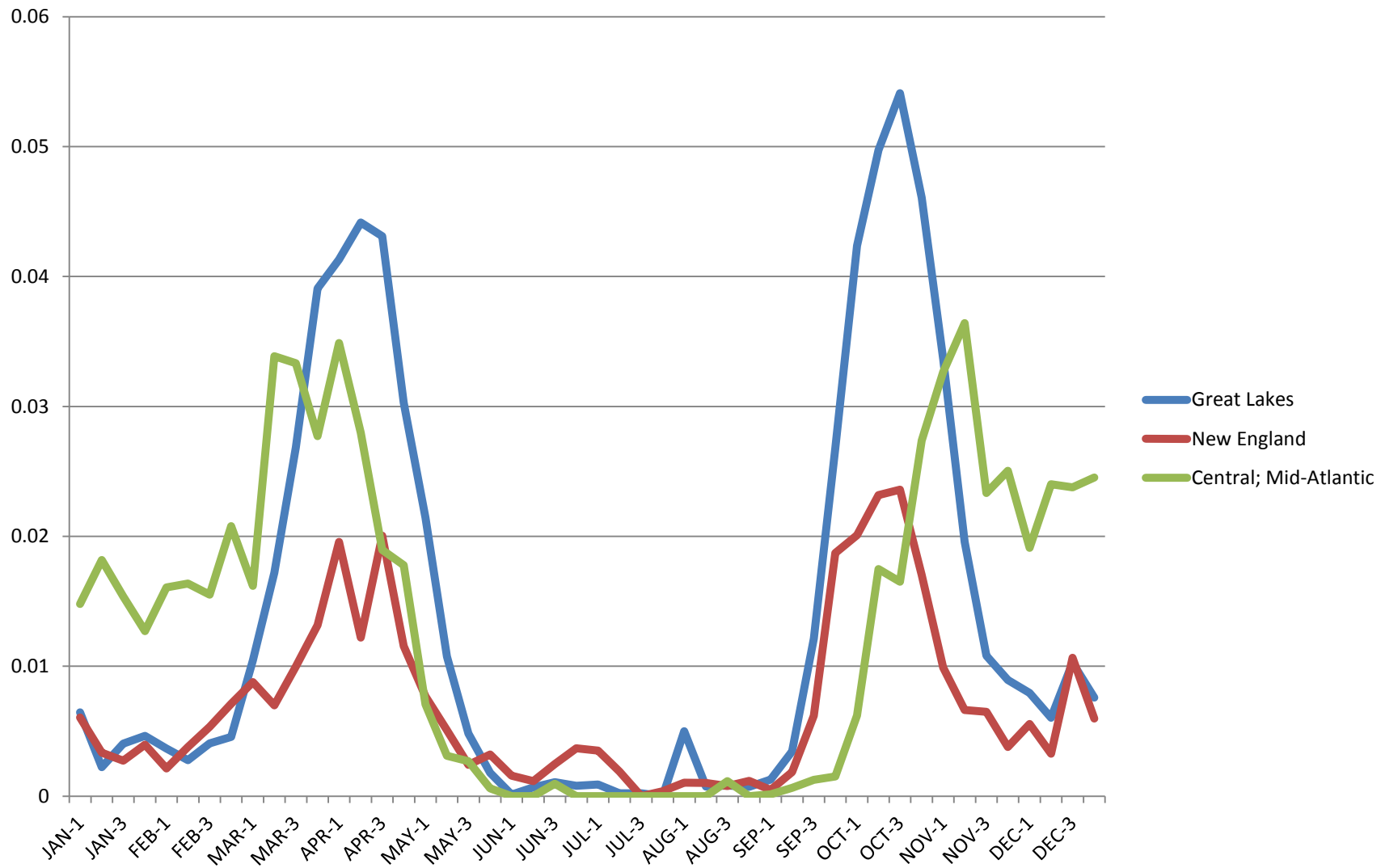
- Birders collect data on targeted RUBL survey efforts
- Enter data through eBird using one of 3 standardized protocols
  - Add character string “Rusty Blackbird Survey” in notes
    - Record all species and numbers



