

## World Listing Software: An Abundance of Riches Part 2: In The Cloud

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*The second in a two-part series on the proliferation of resources for managing your personal birding records*

As noted in Part 1 of this series, AviSys and BirdBase have flown the coop. And without these two long-time listing software packages, thousands of birders are searching for a new home for their life lists and travel notes. In the August issue of *Birding* (pp. 62–66; [tinyurl.com/Doyle-Aug-16](http://tinyurl.com/Doyle-Aug-16)), I looked at six “standalone” choices: Birder’s Diary, SWIFT, Wildlife Recorder, Scythebill, Bird Brain, and Wings. This review explores six “web-based” options.

With web-based software, your data are stored on a computer server elsewhere, often referred to as “The Cloud.” Increasingly,

there is the option to “sync” your Cloud-based list to your computer or smart device. In contrast, standalone software stores your life list and sightings on your personal computer. Web-based software is increasingly popular because it usually works with any standard web browser. All you need is an internet connection and a web portal, such as Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Internet Explorer.

In Part 1, I talked about best fits for standalone vs. web-based list-keeping. You are a good candidate for a web-based solution if you have access to fast internet and want to view or manipulate your data from anywhere or on multiple devices. If you’re sloppy with archiving, a web-based database has you covered with automatic scheduled backups. And web-based software, while sacrificing some privacy, taps into a larger com-

Web-based listing software stores your life lists and travel notes in “The Cloud,” which means you have off-site backups and can access your data from anywhere with internet. *Photo by © Mia McPherson.*

