

On opening www.birdtrack.net you will encounter BirdTrack's Home page which really brings out the best of the system:

- Your records appear in the map (with your permission) at the centre of the page
- Latest reporting rates for all species are readily available
- Your options for adding and engaging with your records are easy to find
- The 'Latest list' and 'Top BirdTracker' feeds create a tangible BirdTrack community, of which you will be a part!

2 Simply click whatever task you want to complete - whether adding records, exploring and editing your own records or

- 3 A topical and interesting addition to the site, each time the page is refreshed, the latest reporting rate for a different species is displayed, highlighting any differences between the current year's pattern of observations and that of previous years.
- 4 Use the search box to display the pattern of observations for any particular British or Irish bird or dragonfly species.
- 5 You can use the map to locate the records added for any British or Irish location (zoomed in) or the long-term frequency of occurrence on BirdTrack lists (zoomed out).
- 6 These 'league' tables are updated every thirty minutes and feature your own stats whenever you are logged in.
- 7 Recent news items - links to regular updates that used to feature on the old Home page.



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The BirdTrack App, as featured in WWF Wildlife's Top 10 Apps, allows you to easily collect species lists and casual records of birds whilst you

Android and iPhone versions are available – free – On Google Play and

- Visit the 'Birdtrack Apps' page, linked from the Birdtrack icon in the 'More Birdtrack' box on the Home page
- When you first open the app, enter your existing BTO username and password (see the first hint on page 8)
- Before using the app for the first time, download the latest Birdtrack list of species. It is worth updating this every few months, in case changes/additions have been made to

changes/additions have been made to the master list

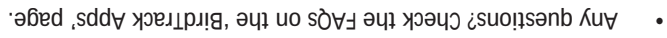
- Before taking the app into the field, download any existing sites you have in the online system
- Always turn on your smartphone's GPS before opening the app in the field

field

- Ideally, use the 'Existing nearby sites' option to choose local sites from your BirdTrack account (and avoid inadvertently creating duplicate sites)
- If you create a new site 'on the

fly', please give it a name. This

- The app is designed as a simple way of gathering data in the field; whilst you can enter older records through the app, the online system is more suitable for this kind of data entry
- Any questions? Check the FAQs on the 'BirdTrack Apps' page.



- Collecting data on your local patch can contribute to national conservation efforts
- You can readily access and extract any part of your data, once it is in BirdTrack, allowing you to analyse and present it in an instant
- Output tables, charts and maps are easily created
- BirdTrack records are automatically available to your county recorder
- Dragonfly records can be stored and made available to the local recorder
- Storing all your data in the BirdTrack database means that it is safely housed in powerful servers that are frequently backed up.

Registering

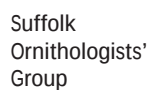
- To use BirdTrack online or on the app, first register via the button at the top left of the Home page www.birdtrack.net
- Existing users of any BTO online systems (e.g. Bird Atlas 2007–11, Breeding Bird Survey, Winter Thrushes Survey) can setup BirdTrack with the same username and password.

Recording Tips

- Complete lists (records of all the species you were able to identify on a visit to a particular location, rather than just the highlights) provide the most robust measure of migrant arrival and departure times available
- Adding start and end times for your complete lists gives a valuable measure of effort, so please include these whenever you can
- Casual records are useful for distribution mapping, particularly when it comes to 'filling in the gaps' for scarce species
- Breeding evidence continues to be useful post-Atlas in the March–August period, both for County Recorders and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.
- Use the 'Roving record' option for sightings from one-off locations, such as a Red Kite seen flying over the road
- Use the 'Casual record' and 'Species list' options for birding spots, such as nature reserves, your local patch and your garden/immediate surrounds



- Visit the 'Taking part' page for a quick overview of the main elements to recording through BirdTrack, with links to pages with more detailed instructions
- When you are creating new sites, the site definition process uses the underlying OS grid. If your site doesn't fall neatly into a 1-km square or tetrad don't worry, simply set the definition as 10-km (or >10-km). As long as you give the site an informative name, the local recorder will still be able to use the records easily.



In association with



Adding roving records

In 'Your options' on the Home page, navigate to 'Add records' then click the 'Roving' link to reveal the Roving Records form:

- 1 Drag the map to the location of your sighting, then hold down the SHIFT key and click, to automatically populate the correct grid reference. Alternatively you can enter the grid reference manually if you know it.
- 2 Enter records as indicated.

