

A Beginner's Guide to BirdTrack

Getting started - Create your own BTO BirdTrack account

1. On the BTO's homepage at www.bto.org and at the top right hand corner click on 'My BTO'.
2. Scroll down to get the options 'Login to my BTO' or 'Register an account'.
3. Complete the form to create your new account.
4. Log in and your 'My BTO' homepage opens. Scroll down this page a little to the 'My Current Projects' box and you will see BirdTrack listed there. Click on 'go to project'.
5. Now you have your own BirdTrack page ready to record your bird sightings (Fig. 1).

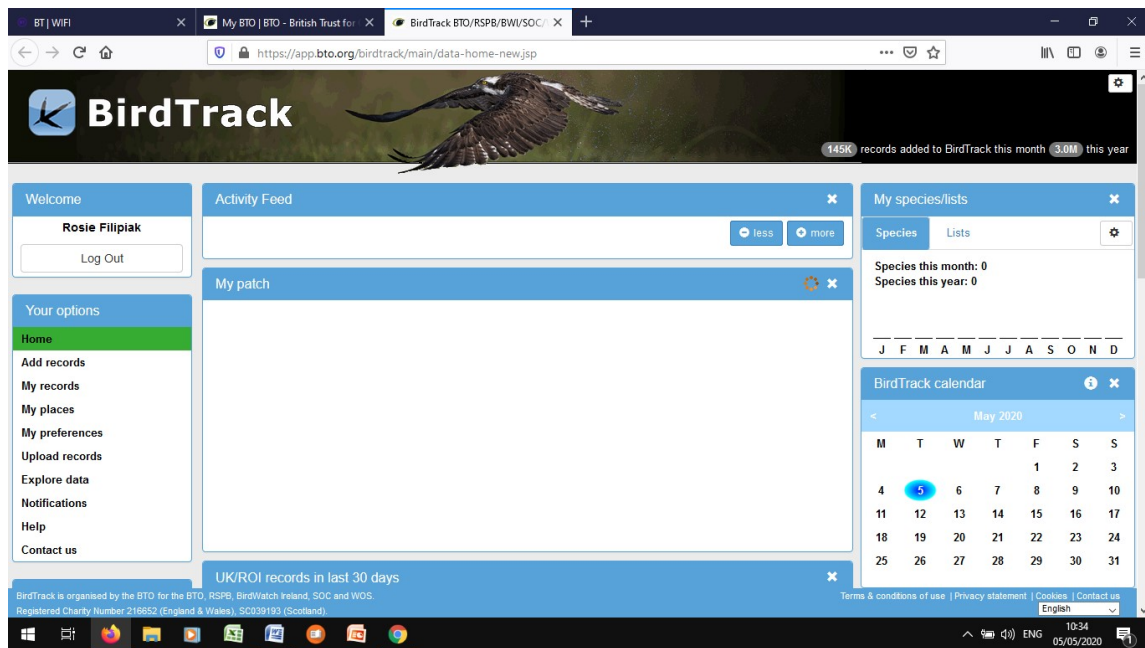


Fig. 1 – Personal BirdTrack homepage ready for records entry.

Recording your bird sightings (Step 1 of 2 – entering contextual data)

1. On your BirdTrack homepage, from the 'Your options' box on the left hand side (LHS) click on 'Add records'.
2. It starts with 'Where did you visit?'. If you have never used BirdTrack before click on 'At a new place' which opens the map. Then with both 'Popular Places' and 'My Places' ticked, zoom down to your location on the map. (If your location seems to be already pinned as a 'Popular Place', click on that pin to check the location name and click 'Use place' if it is correct for you).
3. To add a new place, use the drawing tools on the RHS. (Example: I recorded the birds seen alongside the Biel Burn while out on a short walk for my daily exercise so I used the 'Path' option to plot my route (Fig. 2)).
4. Scrolling down, you then complete the time and duration of your walk and whether it was a complete list of the birds you identified or not. There is an option to add additional information if you wish. Click 'Continue'.

