



## VERMONT

### 9 Easy Steps for Submitting Bald Eagle Observations to eBird

You will need to register as an [eBird](#) user, if you do not already have an eBird account. Don't have an internet connection? Visit your local library. Most have free, high speed, internet connections and computers for you to use.



Follow the directions below for data entry. The first time will take a little longer as you navigate through the process, but after a few entries, it can be done very quickly. You can access all of the great eBird Help pages for even more information at <http://help.ebird.org/>.

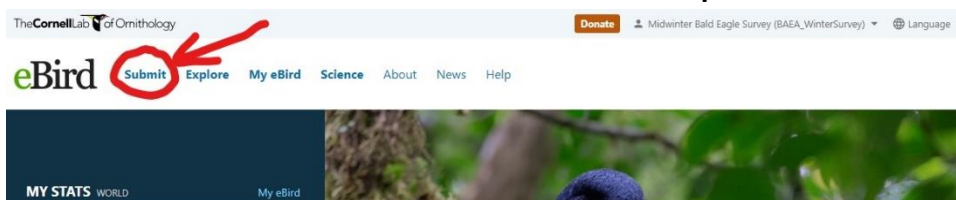
You can use these data entry procedures for:

- Winter Bald Eagle Survey
- Any other sightings of eagles

### Bald Eagle Survey Data Entry Steps

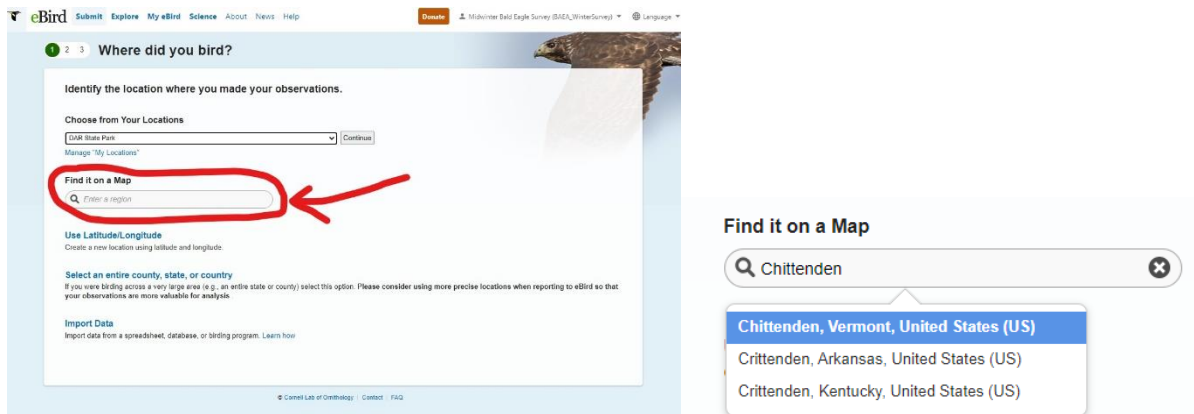
**1. Go to eBird** - Click the following link: <http://ebird.org> From any computer connected to the internet or from your smartphone via the eBird app. If you do not have an eBird account, click on Register as a new user. Follow the steps and be sure to activate your account via the confirmation email sent by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology after the creation of your account, before continuing to the next steps. Otherwise, log in with your username and password.