## Was it successful?

- 78 “Rusty Blackbird Surveys” were completed totaling 2013 birds across 18 states
- BUT, 427 checklists were submitted with RUBL during the period
  - Total RUBL count = 18,738 birds
  - Good media response with short lead time
  - I would call it a *modest* success











## **What can eBird do at the site level (think IBAs)?**

- Identify seasonal occurrence patterns
- Show site-based metrics (e.g., high counts, relative abundance)
  - Help identify new important areas for RUBL



▼ **Species:** Change Species

▼ **Date Range:** Change Date  
1/1 - 12/31, 1900-2008 **Combine Years**

1 species:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rusty Blackbird			■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■				■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■		

**KEY:** | ■ = insufficient data | ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ = rare to widespread

▼ **Location:** Change Location  
[ [Braddock Bay](#) ]

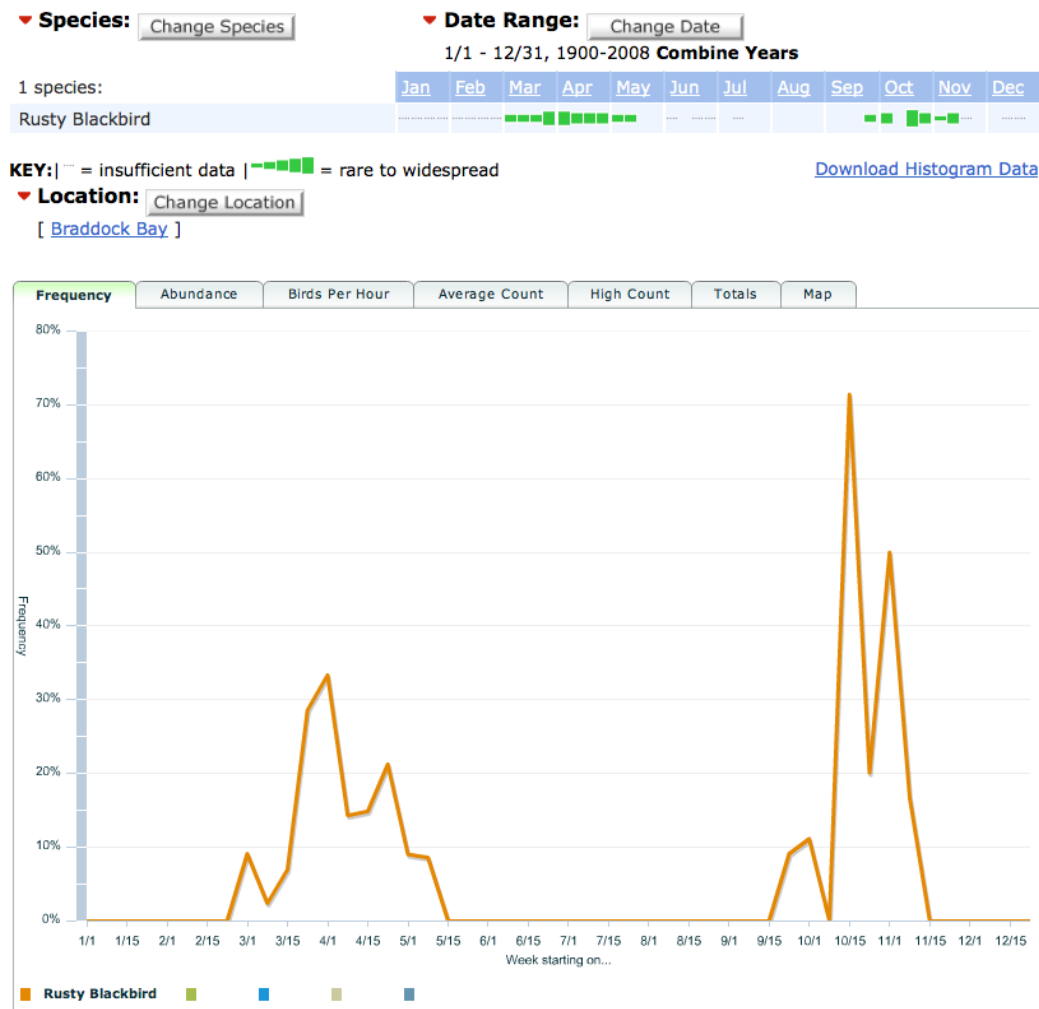
[Download Histogram Data](#)

