

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Four days of bird-fun! February 13-16, 2026



American Oystercatchers by Michael Stubblefield / Macaulay Library



Pipope Panitchpakdi in Thailand / GBBC

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) Is Global!

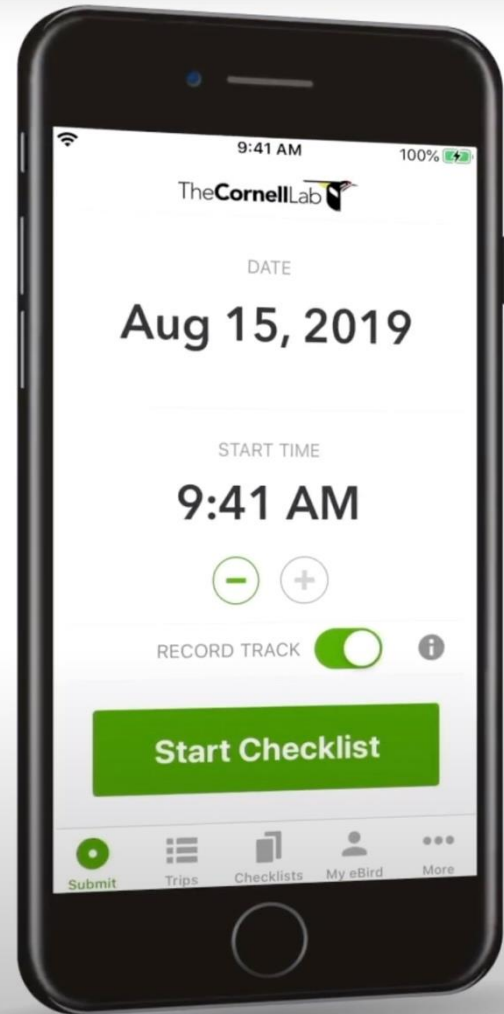
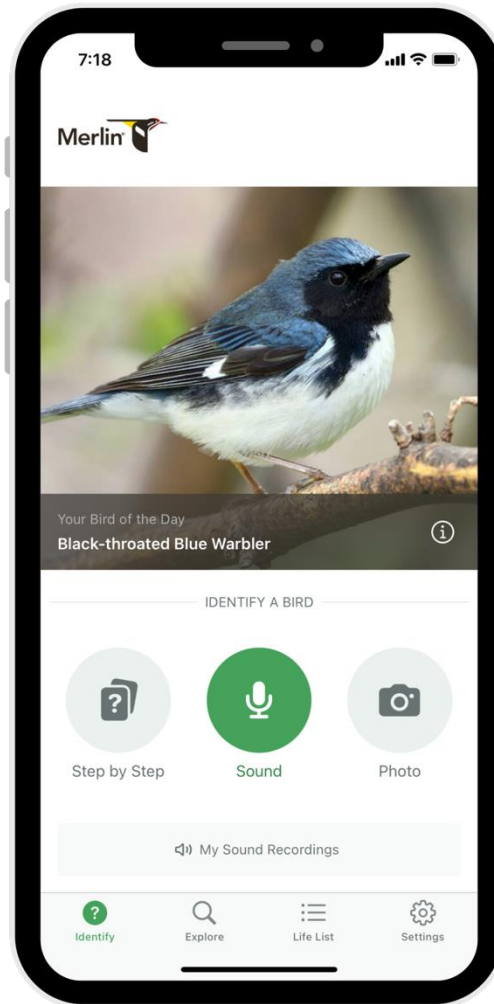
People from all over the world join this four-day event.

Steve Coniecz, U.S.; Ramde Bhatiya, India.; Talatu Tende in Nigeria; and François-Alexandre Bourbeau in Canada.



Ways to Share Birds!

- Merlin App
- eBird App
- eBird on a Computer or Tablet



Merlin Has Options

Any of the tools in Merlin work for sharing your birds for GBBC.

Pick your favorite and remember to tap:

**This is My
Bird!**

01 Sound ID

02 Step-by-Step

03 Photo ID

04 Explore Birds

Using eBird but new to bird watching?

eBird...

- Is best if you know your birds
- Has a learning curve
- Allows you to count birds

Consider taking the FREE
eBird Essentials Course.

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>



Watch & Count Birds Anywhere!

- Yards
- Patios/Porches
- City Streets
- Parks/Preserves
- Schools
- Nature Centers
- Places of Worship
- Everywhere there are birds!



Why Participate?



Shannon Kerr, Canada/ GBBC

01 It's fun and connects you to nature

02 Long-term records of birds

03 Scientists can't be everywhere, all the time

04 Puts your observations to work for conservation

What Do We Learn?



Crimson Sunbird in Singapore by
Yifei Zheng / Macaulay Library

01 Migration patterns

02 Year-to-year changes

03 Long-term trends

What Do You Do?

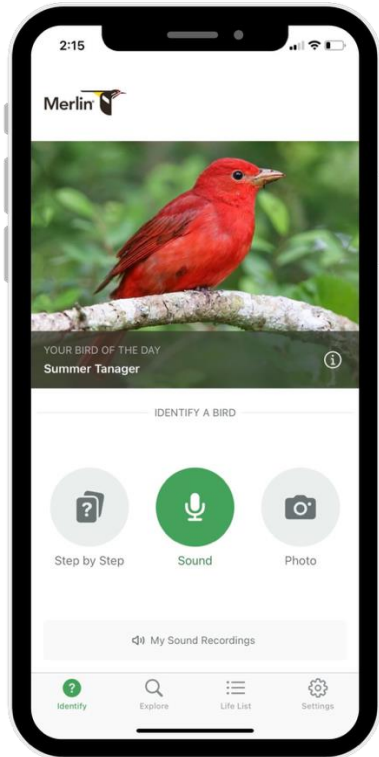
01 Watch and count birds anywhere for at least 15 minutes

02 Watch longer if you wish

03 Keep track of time / place

04 Best estimate on the number of individuals for each species observed (if using eBird)

You will need...



