



BIOTOPIA
LAB

Joint press release

Take a break for Biodiversity: Join Dawn Chorus from May 1st through 31st

Record the bird concert on your own doorstep and provide important data for biodiversity research

Munich/Hilpoltstein, 28.04.2023 – Monday May 1st marks the start of the Dawn Chorus project's main collection period. This year the motto is "Stop and Listen. Free your mind." Together, the Naturkundemuseum Bayern/BIOTOPIA Lab and the Bavarian nature conservation association LBV (Landesbund für Vogel- und Naturschutz) as well as Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and many partners invite people all over the world to take time out from their hectic everyday lives to experience, record and share the morning bird chorus on their own doorstep. Without prior knowledge, everyone can make an important contribution to biodiversity research: the recordings form a valuable database for science to identify changes in biodiversity - for example, due to climate change or changes in habitat conditions. At the same time, the project offers various opportunities to get creative. By linking science and art, the project partners join to make nature heard.

The time from the crack of dawn until about sunrise is magical: everywhere one can hear chirps, whistles and trills. The song of the awakening birds is at its most intense then - the perfect time to listen to the diverse tunes of birds before the start of the hectic everyday and to recharge your batteries. During this brief respite, anyone and everyone can get active for nature and science in the Citizen Science and Art project "Dawn Chorus": With the free app of the same name, it is possible to make and upload high-quality, scientifically standardized sound recordings without any prior knowledge. Participants can enrich their recordings with creative thoughts, a photo or their own digital artwork. In this way, biodiversity can be personally experienced on the spot.

"Birds are important indicators of change in different habitats, and many of them are particularly active vocally during their morning concert. Together with dedicated citizen scientists, the project leaders of Dawn Chorus are compiling data into a global sound map and helping to develop artificial intelligence to automatically analyse the complex morning concert of birds in the future. Together, we are creating a powerful tool for global biodiversity monitoring," says Prof. Dr. Michael John Gorman, founding director of the Naturkundemuseum Bayern (Bavarian Museum of Natural History). For this, the participants ideally make recordings on several days and even over several years, always at the same place and at approximately the same time. The app automatically records the location and time.

The project also aims to increase knowledge and awareness of bird species among the Bavarian population. "Blackbird, blackcap or robin: Do you know who sings and how? If not, that's not a problem. Even without this knowledge, it is possible to participate in Dawn Chorus and experience how it increases one's own well-being to take a short break and listen to the free concert of the local bird community. Maybe some people will then want to find out more about the singers outside their own window in the future," says LBV Chairman Dr Norbert Schäffer.

Dawn Chorus 2023: Topics, dates and news

In keeping with this year's motto "Stop and listen. Free your mind." this year, the project partners invite participants to pause at their favourite places and upload recordings from there. Under the slogan "Gipfelsound und Berggezwitscher", a new cooperation with the DAV (German Alpine Association) has been created to inspire people to upload recordings from the mountains.

In addition to the scientific purpose, "Dawn Chorus" also wants to make it possible to experience nature through artistic approaches and thus create awareness for the threatened biodiversity of our earth in a playful way. In cooperation with the Sound Institute, an initiative that aims to develop new concepts for music education, further creative opportunities to learn more about bird songs and calls will emerge this year.

The main scientific collection period will again take place this year from May 1st through 31st. During this period, various dates offer a good opportunity to participate in "Dawn Chorus": On May 7th, international Dawn Chorus Day, many thousands of bird lovers worldwide celebrate the morning concert. The popular City versus Countryside Challenge takes place on May 21st: Who will contribute more recordings this year - city or countryside? On May 22nd, as part of Biodiversity Day, all schools are especially invited to participate. More information on participation, events and other Dawn Chorus-related activities can be found at www.dawn-chorus.org. Recordings of bird songs are also welcome outside the main collection period.

The bird voices of the Dawn Chorus can be heard at

#dawnchorus2023 and #stopandlisten on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DawnChorusStopAndListen>
 @DawnChorusStopAndListen

Instagram www.instagram.com/dawnchorus_stopandlisten
 @dawnchorus_stopandlisten
 und auf www.dawn-chorus.org.

About the project

As the sun slowly rises, the "dawn chorus" begins. Many birds begin to sing. The citizen science and art project Dawn Chorus invites people all over the world to experience this morning concert and record it with their smartphones - to make nature heard. The scientific goal is to use sound recordings with the help of citizen scientists to document bird diversity over a period of years. The data from this acoustic biomonitoring helps to reveal changes in species diversity. The project was initiated by Naturkundemuseum Bayern/BIOTOPIA Lab and the Foundation Art and Nature during the silence of the first Corona Lockdown in spring 2020. Since 2022, Dawn Chorus has been a joint project of Naturkundemuseum Bayern/BIOTOPIA Lab and LBV.

About LBV

Founded in 1909, the LBV - Landesbund für Vogel- und Naturschutz in Bayern e. V. - is the oldest nature conservation association in Bavaria and currently has over 115,000 supporters. The LBV is committed to the preservation of a diverse nature and bird life in the Free State of Bavaria through professionally sound nature and species conservation projects as well as environmental education measures. More information: www.lbv.de/ueber-uns

About Naturkundemuseum Bayern

The Naturkundemuseum Bayern (Bavarian Museum of Natural History) is currently being planned as a new museum for the life and environmental sciences in Munich-Nymphenburg. It reinvents the concept of a natural history museum, replacing the existing Museum Mensch und Natur (man and nature). It will serve as an interface between science, art and society as well as a new platform for discussion and education on life sciences and sustainability issues. It is an international flagship project of the Free State of Bavaria with private support from the Förderkreis (sponsoring association) BIOTOPIA - Naturkundemuseum Bayern e.V., chaired by Dr. Auguste Princess of Bavaria. More info: www.biotope.net

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**Free images to the press release can be downloaded here: <https://dawn-chorus.org/presse/>
Please note the informations for use.**

Partners in the project "Dawn Chorus"

Scientific partners

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

Max-Planck-Institut für biologische Intelligenz (in Gründung)

Dialogik. Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Kooperationsforschung mbH

Cooperation partners

Bayerische Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz

Bayern 2
BirdLife International
BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.
Bürger schaffen Wissen
Flower Power Festival München
IUCN #Nature for all
LIFE living Natura 2000
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Lehrstuhl für Didaktik der Biologie
Museum for the United Nations – UN Live
NABU
Ornithologische Gesellschaft in Bayern e.V.
Soundtent.org
Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayerns
UN-Dekade Biologische Vielfalt
Universität Salzburg, Didaktik der Biologie
Verband Biologie, Biowissenschaften & Biomedizin in Deutschland
World Migratory Bird Day
WWF

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