

## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

**April 26<sup>th</sup> 2022**

### **Listen and record: Collect this May's morning bird songs for Citizen Science and Art project Dawn Chorus**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> marks the start of the main collection period 2022 – The more  
people participate, the more valuable the results: with a free app,  
people all over the world record bird concerts, and become  
biodiversity researchers**

**Hilpoltstein/Munich, April 26, 2022 – On May 1, 2022, the main bird song collection period of the "Dawn Chorus" project will kick off once again: people all over the world are invited to record and share the chorus of morning bird song right on their doorstep, and by doing so, make an important contribution to biodiversity research, even without prior knowledge. Just in time for the third round of recordings, Dawn Chorus – initiated by BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern (Munich's new natural history museum) together with the Foundation Art and Nature (formerly known as Stiftung Nantesbuch) – is now supported by a new project partner, the Bavarian nature protection organization Landesbund für Vogelschutz (LBV). The aim is to promote knowledge and awareness of bird species among the Bavarian population, and to attract many more potential participants. Starting this year, Dawn Chorus will also actively involve interested participants in the analysis of the data: through crowd-evaluated bird songs, the project seeks to create a basis for the development of artificial intelligence for future automatic species identification of the complex dawn chorus. In this way, the project creates a reliable database for science to investigate changes in species diversity due, for example, to changing climate and habitat conditions.**

#### **Take part: enjoy free bird concerts, and collect them for science**

The daily chorus of the awakening birdlife is most intense one hour before dawn until about one hour after sunrise. This is a magical moment – and the ideal time to make one or more recordings for the Citizen Science and Art project Dawn Chorus. The more people participate in the project, and do so regularly, the larger the dataset that future research can access.

"Birds are important indicators of change in different habitats, and during the dawn chorus, the vocal activity of many bird species is particularly high. Together with dedicated citizen scientists, Dawn Chorus collects data into a global soundmap, and supports the development of artificial intelligence which will allow automatic analysis of the complex morning bird chorus in the future. In this way, we can create a powerful tool for global biodiversity monitoring together," says Prof. Dr. Michael John Gorman, BIOTOPIA Founding Director.

"With Dawn Chorus, we want to make the voices of our local birds – robins, blackbirds, blackcaps, and others – be heard. As a join-in organization, we want to get people excited about nature and at the same time equip them with knowledge about it. Anyone can take part

– prior knowledge of birds is not required, but anyone who participates might listen more closely in the future, and notice that the bird chorus outside their window always sounds different," says LBV chairman Dr. Norbert Schäffer.

Ideally, participants make their recordings on several days and over several years, always at the same place and approximately the same time. The Dawn Chorus app facilitates this by showing the ideal recording period for the next few days for the smartphone's GPS location. The collected data becomes publicly visible and audible on a global "soundmap". The app complements the established portal [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org) with additional features such as the ability to automatically make three recordings within 30 minutes.

### **Endangered biodiversity: science and art create attention together**

In addition, "Sonic Feather", by multimedia artists Marcel Karnapke and Mika Johnson, opens up special visual moments of enjoyment for participants alongside the natural experience of bird calls. With this tool, participants can create visual animations of their own sound recordings, and share them via social media. In this way, scientific data is transformed into art, which in turn creates awareness for the threatened biodiversity on our planet in a playful way. More collaborations with international artists are planned for the coming months, as well as new exciting app features.

Of course, bird song recordings outside of the main collection period and at other times of the day are welcome as well. All information on how to participate, current events, and other Dawn Chorus-related activities can be found at [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org).

The Dawn Chorus' bird songs can be found at **#dawnchorus2022** and **#stopandlisten** on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DawnChorusStopAndListen>  
@DawnChorusStopAndListen  
Instagram [www.instagram.com/dawnchorus\\_stopandlisten](http://www.instagram.com/dawnchorus_stopandlisten)  
@dawnchorus\_stopandlisten  
as well as at [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org).

### **About the project**

Dawn Chorus launched with great success in the lockdown-related "Silent Spring" of 2020 - with more than 4,000 bird song uploads from 50 countries within the project month of May and an award as part of the "UN Decade on Biodiversity". Since then, the project has gradually evolved: in 2021, the free Dawn Chorus App was developed, optimizing the data collection for scientific analysis, while making recording and uploading bird songs more convenient and attractive. In this way, the project aims to motivate its current participants to take part regularly, and to attract new interested people.

### **About the LBV**

*Founded in 1909, the LBV is the oldest nature conservation association in Bavaria and currently has over 110,000 supporters. The LBV is committed to the preservation of diverse nature and bird*

life in Bavaria through professionally sound nature and species protection projects as well as environmental education measures. Further information: [www.lbv.de/ueber-uns](http://www.lbv.de/ueber-uns)

### **About BIOTOPIA**

BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern is currently in planning as a new museum of environmental and biological sciences in Munich-Nymphenburg, Germany. It reinvents the concept of the natural history museum for the “age of biology” and is to expand and eventually to replace the existing Museum Mensch und Natur. BIOTOPIA is an interface between science, art and society, as well as a new platform for discussions and education around life sciences and sustainability topics. BIOTOPIA is an international lighthouse project of the Free State of Bavaria, with private support from the Förderkreis BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern e.V., chaired by Dr. Auguste Prinzessin von Bayern. Learn more at: [biotopia.net](http://biotopia.net)

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Please find free images and instructions for use for press at <https://dawn-chorus.org/press/>.

### **Dawn Chorus – Partners**

#### **Scientific partners**

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

Max Planck Institute for Biological Intelligence (in foundation)

Dialogik. Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Kooperationsforschung mbH

#### **Cooperating 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.

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Museum for the United Nations – UN Live  
NABU  
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Universität Salzburg, Didaktik der Biologie  
Verband Biologie, Biowissenschaften & Biomedizin in Deutschland  
World Migratory Bird Day  
WWF

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