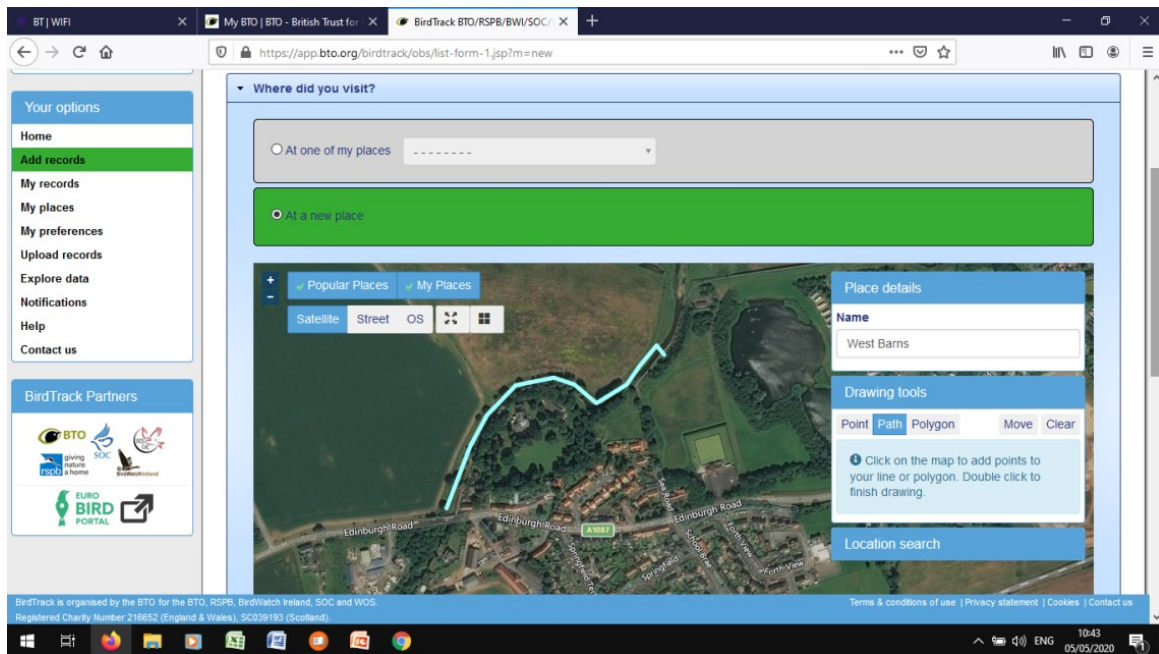


Fig. 2. Route of 4/5/2020 walk

Recording your bird sightings (Step 2 of 2 – entering birds recorded)

1. Tick 'Checklist mode' on the RHS and, pulling information from the BirdTrack database, a list of species commonly recorded at your location is given. It is quicker to enter data using this checklist, which is sorted alphabetically.
2. Enter your bird sightings. There are varying levels of detail that you can record, from the basic - whether the bird was present or not - to actual numbers recorded, breeding evidence, and other comments. I had recorded numbers of each species as I walked so I entered these (Fig. 3).
3. If a bird you saw is not on the checklist, then type the name into the 'Find or add a species' box. A drop-down list of options appears. Select the correct one and click 'Add'. This species is now included into the checklist for this location and you can add further details from there. (If you are not using 'Checklist mode', this is how you would generate your list of birds seen).
4. Once you have completed your list, click 'Submit'. You now get a page summarising the data you entered (Fig. 4) and you can edit your entry before confirming by clicking on 'Home'.
5. This takes you back to your homepage and your first list is shown there (Fig. 5). If you need to amend anything in the list at a later date, you can find it in 'My records'.

