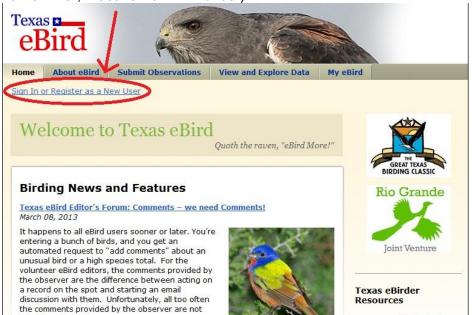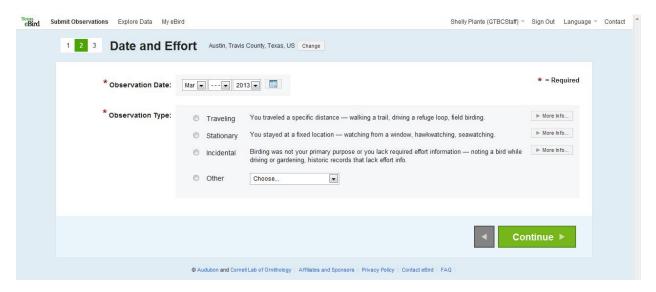The Birding Classic is now using the Texas eBird portal for Birding Classic team checklist submission. This is a great opportunity for teams to contribute to citizen science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology while raising money for birding and avian habitat conservation projects throughout Texas (through team registration fees and sponsorships).

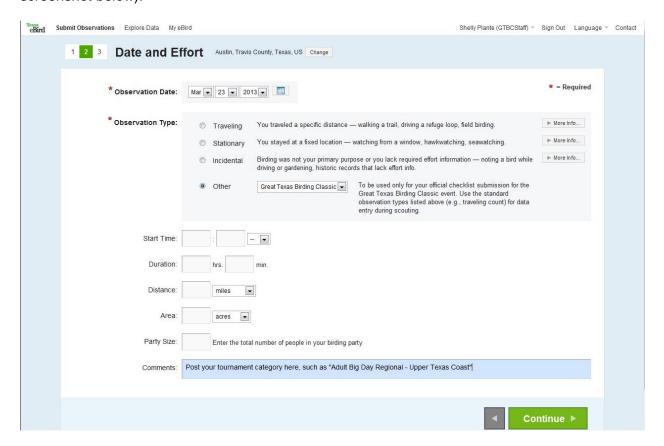## Step-by-Step Instructions on Using eBird for the Birding Classic:

1. Go to the Texas eBird portal online: http://ebird.org/content/tx.

2. Each individual team must create an eBird account with the team name, so click on "Sign in or Register as a New User" to create your new team account (see screenshot below). If you have more than one team, each team must have a different eBird account associated with it. You can put your team name in the "First name" and "Last name" fields when registering (e.g., "The Whirlibirds" would become "First name: The", "Last name: Whirlibirds").
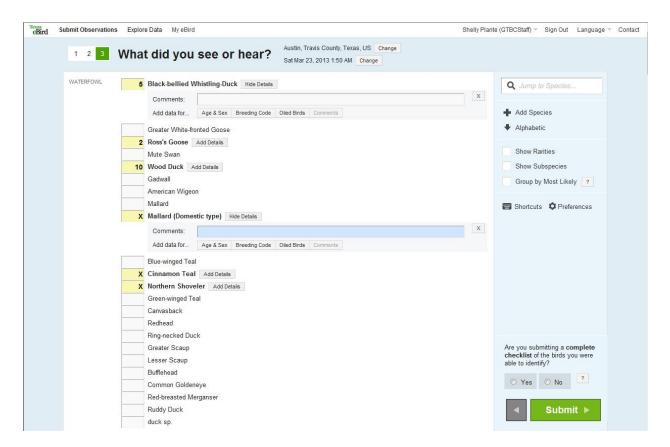

