

# The **B**reeding **B**ird **S**urvey



# What is the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)?

The BBS is a long-term, large-scale, international avian monitoring program initiated in 1966 to track the status and trends of North American bird populations. The USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Canadian Wildlife Service jointly coordinate the BBS program.



# How does the BBS work?

Each year during the height of the avian breeding season, observers skilled in avian identification collect bird population data along roadside survey routes. Each route is 24.5 miles long with stops at 0.5-mile intervals. At each stop, a 3-minute point count is conducted, counting every bird heard or seen within a 0.25-mile radius. Surveys start one-half hour before local sunrise and take 4 - 5 hours to complete.

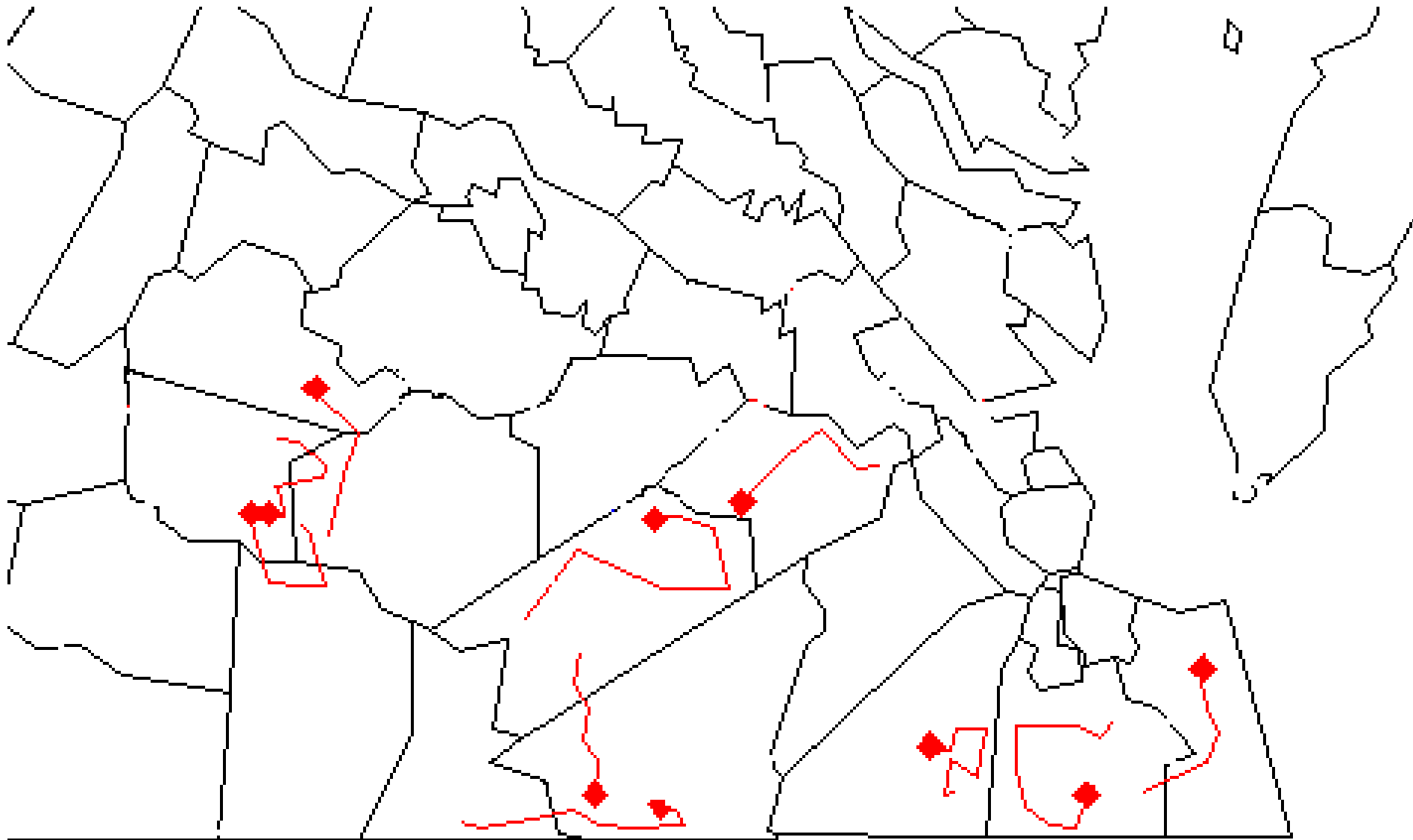
# How are BBS data used?

