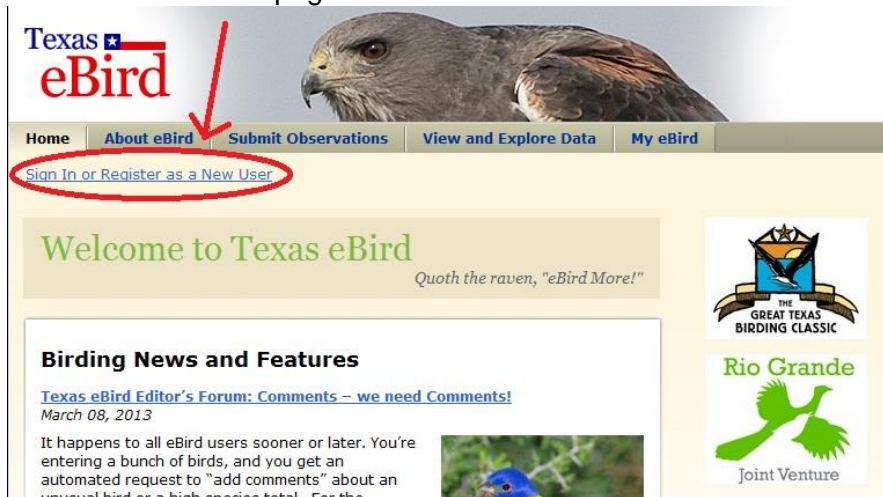


The Birding Classic is now using the Texas eBird portal for Birding Classic team checklist submission. This is a great opportunity for teams to contribute to citizen science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology while raising money for birding and avian habitat [conservation projects](#) throughout Texas (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. If you do not already have an eBird account, you will need to create one. Some teams also choose to create an account specifically for their Birding Classic team to use, but that is not necessary. If you do not have an account or wish to create a new one for use in this event, click on **“Sign in or Register as a New User”** (see screenshot below).
NEW THIS YEAR, PLEASE NOTE: Your eBird account does not need to be your team name. You may use your personal eBird account if you have one. You will add your team name during final checklist submission by putting your team name and tournament category in the **“Comments”** section of **“Step 2: Date and Effort”** page of the eBird checklist submission.



3. The bird list eBird provides for you to fill in will be based on your tournament area during the Birding Classic. Once you start checklist submission by clicking on **“Submit Observations”** you will be asked **“Where did you bird?”** If you birded in a single city only, you can fill in the information for that city. Most teams will need to choose a hotspot within a specific city (if birding a specific single site, such as in the Big Sit! or State Park Tournament categories), a specific county (if your birding day stays within a single county), or statewide (for all teams going to multiple counties during their Birding Classic tournament, even if you don't technically bird the entire state). You will fill out this first screen based on what your team did during their tournament day(s) so that the checklist eBird provides you later includes all potential species for that hotspot, city, county, or state.

4. Submit ONE checklist for your team as the 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 and State Park teams), so do your best to estimate the distance traveled. Fill in as much of the other information as you know (acreage is usually not applicable, for example). Under “**Comments**” fill in your team name and tournament category for the Birding Classic (see screenshot below). View the [eBird Quick Start Guide](#) for more information on basic eBird data entry of field observations.

The screenshot shows the 'Date and Effort' form in eBird. At the top, it says 'Date and Effort' and 'Texas, Texas, US'. There are three numbered steps: 1, 2 (highlighted), and 3. The form includes the following fields:

- Observation Date:** Apr 16 2016
- Observation Type:** Other (selected), with a dropdown menu showing 'Great Texas Birding Classic' (circled in red). Other options include Traveling, Stationary, Historical, and Incidental.
- Start Time (AM/PM):** 12 : 01 AM
- Duration:** 23 hrs
- Distance:** 172 miles
- Area:** acres
- Party Size:** 4
- Comments:** Post your TEAM NAME and TOURNAMENT CATEGORY here so GTBC staff can track your team total. (This entire field is circled in red)

At the bottom right, there is a green 'Continue' button.

