Your Guide to Teaching eBird

Leading an eBird workshop or training session?
Don't forget to include these essential eBird features and tips!

Learning How to Use eBird:

☐ **eBird Essentials Free Course**

Take our free, self-guided course with step-by-step instructions on how to use eBird.

Basics of an eBird Checklist:

☐ **Single Calendar Date**

Make sure to use the exact same date and time when you went birding.

☐ **Single Location**

Include the location where you went birding - either hotspots or personal locations. Learn how to select a location.

☐ **Protocol**

Indicate on your checklist the type of observation. Most of the time this will be one of the four core eBird protocols: stationary, traveling, incidental or historical.

☐ **Complete vs Incomplete**

Indicate whether you are submitting a checklist with all birds you could identify or whether it is for documenting only a few species or an incidental sighting.

eBird Best Practices:

☐ **What to Include and NOT to Include in Your Checklist**

Make sure to follow these guidelines when listing your sights.

☐ **When to Start a New Checklist**

Start a new list when you change locations or habitats or when you change the type of birding you are doing.

☐ **Keep Your Lists Short**

Keep Traveling Checklists under 5 miles and Stationary Checklists under 3 hours.

☐ **Count Birds**

Count the number of individuals you see for each species to increase the scientific value of your list. Read our counting tips.

☐ **Use Mobile Tracks**

Enable and use the GPS track on your phone while using eBird Mobile.

Data Entry Tips:

☐ **Sharing a Checklist**

You can easily share your lists with those who were birding with you.

☐ **Searching, Sorting, and Filtering**

You can find species by typing their name on the search bar at the top of your list. On eBird Mobile you can also use Smart Sorting to filter species by what you can expect to find at your site.

☐ **Quick Entry Codes**

To save time you can use codes for species names by typing just the first letters of their names.

☐ **Adding and Subtracting Counts**

On eBird Mobile you can use Quick Entry to add individuals by typing the number before the species name on the search bar or by touching on the count box. You can subtract by typing a negative number before the species name.

Documenting Your Sights:

☐ **Reporting Rarities**

Some rare species for your area might be flagged and will need documentation description. Understand how to document your sightings.

Bonus Features:

☐ **Colored Dots on eBird Mobile**

Orange dots indicate that a species is infrequent and red that it is unreported for the area. Learn more about colored dots.

☐ **Uploading Media**

You can upload photos and sounds to your lists!

☐ **Observation Comments**

You can include any observations while recording your checklist in the comments space.

☐ **Connecting to Merlin App**

Download the Merlin Bird ID App for free to assist with bird identification or to access a complete mobile guide of species that you may observe in a country or area. You can also connect your eBird username to Merlin to view your Life List.