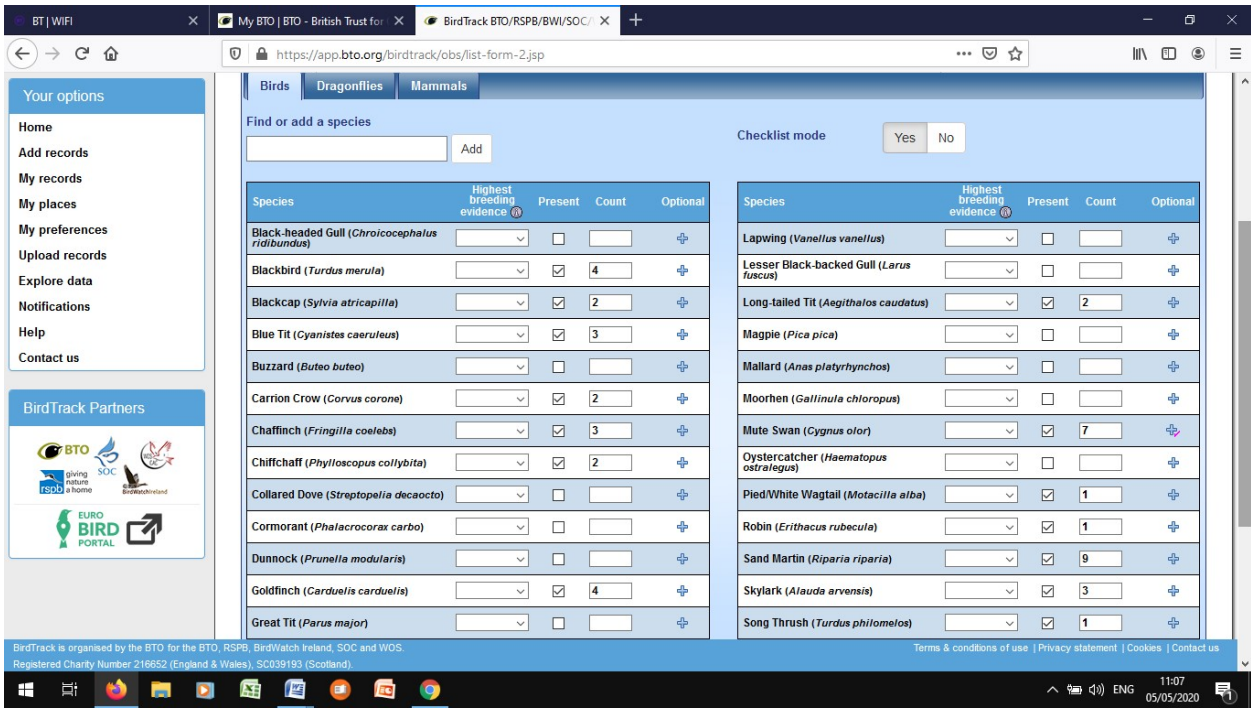


Fig. 3. BirdTrack recording in Checklist mode showing numbers of each species seen



Fig. 4. Summary page of input

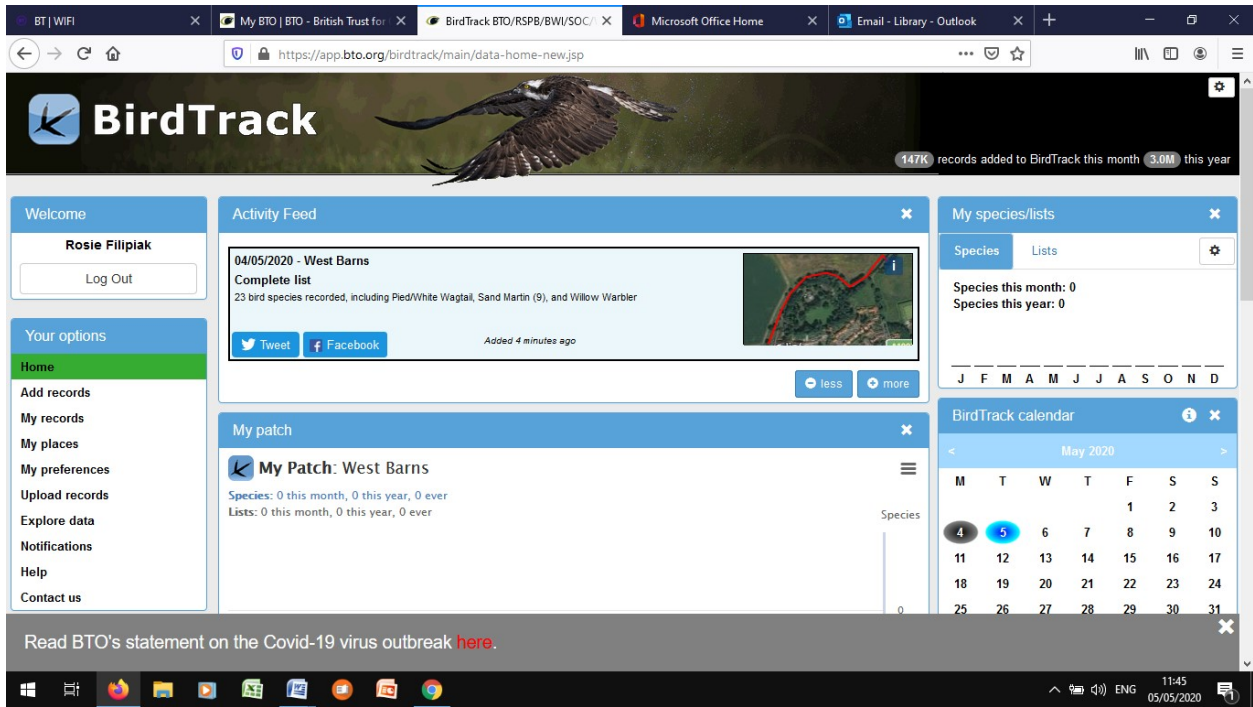


Fig. 5. Personal homepage, now with first list saved