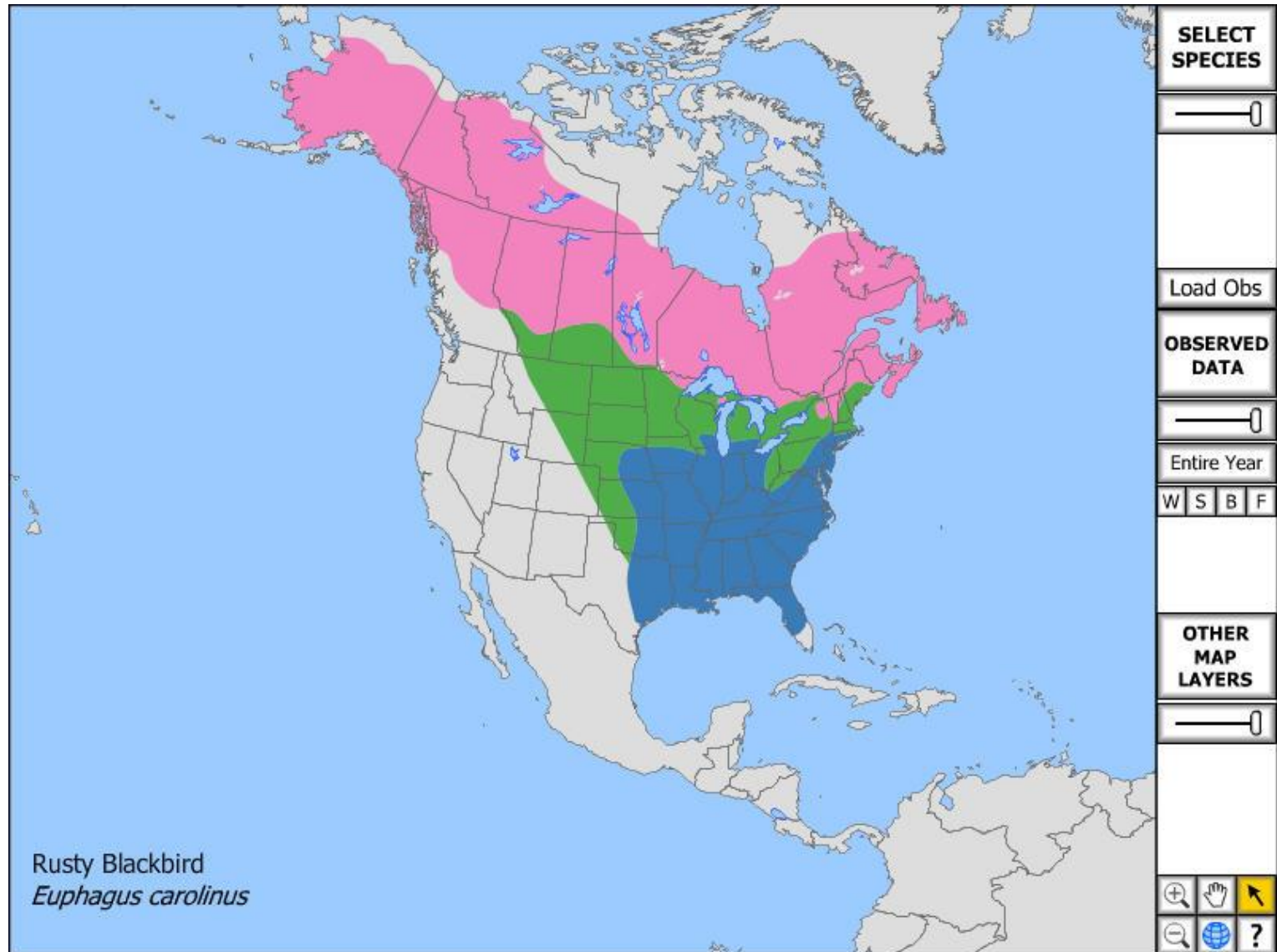
**Frequency** | Abundance | Birds Per Hour | Average Count | High Count | Totals | Map

