In 2002 a project called eBird launched, giving bird watchers in North America a handy online system for sharing their sightings. By keeping them in a single place, it also earned those millions of bird records into raw information available to scientists. Over the last eight years eBirding has really taken off (see box, below). And now we’ve gone global.

After expanding eBird into Central and South America, we realized that the world is just too connected a place to cover only six. Birders want to keep their sightings under one roof, regardless of what countries they visit. So we responded by building global data entry into our new release, eBird 3.0. It makes eBird one of the largest citizen-science projects in existence—kind of like a huge, never-ending Christmas Bird Count.

We now have the tools to track a global sighting species like the Barn Swallow across continents and political boundaries and, as data flow in, for the first time to realize world bird migration. We hope you’ll join us at www.ebird.org and make your own bird sightings part of the global eBird network, starting today.