- Various agencies and initiatives use BBS trends to assess bird conservation priorities
- BBS data are used in focusing research and management action on neotropical species
- State Natural Heritage programs and Breeding Bird Atlas projects often utilize BBS data to enrich their databases
- Educators often use BBS data as a tool to teach biological, statistical & GIS concepts
- Hundreds of scientific studies have relied heavily upon BBS data

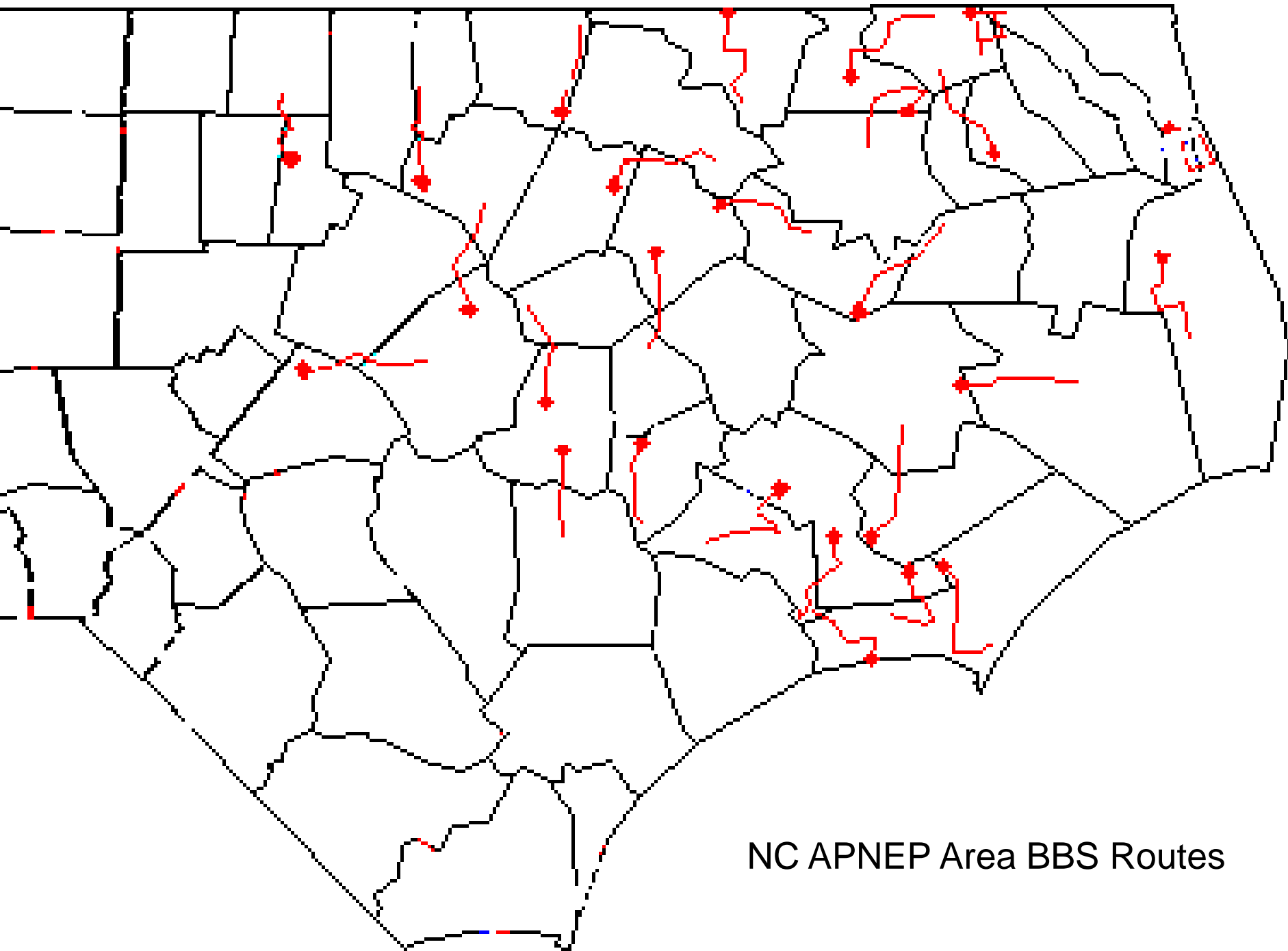








VA APNEP Area BBS Routes



NC APNEP Area BBS Routes



# NC BBS

- 89 active Routes statewide
- 35 in APNEP Area (all currently assigned)
- 26 observers with 18 assigned to one route, 7 assigned to two, and 1 assigned to three  
– all Volunteer!