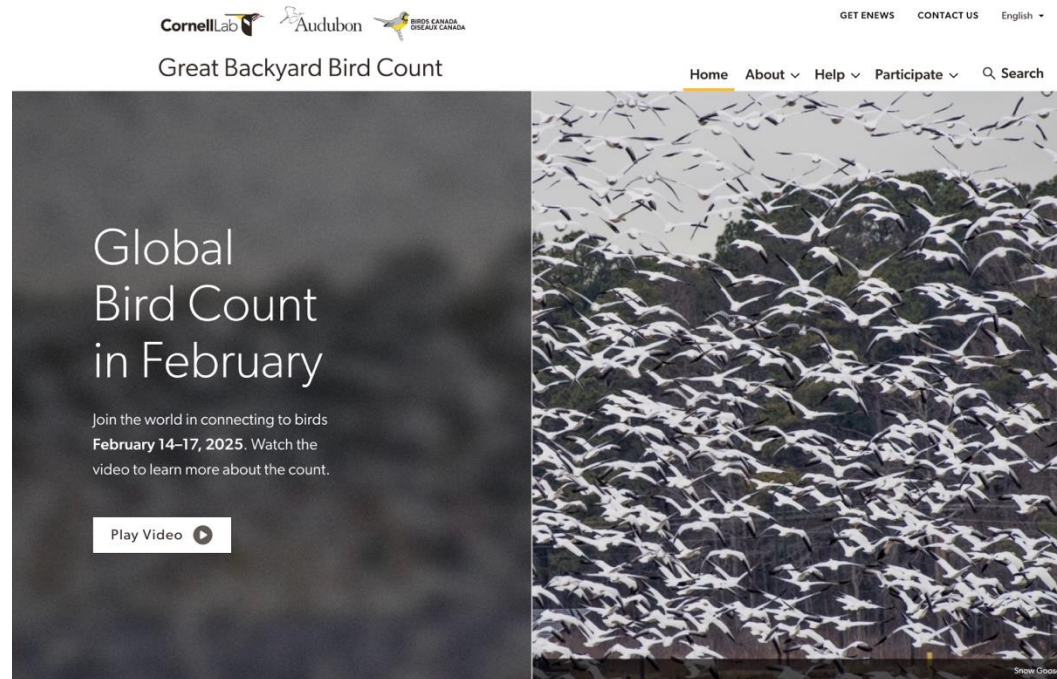
01 Downloaded Tool (Merlin and/or eBird app)

02 Enter/confirm location for each area you watch birds

03 Track amount of time watched and enter (in eBird)

Access Tools to Participate

Visit our website:
Birdcount.org



Important

01

If you use Merlin or eBird already, **keep doing what you are doing!** All entries over 4-days count towards GBBC.

02

New to GBBC or Cornell Lab projects? Create an account. If you have participated in another project (PFW, NW, Bird Academy) use the same username and password.

03

Track amount of time watched and enter (in eBird)

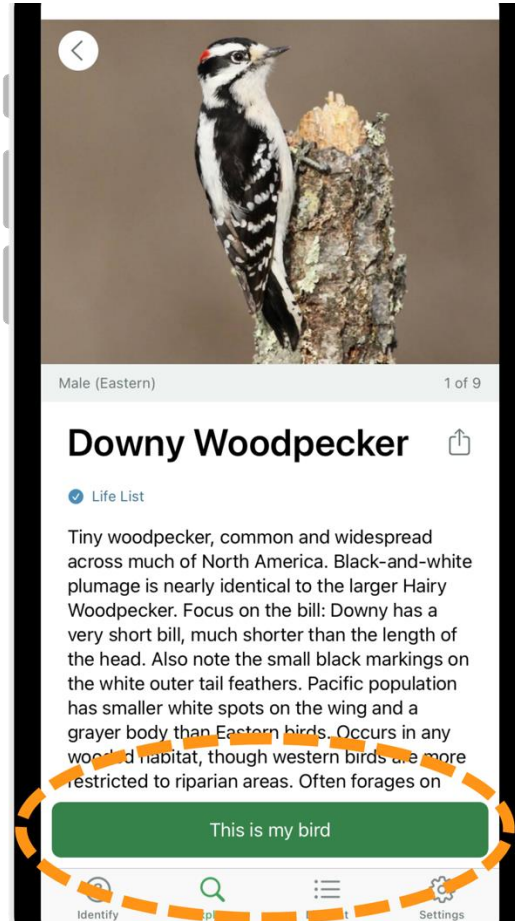
For Step-by-Step Directions

Visit our participate page to follow a guide on how to use Merlin or eBird:

<https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>

Vidhya Sundar in U.S. / GBBC; Anna's Hummingbird by Markus Duhme / Macaulay Library; Alicia Highland in U.S. / GBBC

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After You Submit Your Birds

You can:

- Review and edit the list
- Share your list with others in your group
- Submit another list

Sharp-shinned Hawk by David Wade / Macaulay Library; April
Gaydos in Mexico / GBBC; Mrs. Gould's Sunbird (Scarlet-
breasted) in Thailand by Wich'yanan Limparungpatthanakij /
Macaulay Library



Thank You

<https://www.birdcount.org>