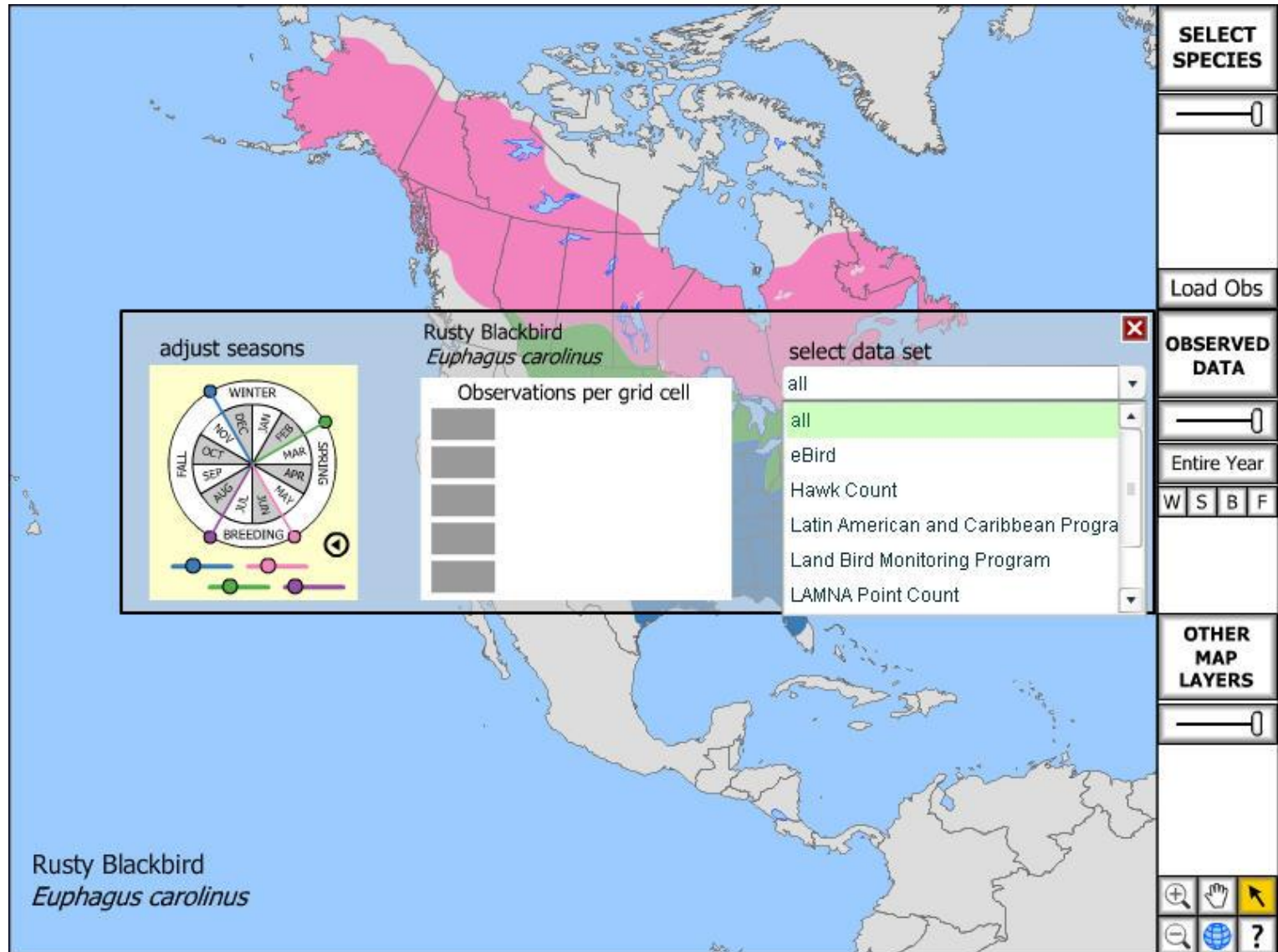
Frequency

