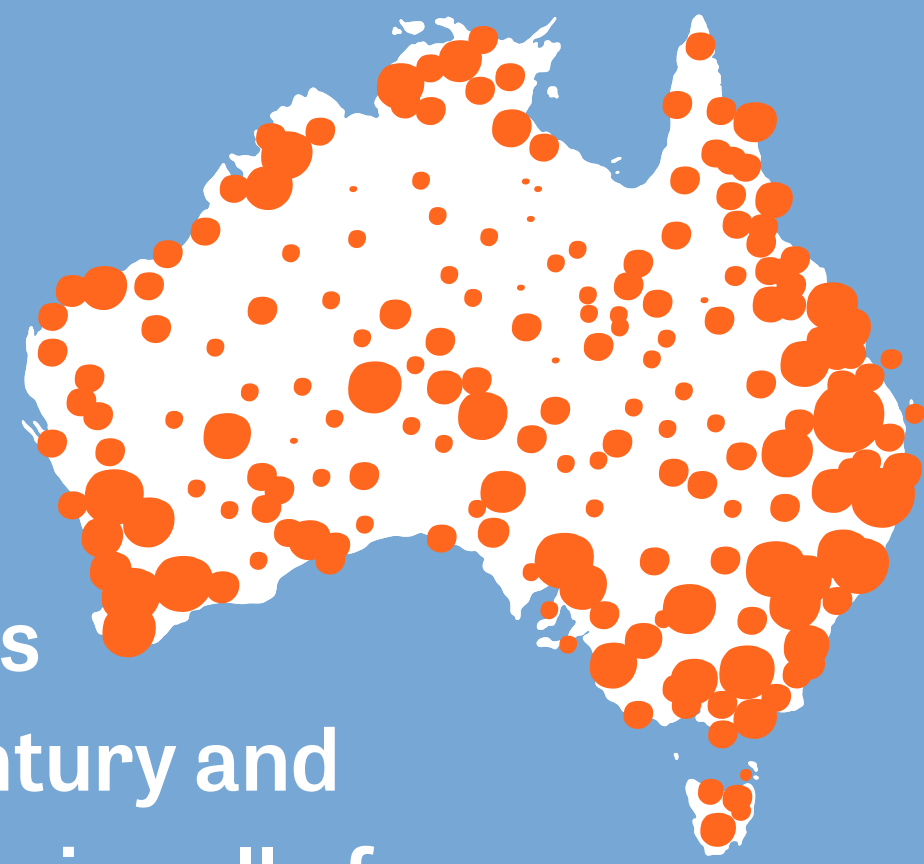


Birding for science with Birdata

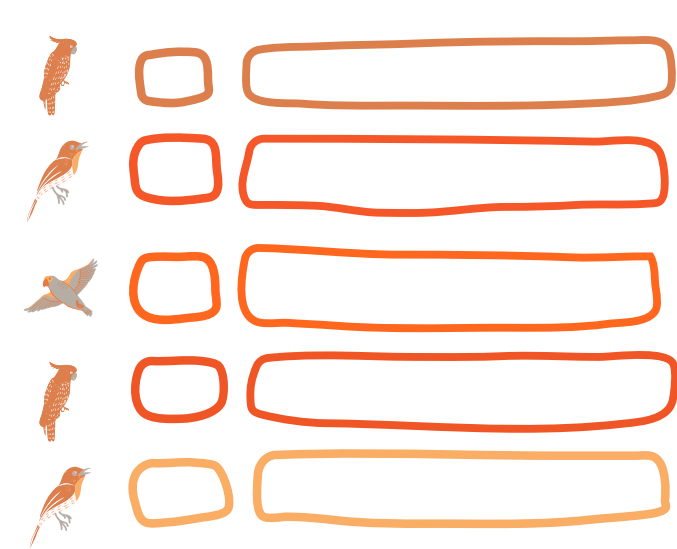
What is Birdata?

Birdata is the home for all of BirdLife Australia's crucial citizen science gathered observations. Birdata contains historic data dating back over half a century and provides the vital knowledge that underpins all of our critical conservation and research work.



Thanks to our dedicated community of surveyors, we are able to collect data right across Australia. By joining the Birdata community, you will help bird conservation projects on your doorstep and across the country with your regular surveys.

How does the data get used?



We share your bird sightings with scientists and government, where they are used to advocate for the protection of our threatened birds.

Birdata reveals key habitat, unique behaviour and the distributions of bird species. This information is used for conservation actions such as preventing inappropriate developments, recommending habitat for special protection, and developing bird species management plans.

