

How to use Birdata for birding at home

#BirdingAtHome



Birds in Backyards and Birds in Schools

Birds in Backyards is a research, education and conservation program of BirdLife Australia focused on the birds that live where people live. Birds in Backyards surveys can be submitted at any time, and as often as you like. Your data tells us how urban birds are doing and how our gardens can impact the birds visiting. Schools can also be involved through Birds in Schools, an education resource that engages teachers and students in citizen science. Students can participate in surveys at school or at home. If you would like to know more, please get in touch at birdsinbackyards@birdlife.org.au

Bird watching for science

So you are #BirdingAtHome and want to get a little citizen sciency? Us too! That's why we've created this guide to using our Birdata portal to record your home bird surveys.

What is Birdata?

Birdata is BirdLife Australia's online portal and collection of the results of bird surveys across the country. Anyone can sign up and use Birdata to record a bird survey - it's easy and a great way to contribute to what scientists know, to help them protect birds in Australia! Birdata can be accessed on the website or you can download the app from your app store. Below is your step-by-step guide for using the Birdata website.



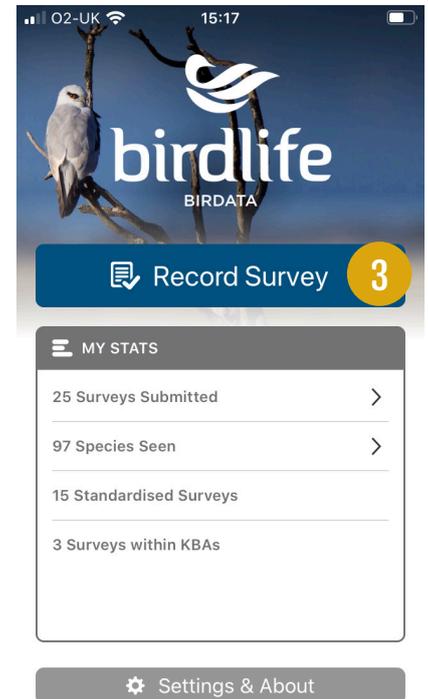
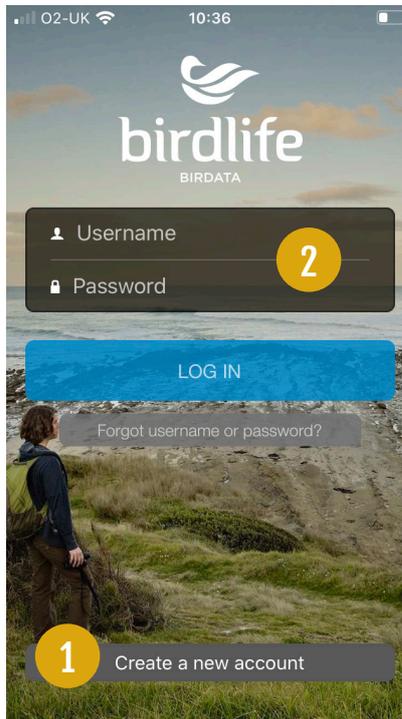
PHOTOS: Top banner, Andrew Silcocks; insert, Sarah Floyd

What is a survey?

A survey is simply recording what you see! For a Birding at Home or Birds in Backyards survey, all you need to do is spend 20 minutes, in your backyard or on your front verandah, and take note of the birds you see. Tally up the number of birds of each type. If you can do this, you can do a survey!

Birddata guide - App

- 1 Search for 'BirdLife' in your app store and download the Birddata app. Create a new account by entering your details, including a username and password.
- 2 Enter your username and password and click 'LOG IN'.
- 3 Prepare to record your survey by clicking 'RECORD SURVEY'.



- 4 Select the program you are participating in. In this case, 'Birds in Backyards'.
- 5 Find your location by entering your suburb name, or by zooming in on the map. Once you can see the location on the map, tap and hold your finger on the correct place, then click 'Record survey here'. If you are doing your survey at home, you do not have to record the survey at your exact location - an approximate location is fine.

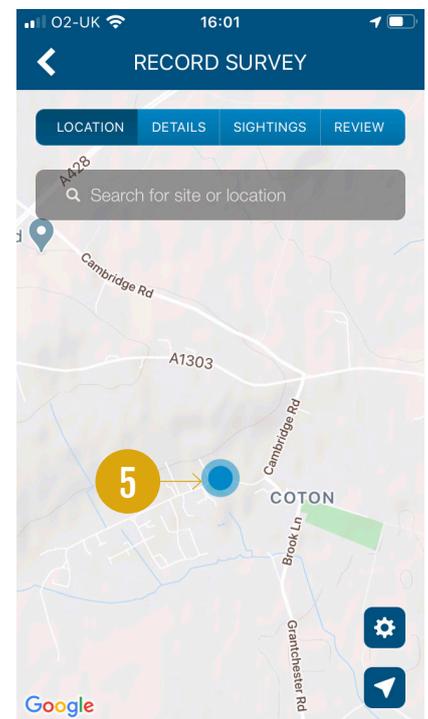
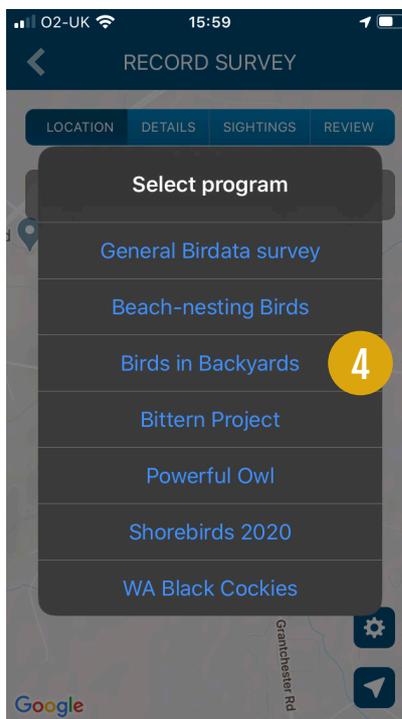


