

Okay, so by this point you're "in." You've been to <http://eBird.org/globalbigday> and learned how to take part. You've cleared your calendar for the next Global Big Day: 13 May 2017. You've joined the team. Congratulations!

Global Big Day has something for everyone: camaraderie with friends, local competition, the challenge of finding unusual species in your area, or the simple enjoyment of a day afield that is part of this larger global celebration of birds.

Regardless of your avenue of appreciation, people have been inspired worldwide by the simple idea of joining together in a one-day, global effort to find birds. It's easy to understand, and to participate.

One of our favorite parts of the Global Big Day is sharing it with others—and that sharing drives the global totals that make the GBD so fun and fascinating to follow.



Get people excited about the Global Big Day!

Share the GBD with your friends. Talk to two friends about GBD. If everyone who took part in the Global Big Day last year could get two more people on board, more than 40,000 people would enter sightings this year. A good thing to share with any potential GBDer is the How-to-GBD document: <http://tinyurl.com/takepartgbd>.

Create a local event. Local engagement, global reach. That is what the GBD is all about. Email your local birding list. Talk to the local bird club. Tweet about #GBD2017. Organize a group outing to introduce people to Global Big Day and eBird. Make sure to get in touch with us so that your event can join others from more than 100 countries on our Region Events page: <http://tinyurl.com/gbdevents>! Email us at ebird@cornell.edu with your event. If you don't know how to create an event that people can find, we've had good luck with Facebook. See the eBird GBD2017 Facebook event here: <http://bit.ly/2mnGoF3>.

Get your competition on. On May 13th, we're all working together to compete against last year's total. How many species can we coax out of the corners of our planet in one day? The number to beat: 6,331. Can we do it? Apart from the global goal, consider some friendly competition: county vs. county, state vs. state, or even country vs. country! In GBD 2016, Peru edged out Brazil for the most species. That friendly competition drove the species total through the roof, got people eBirding like crazy, and created 1000s of checklists. Can you create a similar competition? If you're searching for ideas for competitions, write to us at ebird@cornell.edu. We're here to help.

Target endemic or unusual birds. One goal of GBD is to see how many species we, the world's birders, can record in a single day. Every region has its own set of specialties; this is what makes the planet's bird diversity so amazing. Birders in some regions have organized to try to find all their locally endemic species, like 2015's Endemic Bird Day (right) in India. Can you and your friends contribute your region's rarest birds on GBD 2017?

The GBD is now in your hands. Through our united passion for birds, and with your help, we'll do amazing things on May 13. Join us there!