Make your birding count with a standardised survey

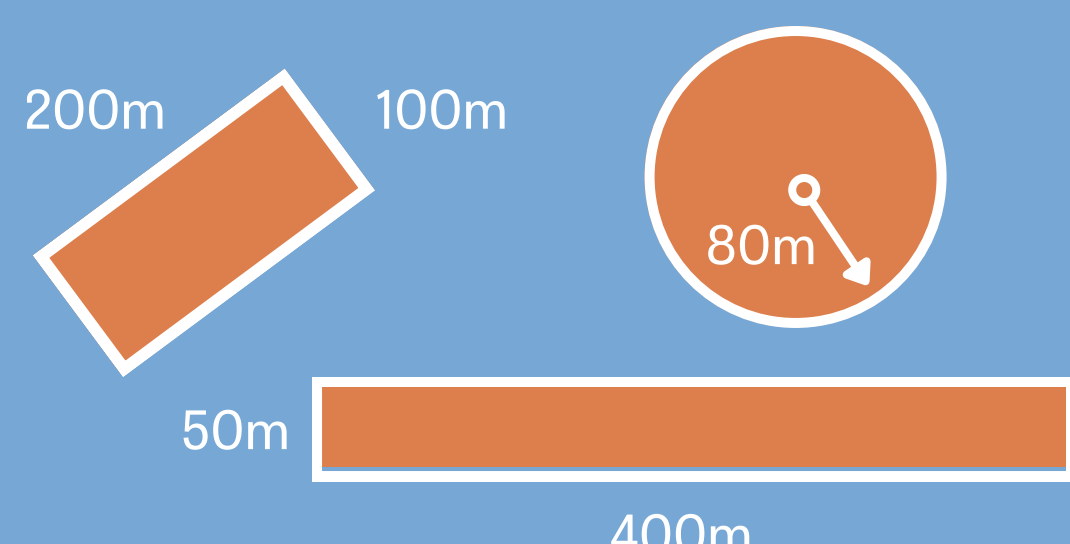


Standardised surveys are designed to ensure bird counting methods are consistent across surveyors. Standardised surveys help us to more easily compare surveys and draw evidence-based conclusions about bird distribution and behaviour. In Birdata, two types of standardised surveys are:

2-ha, 20-min search

Great for surveying in forest habitats

- Search for birds in a 2-ha area for 20 minutes
- Try to pick a 2-ha area with similar habitat if possible
- The recommended shape for your 2-ha area is a 100m x 200m rectangle but other shapes that may better suit your environment are shown below.



500m area search

Perfect for wetlands and swamps

- A more flexible option than 2-ha, 20-min search.
- Search an area within 500m of a central point for >20mins and < 1 week.
- If you would like to survey a larger area you can survey up to 5km from the central point.
- In Birdata you can write down whether you searched further than the 500m radius in the comments.



How to do a survey

Plan your survey type and area

First, choose your survey type! A 2-ha, 20-min survey is great for doing a survey in your local park, or you might want to do a 500m area search if you are in an expansive reserve or national park and you want to roam further.



Log in to the Birdata app and select a Program

Log in to Birdata and select **Record Survey** on the home screen. Next, select a Program. Birdata has several species-specific programs, for more information scan the QR at the bottom of the page. Choosing **General Birdata** is the most flexible option and will be applicable for most surveys.

Set up your location

In the 'Location' tab, navigate to the survey location you have chosen and tap on the map to create a new survey point. Then select **Record survey here**.



This will open the 'Details' tab. In **Location Name**, enter a name for your site that is memorable and descriptive e.g. 'Banksia Park - North Section'. If returning to a place you have surveyed before, search for your survey point in the search bar and use it again.

For large areas, it's a good idea to create multiple survey points to ensure you are sampling a cross-section of the available habitat.

Enter survey details and start recording

In the 'Details' tab, fill out the fields marked 'Required'. To start surveying, open the 'Sightings' tab. Start recording birds by choosing from the list of common species or searching by species name. Choose your species and enter how many you spotted in the 'Count' field as well as any other information if you have it (e.g. breeding activity, photos and notes).



If you see more of a species you have already entered, simply update the count by pressing the '+' button next to the species name.

Review and submit your survey for science!

The survey timer starts when you open the 'Sightings' tab. Birdata will keep the time for you even if you navigate to other apps or turn off the phone screen. To pause the survey, navigate back to the 'Details' tab to stop the timer.



When you have finished surveying or Birdata notifies you that time is up, make sure the species and details you have entered are correct, and press 'Submit Survey' to submit! (Tip: Birdata will let you know if you are missing any of the required data fields!)

Surveying tips

> Try to choose a survey area with a single habitat. In larger areas you should create multiple survey points to capture different sections and habitat types.

> Never play bird calls to attract species. If you need to listen to calls to confirm an ID, do this away from bird habitat.

> The most valuable surveys are those that are repeated regularly, so visiting a regular spot is great.

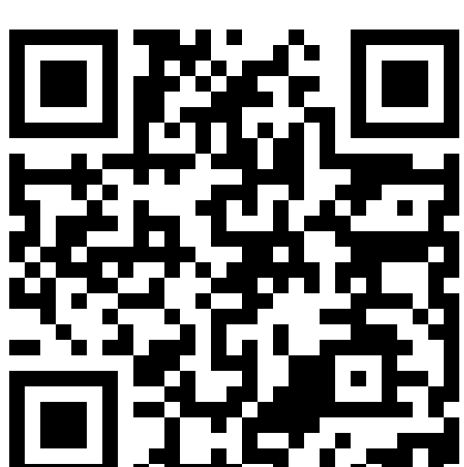
> If surveying offline, select your location ahead of time while connected to the internet. This creates a draft survey that you can fill in later.

> If you notice a mistake or need to add a species you could not identify at the time, you can edit your survey in the 'My Data' tab on the Birdata web page.

> Look up and use your ears! Count all species seen OR heard in your survey area, this includes birds flying over your survey area.

> Walking slowly will reduce bird disturbance and allow you to identify more birds! You should be able to cover a 2-ha area in 20 minutes at a very leisurely pace.

> Remember to relax and bask in the beauty of the birds around you!



To visit our Birdata FAQ page, scan the QR code.