Global Big Day: How to Participate?

The biggest birding day of the year—**Global Big Day**—is almost here. Join us **Saturday, May 10, 2025**, to count as many birds as possible in a 24 hour period.

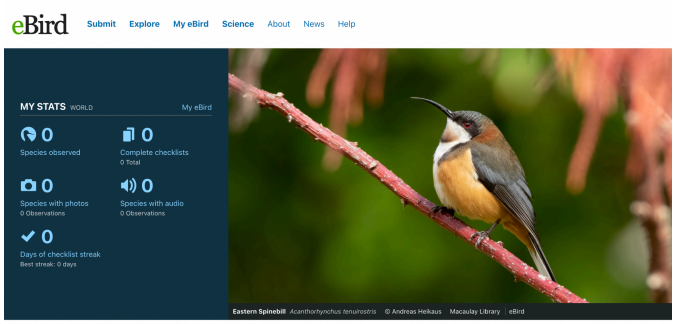
Participating is easy—you can even join in on the fun of Global Big Day from home! If you can spare as little as 10 minutes, report your bird observations to **eBird online** or with the **free eBird Mobile app**. If you have more time, visit multiple sites throughout the day and submit a checklist for each site.

We've brought back our popular teams competition this year to reignite the energy, excitement, and camaraderie that's associated with Global Big Day. Join a team, win prizes, and help us raise funds for travel scholarships assisting Caribbean students and wildlife professionals to attend the **BirdsCaribbean 24th International Conference in the Dominican Republic** this July, a life-changing learning opportunity.

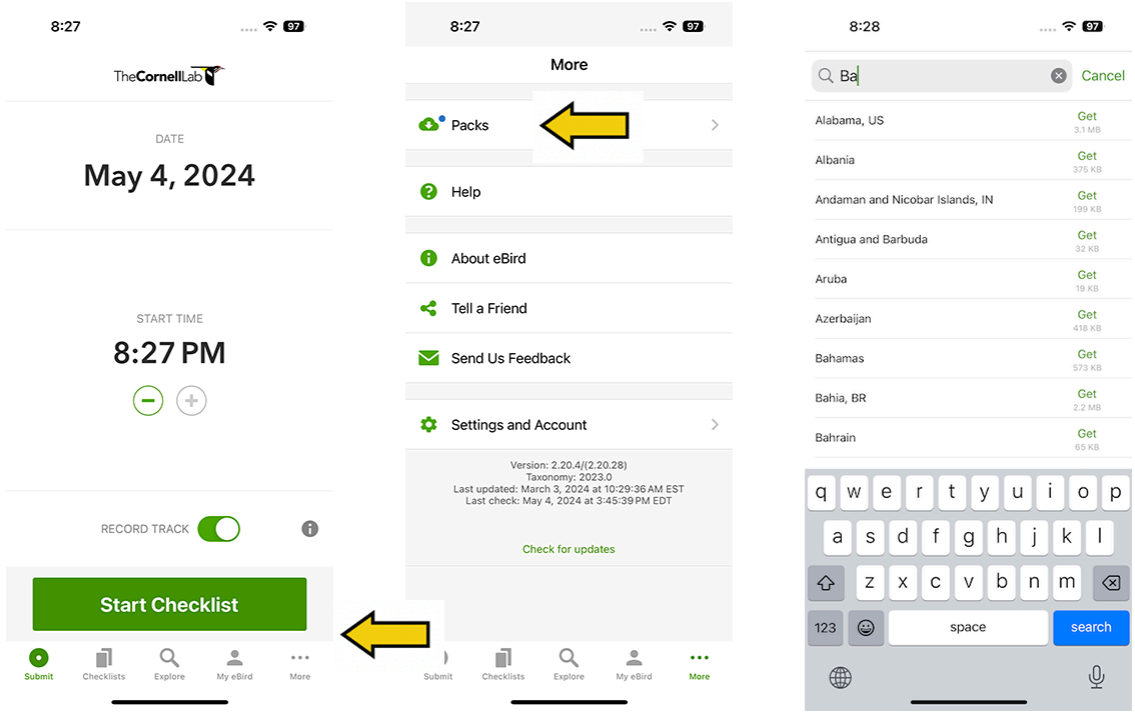
The Steps

1. **Sign up:** choose a team, or create a team, on the BirdsCaribbean Global Big Day Event Page. Check out this 'how to guide' for step-by-step instructions to create a team. If you would like to join a team, simply click the "Join a team" button next to the Team Leaderboard, and select the "Join an existing team" option. Although some teams have an island or country name with most members from that island, note that anyone from anywhere in the world can join any of our teams. And if your island doesn't currently have a team—now is the perfect time to make one!!

