



TripTick

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Setup & User Guide

Record your birding trips. Track your life list.
Earn bird-rank badges. Works anywhere — even offline.

A quick guide to getting set up, bringing your eBird data across, and finding your way around.

1. Welcome to Trip Tick

Trip Tick is an app for recording your birding trips and tracking your life list. Add the species you see *and hear*, and it keeps your totals, your lifers and year-ticks, a world map of where you've birded, and a set of milestone badges that climb through ten real birds as your list grows. It's built to work in the field — once installed it runs even with no signal, syncing when you're back online.

Three things to do first

- 1) Open Trip Tick and create your account.
- 2) Set your display name and home country.
- 3) (Optional but recommended) install it to your phone's home screen so it works offline.

2. Getting access & installing

Open it. Go to the Trip Tick web address shared with you, in Chrome (Android/desktop) or Safari (iPhone/iPad), and sign up or log in.

Install it as an app (recommended). This gives you a home-screen icon and full offline use:

- **iPhone / iPad (Safari):** tap the Share button, then “Add to Home Screen”.
- **Android (Chrome):** tap the ■ menu, then “Install app” / “Add to Home screen”.
- **Desktop (Chrome/Edge):** click the install icon in the address bar.

Set up your profile. On first use you'll be asked for a display name and default country. You can change these any time under **Profile & Settings**.

3. Bringing your data over from eBird

Already have years of records in eBird? You can import them in a few minutes.

Step 1 — Download your eBird data

- Sign in at **ebird.org**, then go to **ebird.org/downloadMyData** (Account → Download My Data).
- eBird emails you a ZIP file. Unzip it — inside is a file called **MyEBirdData.csv**.

Step 2 — Prepare the file

Open **MyEBirdData.csv** in Excel or Google Sheets. Trip Tick reads the columns below (capitalisation doesn't matter). eBird's file already contains almost all of them:

Trip Tick needs	eBird column	Notes
Scientific Name	Scientific Name	Already there — used to match the bird.
Location	Location	Already there.
Date	Date	Already there.
Quantity	Count	Rename “Count” to “Quantity” so your numbers come across (otherwise each sighting imports as 1).
Latitude / Longitude	Latitude / Longitude	Already there — optional, used for map pins.

Save the file as **.csv** or **.xlsx**. (The only edit most people need is renaming **Count** to **Quantity**.)

Step 3 — Import into Trip Tick

- In the left menu choose **Import Trips**, then **Upload Sightings File** and pick your file.
- Check the preview, then **Review New Locations** — choose **Create New** for each, and press **Continue**.
- Press **Start Import**. Your lifers and year-ticks are calculated automatically once it finishes.

Step 4 — Tidy up eBird's hotspots

eBird often splits one site into several sub-locations (e.g. “Pagham Harbour—North Wall”, “—Ferry Pond”, “—Marsh Farm”). To combine them into a single location:

- Go to **Manage My Locations** → **Merge Locations**.
- Tick the locations to combine, choose which one to **keep**, and rename it (e.g. “Pagham Harbour”).
- Press **Merge** — all the trips and species move into the one location.

Do the merge early

Merging is permanent and re-tidies all the moved sightings, so it's best done right after import, before you add much else.

Step 5 — Set your preferences

Under **Profile & Settings**, set your default country, your date format, your preferred species-name style (e.g. IOC / US English names), and whether to include “heard only” birds in your totals (see section 6).

4. Recording a trip

- Tap **Record a Trip**, then choose the **date**, **country** and **location** (or + **Add a new location** — which works offline too).
- Search a species and press **Enter** (or tap it) to add it. It defaults to a count of 1.
- Adjust the count with the – / + buttons, or type a number for big flocks.
- Tap **Heard Only** if you only heard the bird.
- **Life Tick** and **Year Tick** badges appear automatically for new birds.
- Optionally pin the exact spot, add weather and notes, then press **Submit Trip**.

It works with no signal

Out in the field with no reception? Keep recording — trips and new locations save on your device and sync automatically the moment you're back online.

5. The app at a glance

Dashboard — your life total, this year & this month, your current bird-rank badge and progress to the next, your country and tagged-location breakdowns, and your top countries and locations.

My Trips — every trip you've recorded; tap one to view or edit its sightings, pin locations, or share it.

Reports — Country Life Totals, an interactive **Country Species Map** (click a country for its species list), Species Seen, Year-on-Year, Year Progression (filter by country), Monthly Totals & Comparison, First Observations, and Species Breakdown.

Locations — add, manage, import and **merge** locations; click a location's species count to see everything recorded there.

Badges — your rank climbs through ten real birds, from the tiny Bee Hummingbird to the great Andean Condor, across 50 species-count milestones.

Friends — add friends, optionally share your dashboard, and view theirs from the Friends page.

6. “Heard only” birds

Some birds you only ever hear. When recording, tap **Heard Only** on that species. By default, heard-only birds still show on your trip, but they **don't count** towards your species totals or lifers — unless a bird is one you've also *seen* elsewhere, in which case it still counts.

Want to count them? Turn on “**Include heard only birds in my totals**” in Profile & Settings. Switching it on or off updates all your totals and lifers automatically.

7. Using Trip Tick offline

- Once installed to your home screen, the app opens and works without signal.
- You can record trips and create new locations completely offline.
- Everything syncs automatically when your connection returns — nothing is lost.
- Tip: before a remote trip, open the app once on Wi-Fi so the latest data is cached.

8. Beta feedback & help

Trip Tick is in active development, and your feedback as a beta tester is hugely valuable. If something looks wrong, is confusing, or you have an idea, please note it down (a screenshot helps) and send it to the person who shared the app with you.

Thanks for trying **TripTick** — enjoy your birding!