3. Enter all scouting data into eBird using the standard eBird Observation Types under the "Data and Effort" page (screenshot below) which include traveling, stationary, or incidental checklists collected by your teammates. Your team's data shared during scouting will give you eBird practice before your tournament day, and will also help contribute to the eBird international database, thereby helping other birders, biologists, and more! View the eBird Quick Start Guide for more information on basic eBird data entry of field observations.
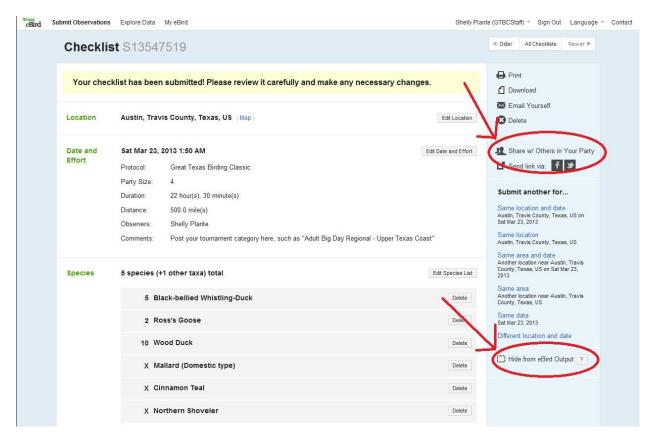
4. Submit ONE checklist on the day of the competition that represents your official submission for the event. When submitting your OFFICIAL CHECKLIST, use the "Other – Great Texas Birding Classic" Observation Type listed on the "Data and Effort" screen. Almost all of you will be doing 'Traveling Counts' (with the exception of Big Sit teams), so do your best to estimate the distance traveled. An estimate is fine. Fill in as much of the other information as you know (acreage is usually not applicable, for example). Under "Comments" fill in your tournament category for the Birding Classic (see screenshot below).
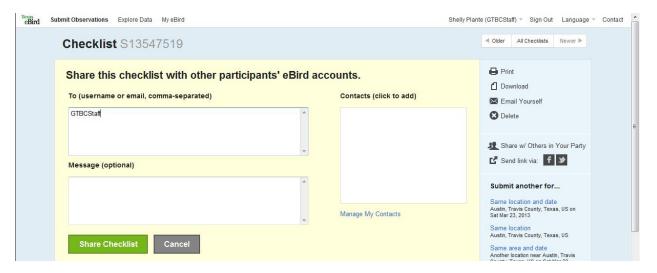

5. Fill in your checklist with the species seen/heard definitively during your tournament days, based on the Rules of the Great Texas Birding Classic for counting (Rule I.A-J). The screenshot below shows part of a sample checklist as it appears within eBird. Use the following guidelines in your checklist reporting:

   a. Reporting the total number of each species seen gives much better data for eBird (as in the first three species counted in the example screenshot below), so hopefully during scouting days at least you will be able to provide that level of data.

   b. During your tournament day, you may be moving so fast that a presence/absence survey with "X" shown (as in the Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, and Northern Shoveler in the screenshot below) might be more practical.

   c. You should provide details about the observation and photos at the time of submission for any bird observations flagged by eBird or requiring additional documentation according to Birding Classic official rules. Supply supporting details for all flagged records that eBird prompts you for at the time of checklist submission so that reviewers will have the details they need when the time comes to review the checklists. There will be no back-and-forth with teams requesting details. It is your responsibility to supply documentation for flagged records. Flagged records may include rare birds, birds out of season, or exceptionally high counts of a species (X indicates presence, so using X on your official list avoids tripping the high count filters). The screenshot below shows where to click on "Add Details" which is how you will provide that documentation.

6. Once you've submitted your official tournament checklist, you must share it with the "GTBCStaff" account by using the "Share w/Others in Your Party" button circled in red on the screenshot below.

a. Please only share your official tournament list with "GTBCStaff" - not your scouting checklists.

b. This is your final tournament day checklist and it MUST BE submitted to eBird and shared with the Birding Classic "GTBCStaff" account no later than 11:59 pm on the day after your competition day. Screenshot below shows where to type "GTBCStaff" once on the share checklist page.

7. Once you have shared your checklist with "GTBCStaff" you can hide your official list by clicking on the "Hide from eBird Output" button on the lower right-hand side of the final Checklist page (see first screenshot under #6 above for red circled "Hide from eBird Output" button). This will make your checklist become 'hidden' from eBird output so that other teams cannot see an earlier participating team's total.

8. At the end of the event (by 11:59pm May 16), log back on to eBird with your team account one last time to 'unhide' your checklist, exposing the data to the review tools and to the eBird editors for scoring purposes. Do this by going to "My eBird"' and then to "Manage my observations". Once there you can click 'view/edit' next to your official checklist and then click "unhide" on the lower right.

9. Winners will be announced at the Regional Awards Ceremonies, sponsored by Audubon Texas, which will be held at the beginning of June (exact date and time to be determined).