**2. Click the Submit button on the menu bar at the top**



### 3. Identify the location where you made your observations.

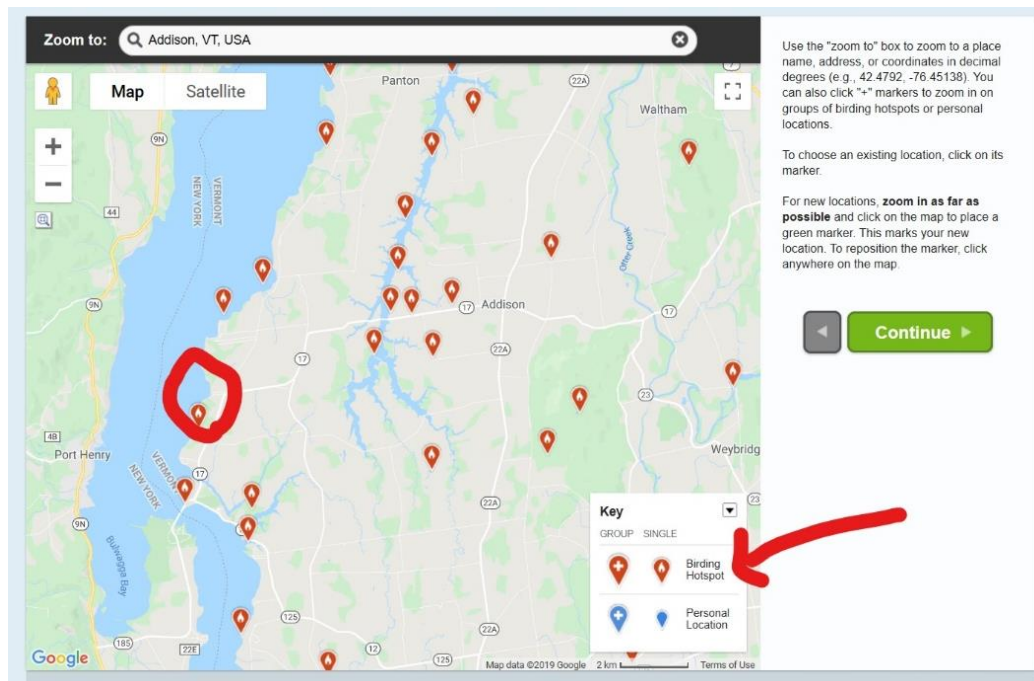
If you have used the location before, you can use the dropdown box under “Choose from Your Locations”. If this is your first visit to the location, use **Find it on a Map** and enter the county in the box where the sighting was located, for example – Chittenden County, VT - and Click Enter.



### 4. Find the area where you observed the eagle on the map. You can do this in number of ways.

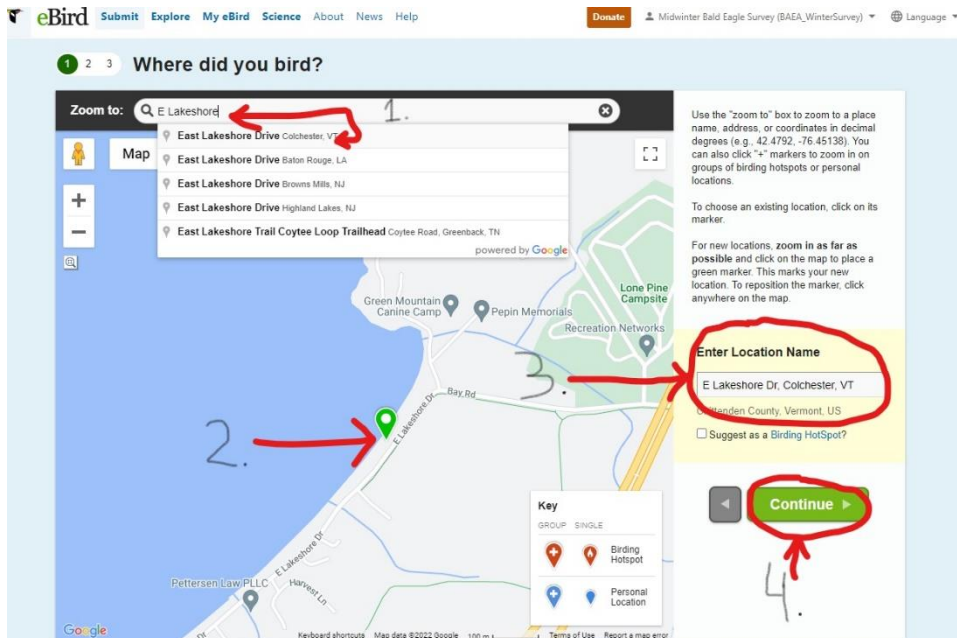
We suggest:

- Type in the town in which the street is located, for example, “Burlington, VT” in the “Zoom to:” box at the top of the map.
- Use the zoom in tool or pan by clicking, holding and dragging the map around. Sometimes it helps to switch the view from a simple map to satellite view (upper left corner) to see the area you surveyed.
- Find a “hotspot” on the map. If your sighting was in this hotspot, you can use that as your location, click hotspot icon, then click the green **Continue** button and skip step #5 below.