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). Use the following guidelines in your checklist reporting:
 - a. In order to see a complete list of possible species, you must check two boxes on the upper right hand side of the “**What did you see or hear?**” page enabling “**Show Rarities**” and “**Show Subspecies**” (see screenshot below – these two areas are circled to help you find them). This will open up a more complete list of birds for your final checklist to include.
 - b. 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.
 - c. During your tournament day, a presence/absence survey with “X” next to species identified might be more practical since an accurate numerical count might be difficult.

- d. 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.

The screenshot shows the eBird checklist interface for "Texas, Texas, US" on "Sun Apr 17, 2016 12:01 AM". The checklist is titled "What did you see or hear?" and is categorized under "WATERFOWL". The list of species includes:

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (Add Details)
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck
- Swan Goose (Domestic type)
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Graylag Goose (Domestic type)
- Domestic goose sp. (Domestic type)
- Snow Goose
- Ross's Goose
- Snow/Ross's Goose
- Brant RARE
- Cackling Goose
- Canada Goose
- Cackling/Canada Goose
- Trumpeter Swan RARE
- Tundra Swan RARE
- Muscovy Duck RARE
- Muscovy Duck (Domestic type)
- Wood Duck (Add Details)
- Gadwall (Hide Details)

The right sidebar contains a search bar "Jump to Species...", a "+ Add Species" button, a "↓ Alphabetic" dropdown, and checkboxes for "Show Rarities" (checked), "Show Subspecies" (checked), and "Group by Most Likely" (unchecked). There are also "Shortcuts" and "Preferences" icons.

At the bottom right, there is a question: "Are you submitting a complete checklist of the birds you were able to identify?" with radio buttons for "Yes", "No", and "?". A green "Submit" button is at the bottom right.

- 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.

Checklist S13547519

Your checklist has been submitted! Please review it carefully and make any necessary changes.

Location Austin, Travis County, Texas, US (Map) [Edit Location](#)

Date and Effort Sat Mar 23, 2013 1:50 AM [Edit Date and Effort](#)

Protocol: Great Texas Birding Classic
 Party Size: 4
 Duration: 22 hour(s), 30 minute(s)
 Distance: 500.0 mile(s)
 Observers: Shelly Plante
 Comments: Post your tournament category here, such as "Adult Big Day Regional - Upper Texas Coast"

Species 5 species (+1 other taxa) total [Edit Species List](#)

5 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Delete
2 Ross's Goose	Delete
10 Wood Duck	Delete
X Mallard (Domestic type)	Delete
X Cinnamon Teal	Delete
X Northern Shoveler	Delete

[Share w/ Others in Your Party](#)

[Send link via:](#) [f](#) [t](#)

Submit another for...

- Same location and date: Austin, Travis County, Texas, US on Sat Mar 23, 2013
- Same location: Austin, Travis County, Texas, US
- Same area and date: Another location near Austin, Travis County, Texas, US on Sat Mar 23, 2013
- Same area: Another location near Austin, Travis County, Texas, US
- Same date: Sat Mar 23, 2013
- Different location and date: [Hide from eBird Output ?](#)

- Share your team's one final official tournament checklist with "GTBCStaff" (do not share your scouting checklists or site-specific lists, only the one list with your team's cumulative total).
- Your final tournament day checklist MUST BE submitted to eBird and shared with the Birding Classic "GTBCStaff" account no later than 48-hours after the end of your tournament (i.e., 11:59 pm two days after your competition day). Screenshot below shows where to type "GTBCStaff" on the share checklist page.

Checklist S13547519

Share this checklist with other participants' eBird accounts.

To (username or email, comma-separated)

GTBCStaff

Message (optional)

Contacts (click to add)

[Manage My Contacts](#)

[Share Checklist](#) [Cancel](#)

[Print](#)
[Download](#)
[Email Yourself](#)
[Delete](#)
[Share w/ Others in Your Party](#)
[Send link via:](#) [f](#) [t](#)

Submit another for...

- Same location and date: Austin, Travis County, Texas, US on Sat Mar 23, 2013
- Same location: Austin, Travis County, Texas, US
- Same area and date: Another location near Austin, Travis County, Texas, US on Sat Mar 23, 2013

7. Once you have shared your checklist with "GTBCStaff" you can choose to 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. 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).