PHOTO: Gary Meredith



6 For the 'DETAILS' section, enter the date and time. From the 'Survey Period' drop-down menu, the '20 minutes' survey is the preferred option, as it is easily compared with other surveys, easier to do, and more reliable as a result. The 'Weekly list' requires you to enter the birds you see over a week. Give your survey a name - it's up to you!

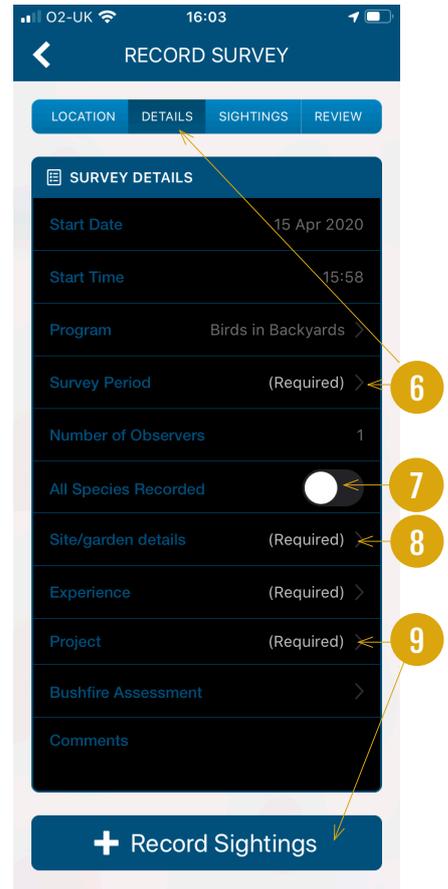
7 You will probably try to record all the types of birds you see, so click the button for 'All Species Recorded'.

8 The 'Site/garden details' section asks you to enter details about your site, your garden. Use the drop-down menus to select the answers that are best. You only have to enter this information once, not for future surveys at the same location, unless you make changes to the space.

9 If your screen has 'Location Accuracy', select the option that best describes how close your location is to where you placed your survey point on the map in Step 5.

The 'Project' you select from the drop-down menu will depend if you are doing this for fun ('No project'), for school ('Birds in Schools'), or if you are doing a Birds in Backyards survey (select the current season 'Survey').

Now you are up to carrying out your survey and recording what you see! Click the 'Record Sightings' button.



10 When you see a bird, click the 'Search by species name' search bar. A list of common local birds will appear. You can scroll through this list, or you can search using the 'Search by species name' if you know the name. Click on the bird that you saw.

11 For 'Count', enter the number of birds you saw. You can also enter breeding activity using the drop-down menu, add notes, and include a photo or observations

11 For 'Count', enter the number of birds you saw. You can also enter breeding activity using the drop-down menu, add notes, and include a photo or observations of the bird interacting with other birds, but this is not required.

12 Each bird you enter will be added to your list. You can change the number of birds you see of each type once they are in your list by using the - or + buttons.

13 When you have finished your survey, click 'Review & Submit'. All the information you entered for the survey will be shown in a summary. Check that it is correct, and if you are happy with it, click the 'Submit Survey' button.

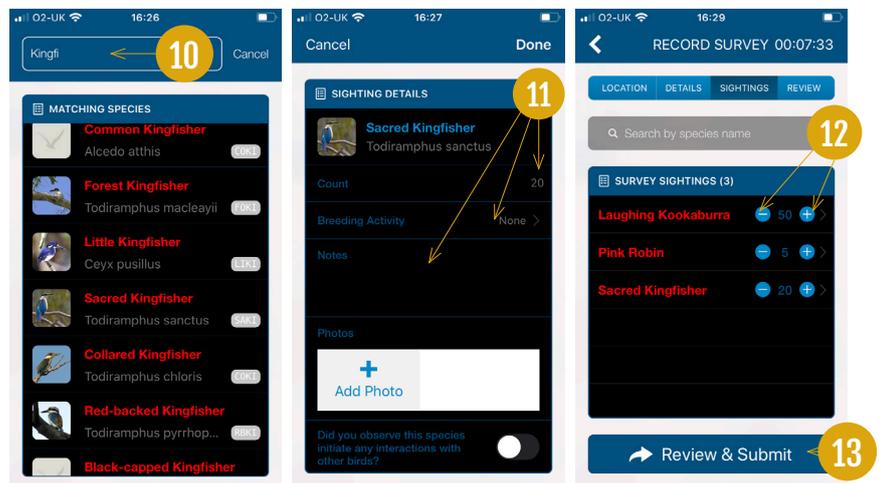


PHOTO: Warren Wilson