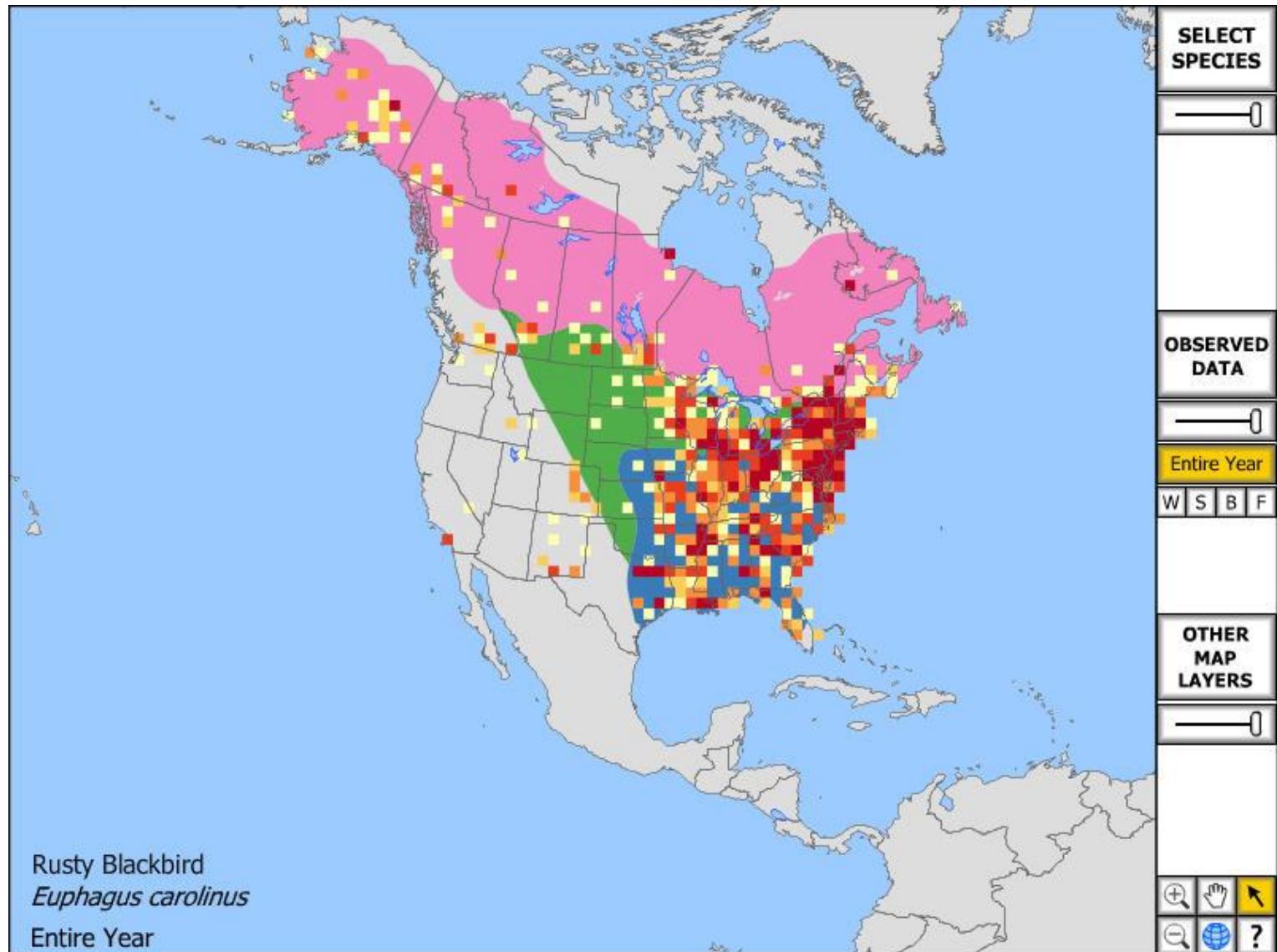
Week starting on...

