

19 May 2020

Press Release

Dawn Chorus keeps on singing – Citizen Science and Arts Platform for birdsong extended until the end of May

The new Citizen Science and Arts Platform www.dawn-chorus.org for capturing the morning concert of natural birdsong was launched on May 1. Since then people around the world have been sharing their recordings of bird songs and in doing so have supported research and wildlife conservation. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation the initiators, Stiftung Nantesbuch and BIOTOPIA, have extended the project until the end of May.

The decline in the noise of human civilization resulting from Corona-related restrictions on movement is currently rendering the concert of the birds all the more audible almost everywhere in the world. This unique historical situation was the impulse for an innovative Citizen Science and Arts initiative: Within a short period of time BIOTOPIA Naturkundemuseum Bayern and Stiftung Nantesbuch Kunst und Natur joined the Max Planck Society and developed DAWN CHORUS with the support of renowned partners from research and nature conservation.

Since May 1 people from around the world have been sharing their recordings of the morning birdsong heard at their front doors on www.dawn-chorus.org. For wildlife conservation purposes the recordings are collected worldwide, can be experienced digitally and can be made usable for science. Additional dimensions of life in nature are to be further explored in collaboration with artists.

The initiators are very pleased by the amazing reaction which Dawn Chorus has inspired in the short time since the project began. Originally planned to last until May 22, the initiators are now extending the first concentrated phase of worldwide collection until the end of the month.

Due to enormous response, collection period is extended until

May 31, 2020

Now it will be possible to record morning birdsong until May 31, 2020 and upload the recordings to www.dawn-chorus.org. Participation is easy and requires no special equipment other than a smartphone. Instructions are available online.

Worldwide soundmap for birdsong

All the uploaded birdsong recordings will be collected on the platform in a global soundmap. Taken together, the different birds' songs form a unique soundscape reflecting the diversity of species.

The resulting collection is to be updated each year at the same point in time and will thus provide a valuable growing data basis for scientific research on the topic of the development of biodiversity and noise pollution. The data will be analyzed in collaboration with the Max Planck Society.

Citizen Science and Arts

DAWN CHORUS combines the sensual experience of nature with the digital perception of joint involvement on behalf of wildlife conservation and science. Artistic approaches render this connection perceivable in a particularly moving manner.

Participants are already being invited to combine their audio recordings with images of the environments in which the recordings were made, enriching the combination with their own creative involvement. Above and beyond the scientific data basis, the result is a vivid visual atlas of habitats.

After the end of the collection phase the project will then be further developed in collaboration with artists. Visual designers, video artists, musicians, visual and performance artists will use the periods between the annual recording phases to explore new dimensions in working with the voices of the world-wide orchestra of nature.

Strong partners and an active community

A highly appreciated number of robust partners and friends have come together on short notice to work on behalf of the Dawn Chorus. Major organizations from research and nature conservation are supporting the Dawn Chorus with their networks and media. The partners include World Wildlife Fund, Bund Naturschutz, NABU oder LBV.

Only two weeks after the project's launch, countless smaller groups and well over 10,000 fans are already sharing their joy in nature and are networking in social media, sharing their experiences with the great worldwide concert of the bird.

DAWN CHORUS can be experienced on
Facebook www.facebook.com/pg/DawnChorus2020
Instagram www.instagram.com/dawnchorus_stopandlisten
and www.dawn-chorus.org

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