

April 24, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Stop and listen – to the Dawn Chorus

Announcing a new international Citizen Science Platform to capture birdsong: Stiftung Nantesbuch and BIOTOPIA are together launching www.dawn-chorus.org

In the exceptional situation of the “Corona-Spring 2020”, a new international citizen science project invites us to record and share the sounds of the Dawn Chorus.

The current lockdown is causing a dramatic reduction in the noise due to human activity – traffic noises, airplanes, industrial noise – all of these have become significantly reduced in the past weeks, allowing us to hear the often overlooked sounds of nature with ever greater clarity, especially as we are confined to our homes and local areas.

As Spring progresses, the songs of hundreds of species of birds can be heard ringing out every morning, from about one hour before sunrise.

This is the moment to stop and listen, and then to record and share the unique acoustic fingerprint of the bird species of your local area with the world.

Responding to the unique conditions of the lockdown, and inspired by the work of the American musician, bioacoustician and artist Bernie Krause, the father of soundscaping, the idea was born to make the birds heard.

In cooperation with many figures from science, culture and the digital world, and now emerging on the initiative of BIOTOPIA and the Nantesbuch Foundation, a new Citizen Science platform has been developed which will invite people to contribute Dawn Chorus recordings from May 1 until May 22 2020 (International Day of Biological Diversity).

The platform www.dawn-chorus.org aims to survey the dawn chorus of birds worldwide, to encourage people to take an interest in protecting their local biodiversity, and to make this data usable for science in understanding, for example, the impact of climate change and other factors on bird biodiversity. In cooperation with artists, further dimensions of processing and communicating the results will be explored.

BIOTOPIA and Nantesbuch are now inviting people all over the world to record the dawn chorus on their own doorstep and share it on the newly created website www.dawn-chorus.org The recordings can then be brought together for the first time in a global soundmap.

"We hope to encourage people, even from windows and balconies in city apartments, to make and share recordings of the dawn chorus at this exceptional and challenging time, when human activity is drastically reduced in our cities. Through this project we hope to stimulate greater understanding of biodiversity through inviting people to listen to the natural sounds that surround us, and launch a multiannual project around the enchanting everyday phenomenon of the dawn chorus"

Michael John Gorman, Founding Director, BIOTOPIA Naturkundemuseum Bayern

"With Dawn Chorus, we are initiating a project that combines sensual experience of nature with digital possibilities, scientific contribution and artistic approaches. This is a particularly fruitful connection when it comes to meeting the great challenges of our time. Dawn Chorus makes us feel that we are all part of a worldwide orchestra of nature and art."

Börries von Notz, Speaker of the board, Stiftung Nantesbuch

This collective action to record and share the dawn chorus will be repeated at the same time every year to document changes through comparable data, and discover how the voices of the dawn chorus are changing through time.

The call

www.dawn-chorus.org

Share the dawn chorus on your doorstep with the world and help support research and conservation.

Many species of birds sing loudest shortly before sunrise: on the meadow, in the forest, but also in the middle of the city, in the garden, on the balcony - everywhere.

Anyone who can hear can experience this phenomenon - adults and children, healthy and sick people, scientists or artists.

Get up early, go to the window or outside if possible and listen to the birds. Record the voices with your mobile phone. Upload the recordings on this site and share your experience with people around the world by uploading it to our soundmap. Strengthen the sense of community by recording in

parallel with friends, colleagues or peers, as a school class or members of a society.

Simple instructions for creating and sharing your recording will be made available on April 30th on the website www.dawn-chorus.org

From May 1 to 22, 2020 we will collect your sound recordings on the platform. Your local recordings will be mapped worldwide. You will make an important contribution to a growing scientific data collection on biodiversity research, which from now on will take place every year, and at the same time become part of a worldwide artistic project.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Initiators

BIOTOPIA Naturkundemuseum Bayern und Förderkreis Biotopia Naturkundemuseum Bayern e.V.
Stiftung Nantesbuch

Scientific Partner

Max-Planck-Society
Max Planck Institute for Ornithology

MAX PLANCK
GESELLSCHAFT



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR ORNITHOLOGIE

Advisors

Dr. Bernie Krause, Acoustic Ecologist
Prof. Dr. Manfred Gahr, Director, Max-Planck-Institute for Ornithology

DAWN CHORUS @ INSTAGRAM:

@dawnchorus_stopandlisten
#DawnChorus2020

MORE INFORMATION:

About BIOTOPIA Naturkundemuseum Bayern

BIOTOPIA is a major new planned museum for life sciences and environment, to be located in Munich adjacent to Nymphenburg Palace. Reinventing the concept of a natural history museum for our current “biological century”, a time when we face critical global challenges, from climate change and the biodiversity crash to pandemics, BIOTOPIA will present interactive exhibitions, events, festivals, digital education programmes and mobile programmes through Bavaria that “explore life”, serving as a new platform to engage the public with cutting edge research. Biotopia is a project of the Bavarian Government (the Freistaat Bayern), with private support through the Foerderkreis Biotopia, chaired by Dr Auguste Prinzessin von Bayern.

For more information see www.biotopia.net

About Stiftung Nantesbuch

The Stiftung Nantesbuch offers spaces and interdisciplinary programmes for the examination of art and culture as well as nature and landscape.

Its aim is to enable people to engage with art and nature in a sensual way, thereby inspiring and activating them - people whom it always sees as individuals with initiative and responsibility. Art and nature provide decisive impulses for the creation of a society that lives in harmony with its natural and cultural foundations and, based on knowledge, acts with a sense of responsibility and respect.

The cultural institution founded by entrepreneur Susanne Klatten in 2012 operates at two locations: Nantesbuch is located in the Bavarian foothills of the Alps in the middle of a weitläufigen landscape of forests, meadows and moors. In a long-term process, the Nantesbuch Foundation is developing an area of approximately 320 hectares here with comprehensive measures in renaturation, Landschaftspflege, forest conversion and extensive agriculture and forestry.

The Lange Haus, located in the south of the area, is used as an event location.

location is the starting point for a diverse cultural and educational program with a regional and national focus. In the course of further development, a whole campus of in-depth encounters and discussions with art, nature and landscape will be created in the centre of the site.

For more information see: www.stiftung-nantesbuch.de

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