

How to use the Birdata Website for Birds in Backyards Surveys



Birds in Backyards Program

Birds in Backyards is a research, education and conservation program of BirdLife Australia focused on the birds that live where people live. You can learn about birds, participate in surveys or projects, and create habitat and take action for our feathered neighbours. Visit us at www.birdsinbackyards.net.

Bird watching for science and fun

Citizen science is the gateway to many exciting discoveries. It is a partnership between the public and professional scientists that can help answer questions scientists couldn't answer on their own. Anyone from total beginner birdwatcher to certified expert bird nerd can be a citizen scientist! Not only is birdwatching rewarding and fun, but you can do it anywhere and it's the perfect #BirdingAtHome activity.

Birds in Backyards data tells us how our urban birds are faring and how our gardens and behaviours can impact the birds that visit. Birds in Backyards surveys can be submitted at any time and as often as you like. Or you can participate in our:

- Summer Survey (December & January)
- Autumn Survey (March & April)
- Winter Survey (June & July)
- Spring Survey (September & October)

Birds in Schools is an education resource that engages teachers and students in citizen science. Students can participate in surveys at school or at home.

For more information visit www.birdsinbackyards.net/getoutside/Birds-Schools or contact us at birdsinbackyards@birdlife.org.au.

What is Birdata?

Birdata is BirdLife Australia's online portal for all the surveys and data across the country. Anyone can sign up and use Birdata - it's easy and a great way to contribute to helping our scientists protect Australia's birds!



PHOTOS: Top banner, Rex Boggs; insert, Colin Driscoll

Birddata guide - Website

1 Go to birddata.birdlife.org.au/ and click 'SIGN UP' to create a username and password.

2 Click 'LOG IN' and enter your username and password.

3 Click on 'RECORD SURVEY' to get started.

4 Select the program you are participating in. In this case, 'Birds in Backyards'.

5 Enter your survey site details from the options in the drop-down menu. You do not have to enter your house number - an approximate location is fine. There is an option later on to choose a private survey, which means that your survey location will not be visible to others.

6 Your site location will appear on a map, you can move the marker if it's not in the correct place.

7 In 'ABOUT MY SITE', use the drop-down menus to select your answers. Information about your garden can really help the scientists understand birds and the places they like, or don't like. You only have to enter this information once, not for future surveys at the same location, unless you make changes to the space.

