Assignment 4: Beautiful Graphics

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Show Your Data:

My graph shows the numbers of squares per region that had Bald Eagle occurrences in the First and Second Maritime Breeding Bird Atlases. The only discrepancy in the data is that there was no data for Regions 2-4 for the First Atlas.

Avoid Chartjunk:

My initial graph was already quite clear of chartjunk though the default ggplot grid may have qualified. It was grey with white lines running both vertically and horizontally and I made sure to remove it.

Utilize Data-ink:

I further trimmed down my graph by removing axis lines and replacing the bulk of my bars with only their peaks.

Use Labels:

The legend on the side specifies which colour corresponds to the First Atlas and which to the Second.

Utilize Colour:

I utilised two colours that I derived from a photo of a Bald Eagle to distinguish between the two Atlases. The photo was taken by Julia Baak.

Understand Narrative:

I made sure that the bar that corresponded to the First Atlas preceded the bar that corresponded to the Second Atlas for that same region.

Final Thoughts:

All the above considered I do not actually believe a bar graph is the best way to present this data. As the data corresponds to geographic regions, I believe showing the data on a map or maps would be a more effective way to convey the information.