## 5. Choose the exact location of the sighting on the map.

- Click on the location of the sighting. This will place a green icon in the location and open a box on the right column to enter a Location Name. You may call your location anything you'd like – (i.e. Winooski River Mouth, Colchester). Any name that makes sense to you.
- Click the green **Continue** button.



**\*Note:** If you have found a nest site, the eagle was observed from a private residence, or you would like to obscure the location of your sighting for whatever reason, you may choose to place an arbitrary pin at the center of the town (i.e. on the town hall/post office) where you observed the bird and name the location the town name (i.e. “Montpelier, VT”). This is usually done for the privacy of the eagle or the birder/landowner and is perfectly acceptable by eBird standards. You may contact Margaret Fowle, Conservation Biologist with Audubon Vermont, with information regarding eagle nesting activity by email: [Margaret.Fowle@audubon.org](mailto:Margaret.Fowle@audubon.org).

## 6. Date and Effort Information

If you observed an eagle as a result of an activity where birding was NOT your primary purpose (i.e. driving to work, snowmobiling, walking a dog, going out to eat with friends, etc.), then:

- Find **Observation Type** and select **Incidental**.
- Fill out **Date**, **Start Time**, (approximate is fine) and **Party Size**.

If you observed an eagle as a result of an active search for birds or eagles specifically, and:

Option A. Conducted a survey through a typical form of either traveling or stationary birding (i.e. walking in a natural area or scanning a lake from a boat launch or state park), then:

- Find **Observation Type** and select **Traveling OR Stationary**, as appropriate.

- Fill out **Date, Start Time, Duration, Distance** (for traveling only) and **Party Size**.

Option B. Conducted a thorough survey of a waterbody/region/formal assigned route (i.e. a river valley, lake, or agricultural/riparian lands) with multiple stops and periods of driving, then:

- Find **Observation Type** and choose **Other** and select **Area**
  - (Note: The Area protocol is not available on the **mobile app**. It is recommended to submit the checklist as a traveling checklist from the app and then edit it to an Area protocol using the online portal. You can edit your checklist online by signing into your account, going to My eBird -> Manage... My Checklists (on the left) -> (Select the checklist by clicking the date) -> Checklist Tools (blue drop down menu on the top right) -> Edit Date and Effort -> Continue with steps below)
- Fill out **Date, Start Time, Duration,** and **Party Size**.
- Make your best estimate of the river/lake/land **Area** that you actively surveyed/scanned for eagles in acres. **Don't worry too much about this portion**, but try to estimate open areas such as water, tree lines, agricultural fields, wetlands, and try to omit nearby forested hills, mountains, and areas hidden from view from your estimate of acreage. Here is a resource to help you get a **rough estimate of area** covered: [CLICK HERE](#) (Click "Load the Map" and search for the town where you surveyed. This will zoom the map to the center of the town. Click and drag, and zoom until you can see your surveyed area. By clicking the map with quick clicks, you will begin to drop pins on the map, drawing a polygon roughly tracing the areas you were able to see during your survey. Here is a tutorial describing how to use this tool: <https://youtu.be/mBz3mytll34>. Here is an example image of what an area polygon may look like: [CLICK HERE](#).) If you were to survey an inland lake or pond, you could also just search for the acreage of that body of water and use that as your measurement, assuming you surveyed the entire area.

\*\*\* **Note**: The Area protocol is a useful measurement of survey effort, especially when some portions of habitat may be viewed from multiple vantage points during the survey period. In the case of this survey, it will aid in understanding order of magnitude of the area you surveyed (i.e. whether you surveyed, 10, 100, 1,000, or 10,000 acres). That being said, it is typically more difficult to track the acreage of the area you are surveying than it is to simply track your mileage or time spent at a stationary location. **If you find yourself having difficulties coming up with a rough estimate of acres surveyed, please feel free to use the appropriate protocol recommended in Option A above.** \*\*\*

(Optional, but very helpful!) For all observation types:

- In the **Comments** section, feel free to add details about the weather (wind, temperature, precipitation), habitat (i.e. agricultural fields, completely frozen lake, half frozen river, etc.), circumstances, etc. that the eagle was observed under.
- Click the green **Continue** button.

