



# DAWN CHORUS

When people are silent, nature makes itself heard

## How to do your DAWN CHORUS recordings

### 1 Prepare the day before

- All you need is a smartphone
- Find out at what time the sun currently rises in your region (e.g. via the weather app on your smartphone).
- Choose a recording location near you. This could be your window, balcony or garden, a park, meadow or forest near you. Make sure the environment is relatively quiet, and please adhere to local corona protection measures.
- Find the *audio recording function*\* on your phone and familiarize yourself with it. Also check if your date and time settings are correct.
- Set your alarm. You should set your recording time to 30 minutes before sunrise.

### 2 Record on site

- Get up very early and be at the recording location about 30 minutes before sunrise.
- Place your recording equipment on a solid surface or tripod, protected from wind and rain, and aim the microphone at the birdsong.
- Start recording via the audio recording function and walk away. Be very quiet during the recording (no scratch noises through touching, no talking or walking). Record 30 to 90 seconds of sound, then stop the recording.
- Note time, temperature and other factors.\*\*
- Ideally, you should make several recordings at intervals of 10-15 min. Individual files should not be larger than 20 MB.
- Take a picture of the recording site.

\* Find information on the audio recording features of your mobile on page 3

\*\* Find the questions from the upload form on page 4

### 3 Upload on dawn-chorus.org

- After you have saved your soundscapes, check if the bird calls are well audible. Trim off disturbing noises at the beginning and end if necessary or possible. Please do not use any filters as your recordings may no longer be usable for scientific evaluation.
- Upload your finished recordings on [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org) hoch.
- Use the *upload form\*\** to provide important information about your recording. It is essential for scientific usability.
- Attach a picture of the recording location so that others can see in which environment your recordings were produced.  
(Option available shortly)

### 4 Tell us more

- At the end of the process you can also add texts such as poems or thoughts that are related to your recording. In this way, you will also create a valuable collection of creative content which will later be incorporated into artistic projects surrounding the DAWN CHORUS.  
(Option available shortly)

### 5 Listen and share

- Once finished you can find your bird-songs on the global chorus soundmap [www.dawn-chorus.org/en/the-chorus](http://www.dawn-chorus.org/en/the-chorus). You will be provided with an individual Birdsong\_ID of your recording.
- Share your birdsongs via facebook, twitter or link with your friends and family.  
(Option available shortly)

### 6 Want to share more?

- If you want to provide even more valuable scientific data for the DAWN CHORUS project, repeat your recording procedure at the same place on a second day, ideally on a weekday and a holiday. This will allow further investigation of the effects of noise pollution.

Scientific evaluation of the DAWN CHORUS data will be done in cooperation with Max Planck-Institute for Ornithology.

# Some Information on the audio recording features of your mobile

## Android

- Some Android phones have good built-in sound recording apps such as Samsung's Voice Recorder.
- For a better recording, you can download and install apps that allow high-quality sound recordings. Their default settings are a good start, but if you would like to support us with a high-quality recording, please set the bitrate to 320 kbps. Sampling rate should be 44100 Hz (sometimes called 44kHz). For highest quality recordings, change the format to „wav“. Please note that file size will increase with increasing audio quality.

Here are some app suggestions:

- Hi-Q MP3 Voice Recorder (Free) by „Audiophile“. You will find your recording in a folder called „Recordings“. Make sure that „stereo“ is switched off (default), and under “microphone”, please select „unprocessed (raw)“.
- MP3 recorder by „Smart Mobile Tools“. You will find your recording in a folder called „com.fragileheart.recorder“. Please disable „noise suppressor“ (German: Rauschunterdrückung).  
(Testversion)
- Diktiergerät by quality apps (recorder, weather, music)

## iPhone

- As a simple option, you may use the in-built Voice Memos app. Please avoid the „lossless“ setting, choose „compressed“ instead.
- For a better recording, you can download and install apps that allow high-quality sound recordings. Their default settings are a good start, but if you would like to support us with a high-quality recording, please set the bitrate to 320 kbps. Sampling rate should be 44100 Hz (sometimes called 44kHz). For highest quality recordings, change the format to „wav“. Please note that file size will increase with increasing audio quality.

Here are some iOS App suggestions which can provide good quality WAV sound recordings:

- Hokusai 2
- AVR (Awesome Voice Recorder)

## Expert users

- Or if you are really serious about recording you may use an external stereo microphone (such as Zoom iQ6 or iQ7 for iPhone) or even a solid state audio recorder (for which you just need to make sure that it is set to output WAV files at 44.100 Hz sampling rate, bit depth of 32) and keep file size under 20MB.

## Dawn Chorus – The Upload Form

These are the questions you are asked when uploading on [www.dawn-chorus.org](http://www.dawn-chorus.org).

- Date of recording \*
  - Time of recording \*
  - Recording location (Latitude/Longitude) \*
- Tip:  
[www.latlong.net](http://www.latlong.net) / Google Maps
- Location details \*  
e.G. city, suburban, single house, forest, field, other
  - Weather conditions \*  
e.G. cloudy, clear, rainy, stormy, foggy
  - Temperature (°C or °F) \*
  - Background noises \*  
e.G. road, plane, construction, people, other
  - Could you identify any bird species
- Equipment:
- Recording device \*
- Smartphone (type)
- used App \*  
e.G. Voice Recorder, professional-Apps
- Advanced recording equipment (type)
- Recording quality details (optional)
- Bitrate in kbit/s
- Sampling-Rate in Hz
- e-mail- (voluntary)
  - Would you like to add to the information given about your recording?
- Optional (shortly):
- Picture upload
  - Free text (poems, thoughts...) on your nature experience

\* *compulsory*