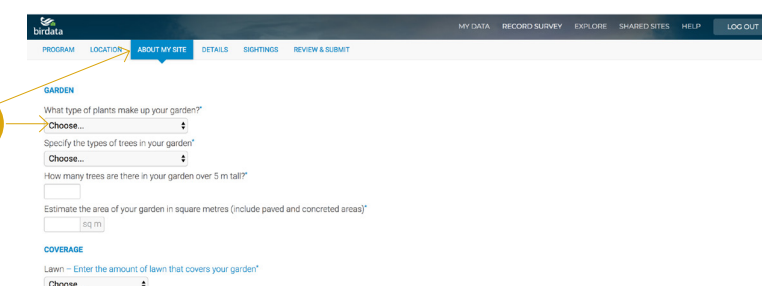
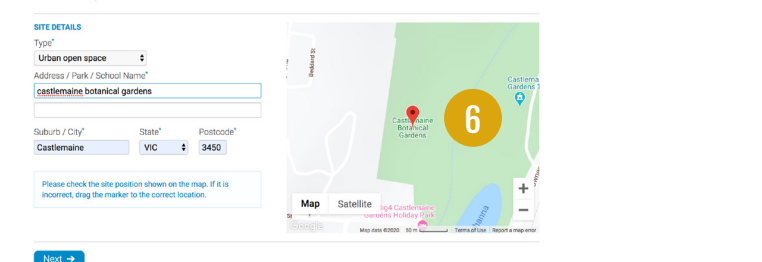
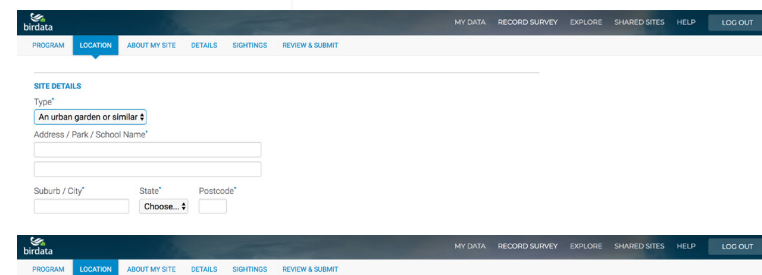
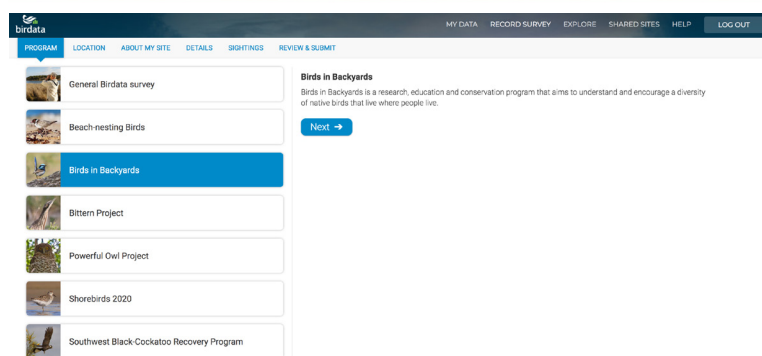
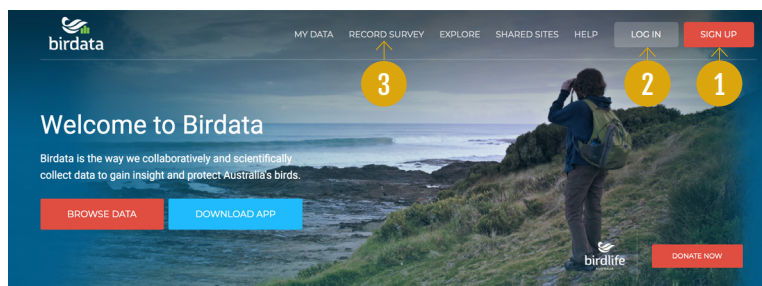


PHOTO: Campbell Mole

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For the 'DETAILS' section, enter the date and time. Under 'Survey type' 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. You can also keep a tally of the birds you see over a week within the "Weekly list".

You will probably try to record all the types of birds you see, so click 'All species recorded'

The 'Water level' will apply if there is a water body such as a creek or dam.

Click the 'Private Survey' box if you wish to keep your location and data hidden.

The 'Project' you select from the drop-down menu will depend upon whether you are doing this for fun at any time throughout the year ('No project'), for school ('Birds in Schools'), or for a Birds in Backyards Seasonal Survey (select current survey period).

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Click the 'SIGHTINGS' button to start counting your birds. Birddata will automatically show you the most common species in your area. If you click the 'Species profile' button you can read about the type of bird on the Birds in Backyards website. To add a species not in the list, use the search bar (common names are fine!) For more help use a field guide or the Birds in Backyards Bird Finder: www.birdsinbackyards.net/finder

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The most important part of the 'SIGHTINGS' section is to record how many of each type of bird you see. Find your bird in the list and enter the maximum number you see in the 'Count' box. You can change this number as you see more birds.

You also have the option to record breeding activity, photos, observations of birds interacting with each other, or other notes.

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In the 'REVIEW AND SUBMIT' section, if you need to make a change, just click on the section you want at the top of the page. When you are happy with your survey, click on 'Submit Survey' at the bottom of the page.

Note: You can choose to enter details including breeding activity, notes, photos, or interactions, in the 'SIGHTINGS' section.

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PHOTO: Michael Harvey