# Audubon Christmas Bird Count



# Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

- The first count was conducted in 1900
- Over 2100 Counts from North America through South America, the Caribbean, and some Pacific Islands; with new counts every year
- Huge effort with over 60,000 participants



# CBC Methodology

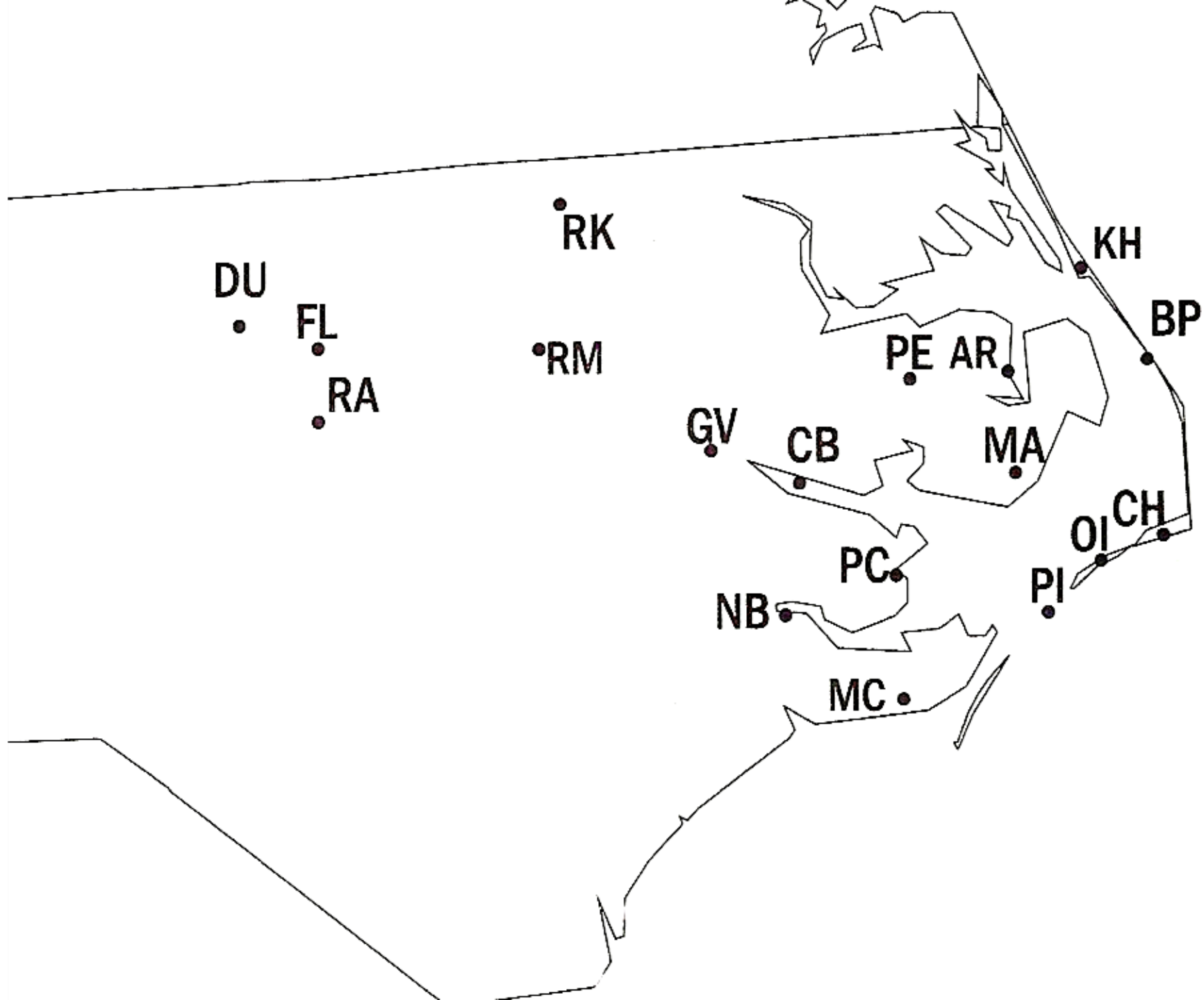
- Each Count is done during one calendar day within the period 14 Dec – 5 Jan each year
- Each count is a 15-mile diameter circle
- Each circle is divided into different areas so that different groups of participants can cover the areas during the day
- All individual birds seen and heard are counted











# NC CBC

- 49 Count circles statewide
- 18 in APNEP area
- Number of participants varies from 6 to 30 on the respective counts - all Volunteer!