## 7. What did you see and/or hear?

Find **Jump to Species** on the upper right part of the screen and type “Bald Eagle” (or “Golden Eagle”) in the box on right side or scroll down to the section of the bird checklist to find it.

Enter the total number of eagles.

The screenshot shows the eBird.org checklist submission interface. The browser address bar displays 'https://ebird.org/submit/checklist'. The main content area lists various bird species, with 'Bald Eagle' selected and highlighted in yellow. A red arrow points to the 'Jump to Species...' search box in the top right corner. Another red arrow points to the 'Bald Eagle' entry. The 'Details' box for the Bald Eagle is open, showing a text input field for details, a media input field, and an 'Age & Sex' table. The 'Age & Sex' table has a '1' entered in the 'Sex Unknown' column. The bottom right of the interface features a 'Submit' button and a question: 'Are you submitting a complete checklist of the birds you were able to identify?' with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons.

**Details Box:** please add any notes. For example, “carrying nest material”, “bird seen sitting on river ice”, “bird perched on a large nest”, or “bird seen actively interacting with another eagle”, or anything about the observations that might be of interest.

**Media:** If you have photos, videos or sound recordings of songs of the birds taken during the survey, feel free to add them to your checklist.

**Age & Sex:** At the bottom of the details box, you can enter any information you may have on the age of the eagle(s): immature (mottled brown) or adult (white head and tail). You will likely put this in the “Sex Unknown” box.

**Breeding Code:** At the bottom of the details box, you can enter information to record any evidence of nesting, which you may not see. Select the button and then choose the best code if applicable to any evidence you observed, i.e. carrying nesting material.

**Repeat these steps above if you'd like to enter other bird species** on the checklists if you observed them. This step is not necessary! Entering just Eagle sightings is all we need for this purpose.

**Answer the question above the submit button on the right column.** Are you submitting a complete checklist? You are most likely going to answer NO here, which is completely fine. Only answer yes if you recorded ALL birds you observed. If you saw bird species and did not count them, you can record their presence by placing an X in the count box rather than a number. **Hit the green Submit button.**

### 8. Review Your Data and “Share” Your Checklist with the Winter Bald Eagle Survey project – This step is important!

- Review your data carefully for any mistakes.
- On the left column click on – Share w/ Others in Your Party. Type **BAEA\_WinterSurvey** in the “To:” box and click on Share Checklist button.

The screenshot shows the eBird interface for a checklist titled "Sun 15 Dec 2019" at "Champlain Bridge / Chimney Point". The checklist is for a "Bald Eagle" and shows "1 Species observed" and "1 individuals". The "Share Checklist" section is highlighted with a red circle, showing the "To" field with "BAEA\_WinterSurvey" entered. The "Share Checklist" button is green and visible.

**1 Bald Eagle**

AGE & SEX:	Juvenile	Immature	Adult	Age Unknown
Male				
Female				
Sex Unknown			1	



## **9. Congratulations! You've helped us monitor and conserve Bald Eagles. Thank you!**

This seems like a lot of steps the first time, but this should only take you about 10 minutes or less to complete, even faster once you get the hang of it.

**\*\*\*\*\*Sharing your eBird checklist with the mobile app is a little tricky. Here's what you need to do:**

For number of observers, you have to put 2. Once you do that, "Share Checklist with.." pops up as an option. Click it and enter eBird username "**BAEA\_WinterSurvey**". If you birded alone, then the party count will be wrong, so you can go back online to edit it later.

Option #2 for sharing is to go online and share the eBird checklist on the webpage later. here's how:

1. go here - <https://ebird.org/vt/eBirdReports?cmd=subReport>
2. select the checklist you want to share by hitting share
3. on checklist's upper left corner find the share button
4. enter eBird username "**BAEA\_WinterSurvey**"
5. share the checklist by hitting green button ("share checklist")

**If you've enjoyed reporting your Bald Eagle surveys, please consider entering all of your bird sightings from anywhere, anytime on eBird.**