■ Rusty Blackbird

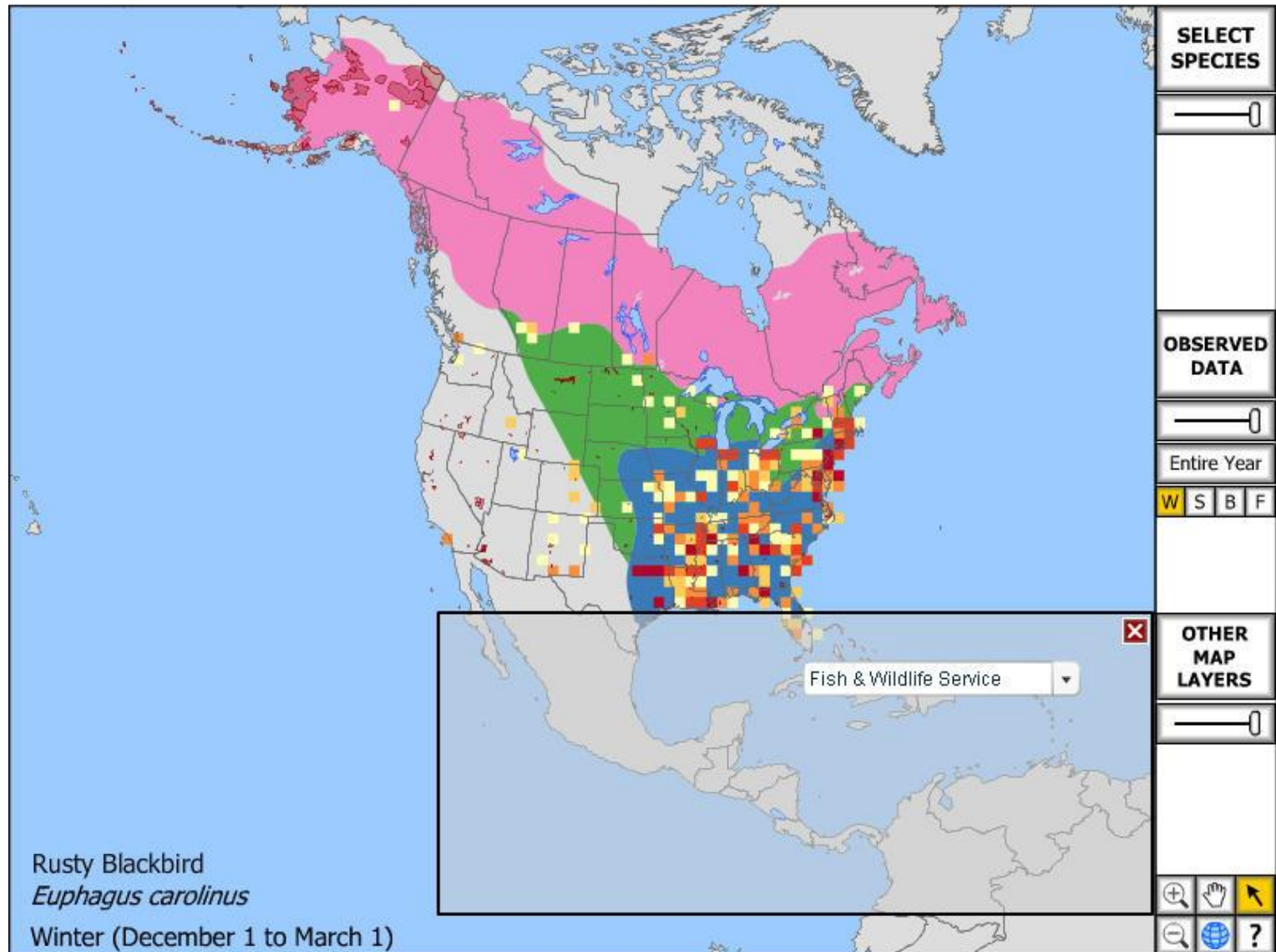


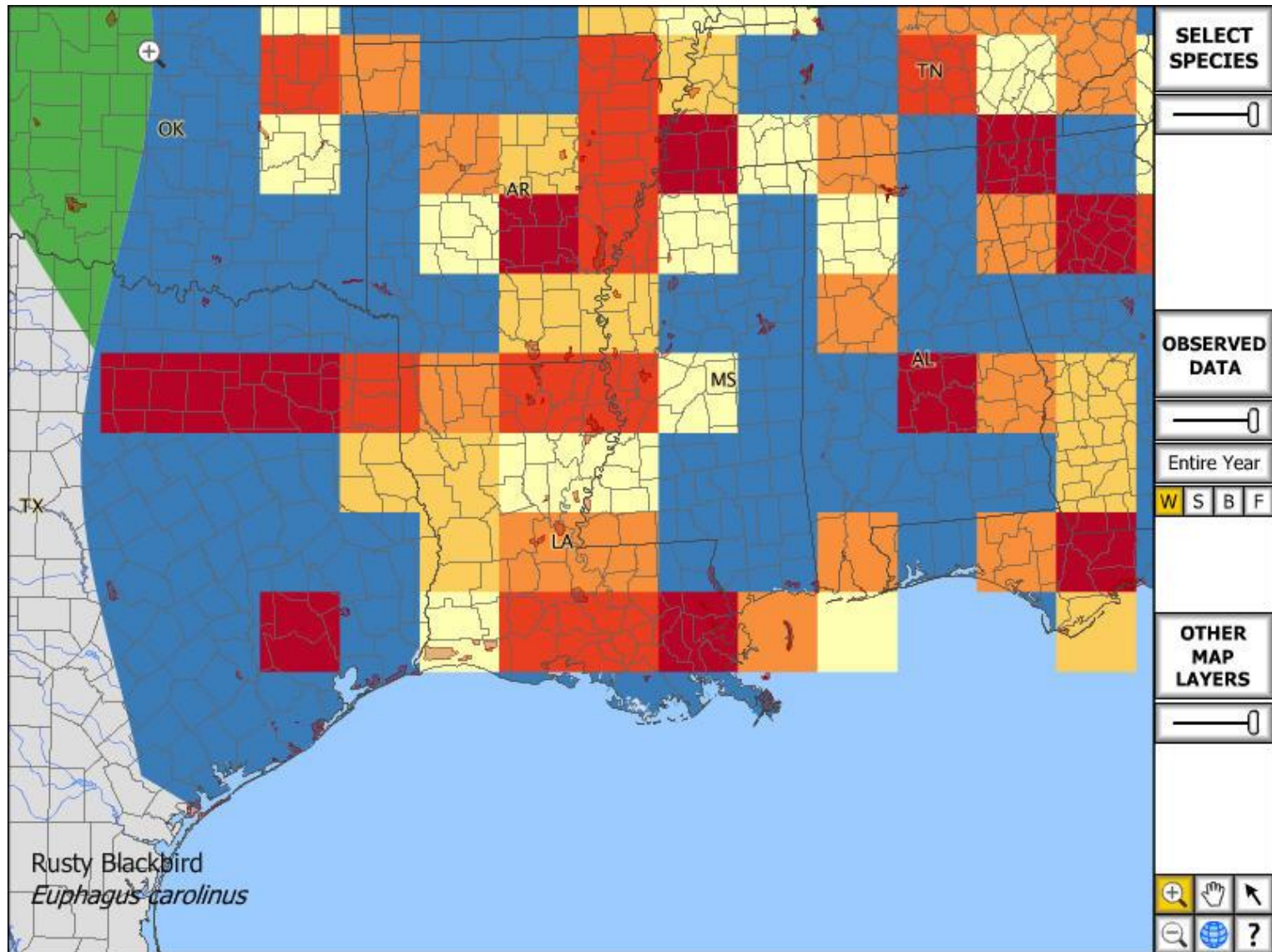




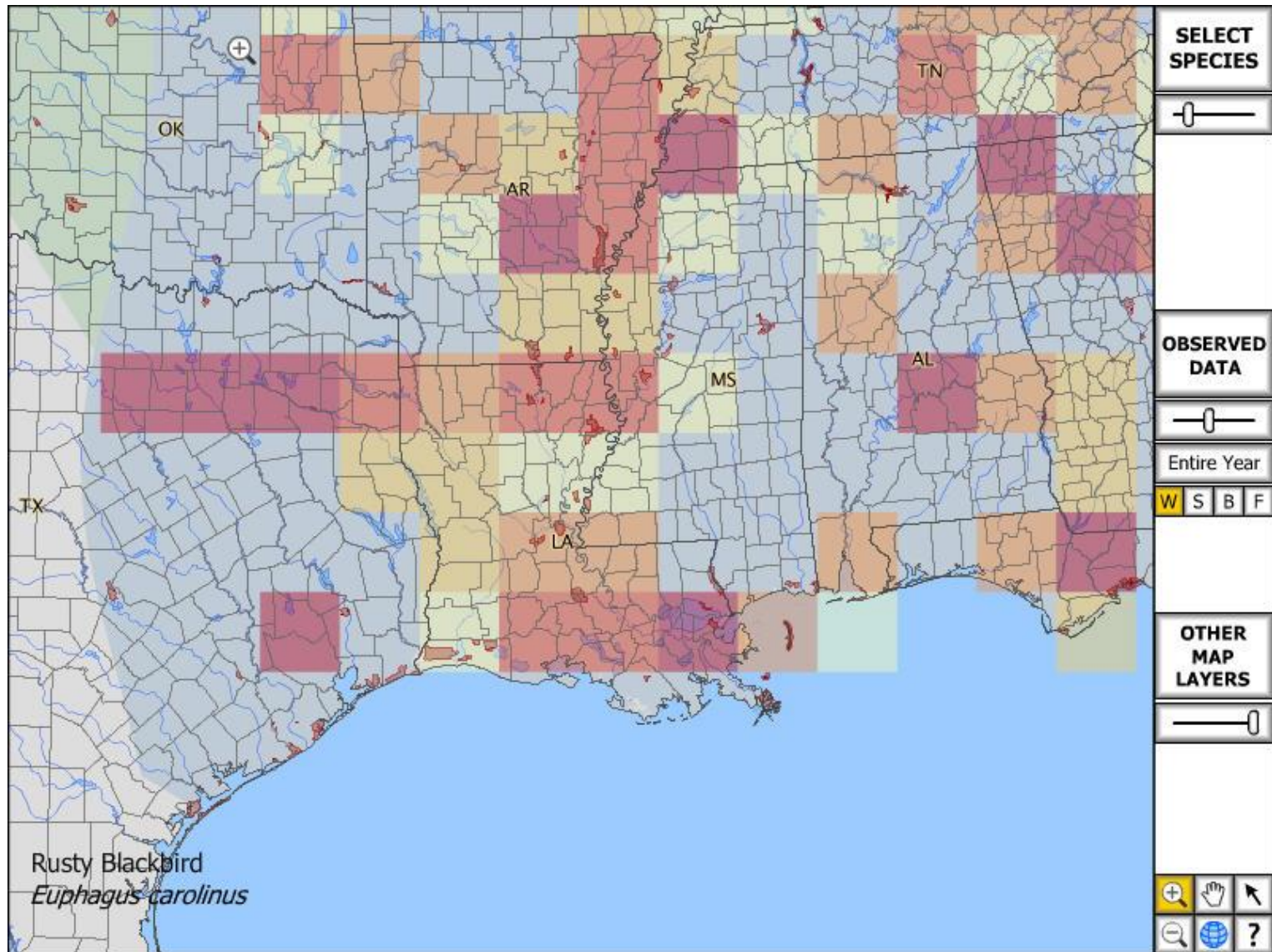














## **What can we do to make it better?**

- Standardize protocols
- Standardize survey periods to correspond with migration
  - More lead time for PR
- Create custom protocols on eBird to easily segregate data
  - Provide user incentive/reward for participation
  - Beef-up identification forum and education



## Discussion Topics

- Identify and prioritize desired information (what do we want to know?)
  - Develop survey protocols
  - Determine regional survey periods
- Who will take the lead on data synthesis and analysis?