2. **Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day (GBD) list—while at the same time collecting the data to help scientists better understand birds. It's 100% free from start to finish.



3. **Download eBird Mobile:** the app is available for free on both the Google Play and App Stores. Click the links to go to the download page for each. On eBird mobile, click "...more" on the bottom right, then click "Settings and Account." Select a "Pack" (top of page) which is a list of all the birds in your country or state - very helpful!



4. **Watch birds on 10 May:** It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world. If you're on one of our GBD teams and wish to add as many birds as possible to your teams' overall total list and stats (we are having a friendly competition, after all!), then go out and bird at as many sites as you can on May 10th!

5. **Enter what you see and hear in eBird:** You can enter your sightings **via the eBird website** or the **free eBird Mobile app** to make submitting lists even easier. Importantly you need to be sure that your **eBird lists are shared with your team!** You can do this in two ways. The first (and easiest!), is via a team **Trip Report**, **you need to have joined a Trip Report to do this—look for the invitation to join from your team leader on eBird.** If you have not received an invite yet, ask your team leader to invite you with your eBird username (or the email you use with your eBird account) (Check this sheet to see your team's

name, team eBird username, team leader to contact). Once you've joined a trip report ALL your lists from Big Day should automatically be added to your team!

If you haven't joined the Trip Report for your team you can still share your checklist with regular checklist sharing. Get more details on how to share your eBird checklists with your team here! And if you're a **team leader**, get step-by-step guidelines on how to set up a team and Trip Report on eBird here.

6. **Be sure to start a new checklist for each new site!** When you move between sites, start a new checklist for stationary counts. For traveling counts, the guidelines are to keep them to less than 5 miles/ 8 kms and 3 hours, then start a new checklist. If driving from site to site, please create a separate list for each site. Shorter distances and durations are better for the scientific value of these observations.

   If you do a count at any kind of wetland in the Caribbean (including beaches), please record this as a **Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC) count** - choose one of the protocols (CWC Point Count or CWC traveling Count) which are available on the eBird app if you are using the *eBird Caribbean portal* (select this in your account settings (More/ Settings and Account) if you are birding in the Caribbean) or through the eBird webpage.

7. **Take photos on GBD!** Of the birds you're seeing, beautiful habitats you're in, and the people you're with, or take a selfie!!! We will have prizes/ bragging rights for photos in different categories, for example, best bird photo, people photo, biggest rarity, funniest photo, etc. Here are winning photos from 2024 - enjoy!

8. **Tag us on Social Media!** If you're active on social media, please use the hashtag #GlobalBigDayBirdsCarib and tag us @BirdsCaribbean. That way, we can see your stories and find and see each other's photos!

9. **And of course, have fun watching the sightings roll in:** During the day, follow along with sightings from teammates in real-time on your team's Global Big Day team page. Here are the links to each team's profile page and Global Big Day 2025 team page (where you will see checklists added on the page and map throughout the day on May 11th as they are shared with the team username).

Remember—It's a friendly (but fierce) competition, so consider setting goals for yourself and your team for the number of species you will see, number of team checklists, number of observers, number of endemics, amount of funds raised, etc. Check your team's stats from last year and try to beat your numbers! Or, if you're a new team, use these to set some GBD goals! Cornell will provide a summary of stats from all

the different regions of the world. Let's show up for the West Indies and have as many islands, species, and checklists as possible!!!

Helpful Resources

- Global Big Day - how to participate
- How to share your eBird checklists with your team on GBD
- BirdsCaribbean Webinar on how to use eBird and Merlin (Global Big Day, 2021)
- eBird Essentials: If you're new to eBird or want to learn how to get more out of it, take this free course.
- Birding 101: How to Identify Birds
- Waterbird Identification Part I: Herons, Egrets, Ducks, Marsh Birds, Seabirds
- Waterbird Identification Part II: Shorebirds