

Xeno-canto: Immerse yourself in the world of birdsong!

Sharing bird sounds from around the world, Xeno-canto is the go-to place on the web if you are looking for a recording of a particular bird for ID or perhaps to playback at a special event. However, the website can look a bit daunting if you have never used it before so here are some simple steps to get you started, using a search for Pink-footed Goose calls as an example:

- 1. Go to https://www.xeno-canto.org/
- 2. Type the species name into the search box at the top (eg. Pink-footed Goose)
- 3. As you start to type, options will appear, click on the correct one from the list
- 4. A map of that species' geographic range opens, dotted with small circles
- 5. Zoom down into the UK (Tip: look for a circle nearest your location (e.g. we opted for near Inverness for our Pink-footed Goose)
- 6. Click on the circle (Tip: concentrate on circles with a solid outline)
- 7. A list of recordings pops up. Click on the top one (e.g. XC545552 for our Pinkies example)
- 8. Then click the 'start' arrow on the sonogram to listen to the recording
- 9. You can download the recording as an mp3 file using the icon next to the reference number

There are other ways to navigate around the website, which you will find as you explore it - this is just a basic introduction. As a resource, Xeno-canto holds a wealth of information for the user but also, as a Citizen Science project, anyone can upload their bird sound recordings.

