



LINKS:

eBird: <https://ebird.org>

Merlin: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Download eBird App for iPhone [HERE](#) or for Android Devices [HERE](#).

Download Merlin App for iPhone [HERE](#) or for Android Devices [HERE](#).

Birding Together: if you're birding together, only one person needs to create a list and other observers can be added to that list.

eBird

Once accessed, create a Username and Password for your profile

Allow eBird to access your location (opening the app defaults to the Submit page)

Menu

- Submit (entering checklists)
- Checklists (seeing ongoing, past submitted and not submitted checklists)
- My eBird
- Uses your location to display species you've seen by year
- Settings
- Bird Packs installed
- Operations and help with app

Download eBird pack(s)

- Go to Settings, Bird Packs
- Click "All," Search
- Home country/region (For birding back home or to familiarize yourself before you depart)
- Australia (make sure you download Australia and not Austria)
- Depending on storage on your device, three options, download just one or a combination:
 - Western Australia, AU (cruise);
 - Australia Capital Territory, AU (pre-cruise Sydney experience);
 - South Australia, AU

Merlin

Once downloaded, sign in with your eBird username and password to link two accounts
Allow Merlin to access your location and photos; opening the app defaults to Identify Page.

Menu

- Identify
- Explore
- A list of all the birds from your Bird Packs
- Life List
- A list of all the species you've identified using the app(s)
- Settings
- Bird Packs installed
- Operations and help with app

Download Merlin Bird Pack(s)

- Go to Settings, Bird Packs
- Click "All," Search
- Home country/region (For birding back home or to familiarize yourself before you depart)
- Australia
- Depending on storage on your device, three options, download just one or a combination:
 - Australia: All (recommended if doing cruise and a combination of pre-cruise Australia or Sydney trip, or staying in Australia after)
 - Australia: North (just cruise)
 - Australia: Southeast (Sydney and Tasmania)
 - Australia: West (Perth and overlaps with North Pack in the Kimberly Region)

TIPS

Check your nature apps a couple days before you depart and update Bird Packs on WiFi at home. These apps periodically change with the season as new bird species migrate to/from the region.

Download one pack at a time to ensure it completes

THE WHY

The Kimberley region of Australia is data deficient for many bird, wildlife, and plant species during the month of May. As the first all LGBT+ group to tour this region, we have a unique opportunity to assist scientists and researchers. If just a handful of Vacayans (hopefully more)

participate with eBird and Merlin, we can help fill in these knowledge and data gaps during our vacation. These apps are citizen science tools which use a social network framework of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists to map and share observations of biodiversity across the globe. This is especially important in the current political climate where science is under attack and facing funding shortfalls.

SOURCES and TUTORIALS

eBird Essentials Course (free online tutorial of eBird):

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>

1. Open app, make sure you are on the "Submit" page (a notification may request you update packs)
 - a. Click "Start Checklist" button (eBird will load and say "Determining your position")
 - b. A list of likely species based on your location will load
 - c. To add an observation, you can scroll through the list or type in the "Add observations or find species" space
 - d. Record the number
 - e. To end your birding adventure, click stop
2. eBird will ask: "Are you done birding?" if yes, click "Stop Track" button; if no (because it is a mis click) hit the "Keep Birding" button.
3. A new page will appear with a summary of all the bird species and numbers, if they look correct, hit "Continue" button
 - a. Enter location
 - b. Chose a nearby birding "Hotspot"
 - c. Create your own unique location
 - d. 3 List Types:
 - i. Incidental (see something briefly); does not require you to enter time or distance
 - ii. Stationary (sitting in one spot for a period of time); eBird will automatically calculate this from the time you start a checklist
 - iii. Traveling (birding while moving); eBird uses your location settings to track this for you. It's why it's important to allow it to access your location. Otherwise, you have to enter this manually.
 - e. eBird will ask if you are entering a complete checklist; most of the time the answer is yes, unless you have more to add later or are seeing something incidentally
 - f. Click submit

ADDING MEDIA

- Navigate to eBird.org
- Go to the "My eBird" section from the hamburger menu (3 lines)
- Click "change region"
- Australia
- A number of your complete checklists will be displayed
- Click
- Select list with date, time, and location
- On the right, a drop-down menu displays, click "Add Media"
- Next to each species select the "Add Media" button to upload pictures to the list

ENTERING YOUR INFORMATION IN MERLIN

Opening the app defaults to Identify Page and gives you three options for identification

- Step by Step - follow steps to narrow down what you saw
 - Location
 - Date
 - Relative Body Size
 - Main Colors (up to 3)
 - What was the bird doing?
- If your bird is displayed in the choices, click "This is my bird" button
- Merlin will ask you to go to eBird (complete checklist) or save with Merlin (just logging the observation)
- Sound ID (clicking this will start recording from your microphone (requires access in permissions))
- As bird species call, the app will display a species it recognizes
- Photo ID
 - Take photo (requires camera access in permissions)
- Choose photo (requires access to photos in permissions)
 - Start exploring around your house and have fun!
 - Justyn will be available to help troubleshoot the apps on board