



BIOTOPIA  
LAB

Joint press release

## Exploring birdlife with AI: Dawn Chorus calls for the City vs. Countryside challenge

Whether in the City or in the Countryside: Record bird songs for science on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Munich/Hilpolstein, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 - On May 19<sup>th</sup>, whether in the city or in the countryside, all nature enthusiasts are called upon to: Get out of bed and listen closely. Because on this day, the Naturkundemuseum Bayern/BIOTOPIA Lab and the Bavarian Association for the Protection of Bird and Nature (LBV), as a part of the „Dawn Chorus“ Citizen Science Project, once again invite you to the popular „City vs. Countryside challenge“. The aim of this day: To collect as many recordings in the morning as possible for scientific comparison. Where do most recordings come from this year? - From the city or the countryside? Everyone is welcome to participate, whether you are a birdsong expert or a newcomer to species identification. Thanks to AI-powered bird song recognition in the Dawn Chorus App, it is now easier than ever, to find out who's chirping, singing and trilling in your area.

Since the beginning of this years collecting period on May 1<sup>st</sup>, nature enthusiasts have uploaded already more than 9000 bird concerts using the Dawn Chorus app or website [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org). For the City vs. Countryside challenge on May 19<sup>th</sup>, all bird enthusiasts are once again asked to participate simultaneously: On this particular day, the goal is to gather as many recordings as possible. „We often associate cities with concrete deserts and the countryside with blooming nature“. However, in reality, biodiversity is declining in many regions in the countryside and many birds are retreating to cities. „To examine this trend deeper, we encourage participants, to upload recordings from both urban and rural areas“, explains **Dr. Lisa Gill, Dawn Chorus project head at LBV**. Participants who have engaged in the previous years can contribute significantly – by revisiting the same location and recording at approximately the same time. This allows them, to assess whether there have been changes in bird sound and provide important comparative data for scientific analysis. On the [digital sound map](#), participants can explore the recorded bird concerts, make comparisons and discover the diverse sound of different habitats.

### **New app feature:**

AI assists in bird song recognition. For the first time this year, users have the option to utilize integrated bird recognition within the app. This feature aims to assist participants – in determining the bird species heard in their recordings, thus facilitating the scientific analysis of the data in the future. „ Thanks to the integrated Artificial Intelligence in the Dawn Chorus App, decoding the mysteries of the morning bird concert is now easier than ever. With this new feature, we aim to provide participants with the opportunity – to gain insights into their own recordings and expand their knowledge of birds in their surroundings and their songs“, explains Dr. Susanne Schmitt, head of the Dawn Chorus project at Ludwig–Maximilians–University of Munich (LMU). Extensive learning material on bird songs, including resources for schools, is available online at [www.dawn-chorus.org/learn](http://www.dawn-chorus.org/learn).

**Until May 31<sup>st</sup>**, Naturkundemuseum Bayern/BIOTOPIA Lab and Landesbund für Vogel– und Naturschutz (LBV), are collecting recordings of the morning concert of the bird world. Participation is simple and requires no prior expertise: Using the Dawn Chorus app, anyone can make scientifically standardized audio recordings, upload them, and share them globally. Additionally, bird sound recordings captured outside the main collection period and at different times of the day are welcome. For all details regarding participation, current events and other activities related to Dawn Chorus, visit [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org).

### **Natura 2000 Day on May 21<sup>st</sup>**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the LIFE living Nature Team of the Academy of Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL), invites you to submit Dawn Chorus recordings from Nature 2000 areas. Ten particularly exceptional submissions will be acknowledged. All information regarding this can be found [here](#). Additionally, an overview of all Natura 2000 areas is available on the website of the Bavarian State Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection.

### **About the project**

As the sun slowly ascends, the „Dawn Chorus“ begins. Many birds commence to sing. The Citizen Science and Art project, Dawn Chorus – invites people worldwide to experience the morning concert and record it with their smartphones – and give nature a voice. The scientific aim is to document bird diversity over the years through audio recordings with the help of citizen scientists. The data from this acoustic biomonitoring, is essential to highlight changes in biodiversity. The project was initiated in 2020 by Naturkundemuseum Bayern/BIOTOPIA Lab and the Stiftung Kunst und Natur. The LBV has been a project partner of Dawn Chorus since 2022. The project lead position, still closely connected with the Naturkundemuseum Bayern/BIOTOPIA Lab and the Max Planck Institute for Biological Intelligence, is now located at LMU Munich. The development of the App was generously supported by Bavarian Sparkassenstiftung and Deutsche Telekom Stiftung.

The bird songs of the Dawn Chorus resonate under  
**#dawnchorus2024** and **#stopandlisten**

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@dawnchorus\_stopandlisten,

Website [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org)

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