

The Big Sit!® Basic Steps

- Choose a Big Sit! circle location.
- Promote your event through your organization and on social media and local media.
- Create a paper checklist of birds in your state or region. (See instructions on The Big Sit! web page, www.thebigsit.org).
- On the day of the event, arrive with drinking water, snacks, chairs, optics.
- Be able to identify the precise location of your circle, either on a map or by GPS position.
 - One way to do so is to start an eBird checklist on the smartphone app while at your circle.
 - Have one person (usually the circle captain) create an eBird checklist on their smartphone.
 - Turn off the “Record Track” feature.
 - Click “Start Checklist.”
 - Record a few birds as place holders if you wish. (You must edit the bird list when you complete The Big Sit! day.)
 - Click “Review” to stop the checklist.
 - Click “Choose a location . . .” and confirm the circle location as either an address, hotspot, or GPS coordinates.
 - Choose the Observation Type “Stationary.”
 - Answer “Yes” to the question “Is this a complete checklist?”
 - Add placeholder numbers for “Observers” and “Minutes.” (You must edit these numbers after you complete the Big Sit! day.)
 - Click the “Submit” button.
 - Alternatively, when prompted by the website version of eBird, identify your circle location on the map; be sure to zoom in as much as possible.
- Use a paper checklist to record all the birds you see and hear.
- Use a paper Effort Sheet (a sample is provided on The Big Sit! website) to record the name of your circle, circle sponsoring organization (if applicable), weather conditions, names of participants, and total hours of participation for each person.
- Take photos during the event and post to The Big Sit NHBC Facebook page. Please also add your bird photos to your eBird checklist.
- At the end of the event, either open the eBird checklist that you initially created on your smartphone or start a new checklist on the eBird website.
- Edit the checklist to include the species and numbers of birds.
- Edit the checklist to update the total time.
- Edit the checklist to include the total number of participants.
- Using information from your paper Effort Sheet, record in the eBird checklist “Comments” section the following: 1. name of the circle, 2. circle sponsoring organization (if any), 3. weather conditions, 4. names of participants, and 5. total hours of participation for each person.
- Also add to the eBird “Comments” section the name of the national, state, or local wildlife refuge, land trust, park, forest, or other named area, if any, where your circle is located. This information will help with publicity for The Big Sit!
- “Share” in eBird (not email) the checklist with the following eBird username: TheBigSitNHBC@gmail.com
- Optionally, also share the checklist with each of your participants.

Contact TheBigSitNHBC@gmail.com if you have questions.

eBird Help. If you are new to eBird, or need to refresh your eBird skills, please follow the link below:

Help using eBird: <https://support.ebird.org/support/home>