NH Audubon Nature Challenge

Guide to Submitting Bird Observations with eBird

Welcome! We're excited to learn about the amazing birds found on NH Audubon's sanctuaries. Whether you're an experienced birder or brand new, your observations help us better understand and protect wildlife in New Hampshire.

Already use eBird?

Great! All you need to do is:

1. Bird at a NH Audubon sanctuary. Click here for a list of participating sanctuaries.

2. Submit your sightings to eBird.

3. Share your checklist with NH Audubon using the **"Share Checklist"** feature and the username:
   NHA_Nature_Challenge

That's it! Sharing lets us know you participated and helps us track what was seen during the challenge.

New to eBird? No problem!

Here's a quick guide to get started. (We also recommend checking out the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology's free eBird Essentials course** for more training and details.)

You can submit bird sightings using the eBird mobile app or a computer. These instructions are for the mobile app, which is great for use in the field.

Getting Started with the eBird App

1. **Create a free account**
   Download the eBird app and sign up with a username and password.

2. **Start your first checklist**
    Tap **"Start Checklist"** to begin recording.

3. **Go birding!**
    As you see or hear birds, add them to your list and enter the number of individuals you observe. Only record birds that you can confidently identify. If you're not sure, leave it off your list—your data is still valuable!

4. **Choose your location**
    After you stop the checklist, select the location where you birded.

    o   The app will suggest nearby hotspots using your phone's GPS.

    o   To find the NH Audubon sanctuary hotspot, search for its name or use the map. The hot spot names are also available on our website. You can view these by selecting the sanctuary you visited.

5. **Select observation type**

    o   Choose **Stationary** if you stayed in one spot.

    o   Choose **Traveling** if you moved around while birding.

6. **Enter the number of people birding with you**

    o   On the checklist screen, set the **Number of Observers**.

    o   If you enter more than one observer, you'll see a **"Share checklist with…"** option. Tap it, type:
        NHA_Nature_Challenge, and press enter.

Tip: If you only entered one observer or forgot to share in the app, you can log in to eBird.org later on your computer. Under **"My eBird"** then **"Manage My Checklists"**, select **"Share Checklist"** and enter the username **NHA_Nature_Challenge**.

7. **Indicate whether your checklist is complete.**

    o   Complete means that you included all the birds you were able to identify.

8. **Review and Submit!**
    Check your data for accuracy, then tap **Submit**.

Remember: Sharing your checklist with NHA_Nature_Challenge is key—it lets us see your sightings!

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Sharing Your Photos

After submitting your checklist, you can upload media—including photos and audio recordings—through **eBird on your computer**.
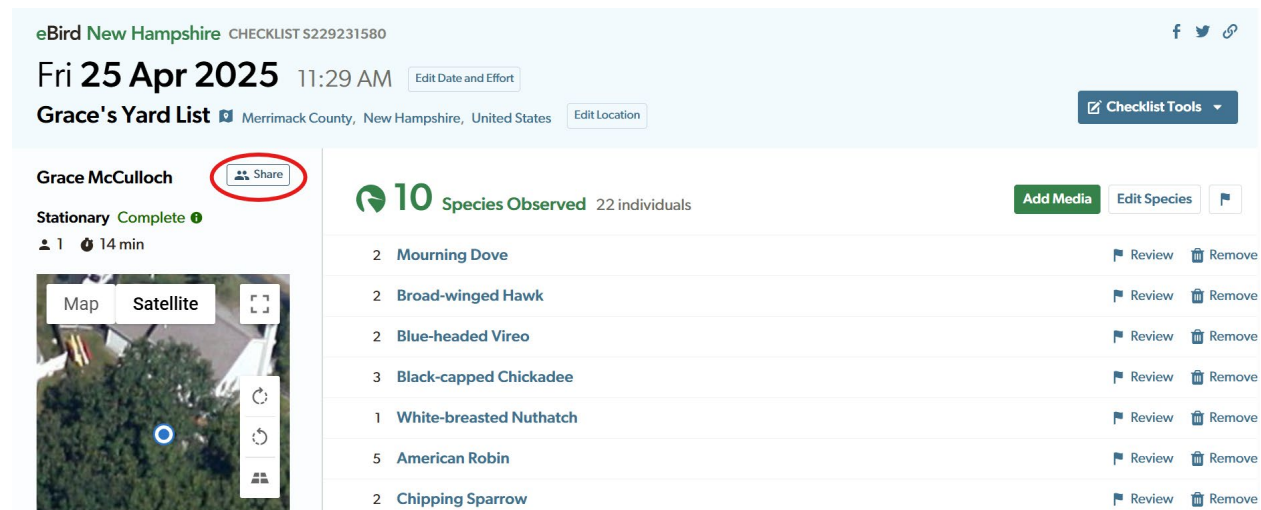
To do this:

1. Open your checklist on the eBird website.
2. Click **"Add Media."**
3. Upload your photos and/or audio recordings to the appropriate species.
4. When you're finished, click **"Done"** to save your media.

Sharing media helps document your observations and contributes valuable data to the birding community!

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Reminder: What's the difference between eBird and Merlin?

- Merlin helps with bird ID and uses the same login.

- eBird is where you record and share what you've seen.

- For this project, we'll be using eBird, though you are welcome to use Merlin to help you learn your birds!

Screenshot showing the Share button on eBird when managing your checklist via your computer. Don't forget to share your checklist with NHA_Nature_Challenge.