Adding casual records

In 'Your options' on the Home page, navigate to 'Add records' then click the 'Casual' link to reveal the Casual Records form:

- 1 Either click the location of the record from your current site list, choose a pre-determined site from BirdTrack's gazetteer, or create a new site.
- 2 Click the 'Dragonflies' tab to add any dragonfly records from the same site.

The bird recording tab, illustrated, is the default, otherwise:

- 3 Click the '+' button to open the 'optional details'. A separate set of dialogue boxes will then open where you can add comments, age/plumage/sex details, six-figure grid references and/or habitat details. You can also mark records as sensitive and/or remarkable through this route.

Adding species lists

In 'Your options' on the Home page, navigate to 'Add records' then click the 'Species list' link to reveal the 'Visit details' page. Here, choose a site, add the date (and, ideally, start and end time), and any general and/or weather comments.

On confirming the visit details, the Species List form (left) will be displayed:

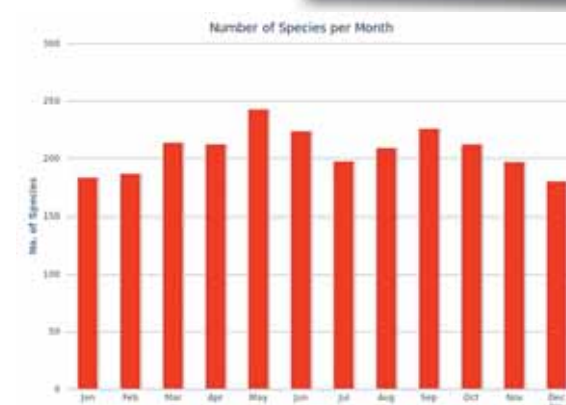
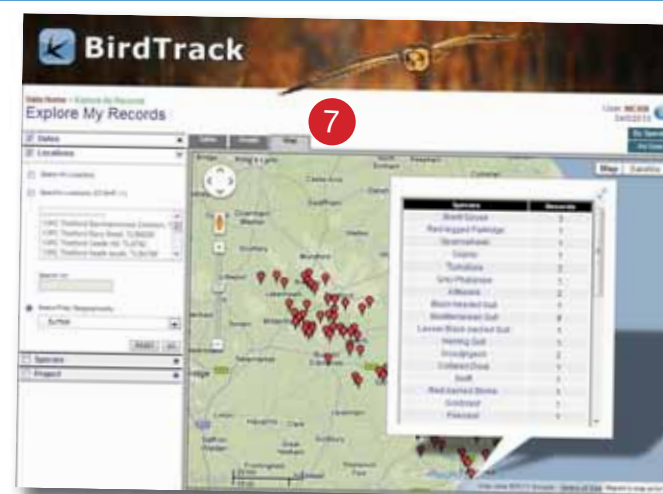
- 1 First, check that the visit details are correct.
- 2 Add bird records on the default tab as shown. Indicate whether or not all birds identified on the visit are being recorded and then add your data on the sightings (as per Casual records).

Note that dragonfly records can also be added via the relevant tab.

Exploring your data

In 'Your options' on the Home page, navigate to 'My records' then click the 'Explore my records' (EMR) link. Here the information you have added can be presented in three different formats: table, graph or map:

- 1 On the left side of the 'EMR' screen, above, are several filters that you can apply to your records.
- 2 The 'Dates' filter is automatically open when you go into 'EMR', and the 'Select All Dates' radio button is the default setting.
- 3 Simply click 'GO' to display your Life List in the table. The number of species recorded is shown at the top, with not countable species/taxa in brackets (N/C).
- 4 Alternatively you can display a Year list. Click the 'Select a year' radio button in 'Dates' filter. Next, use the dropdown menu to select the year – the current year is the default setting. Then click 'GO' to display your Year List in the table.
- 5 You can also download all your records for a particular species by clicking the Excel icon.
- 6 The graph, map and Excel icons at the top right of a displayed table can be used to graph, map or download the entire selection of records you have made.



- 8 The graph tab reveals various graphing options (1, 2 and 3), such as, left, the number of species you've recorded in each month:



- 9 Among the graphing options for the entire selection of data (accessed by clicking the graph icon at the top right of the screen) is this species accumulation graph: