

Some birders remain beginners forever. That's cool. For one thing, it means birds like female Red-winged Blackbirds go on your life list over and over again. And on a serious note, perennial beginners do as much as the rest of us to advance the cause of conservation and the environment.

Photo by © Mia McPherson.



were always in perfect focus. Everyone would have a good time, and someone would always come running up to me later with my binoculars, which I had left on the ground somewhere. That's the other thing. You need good binoculars, and you also need a good memory. I have a very nice pair of Swarovskis.

I think they're Swarovskis.

It's all a matter of being differently abled. The bird is able to remember

a bird from one minute to, say, the next, whereas I am able to do whole other things, probably.

Anyway, I was avid at first. I'd home in on a songbird on a branch, find three field marks, pick up my field guide, and thumb through it hoping to get lucky, starting with the gulls, just in case. Halfway through, and with the bird long gone, I would have already forgotten my field marks. Did it have a white eyebrow and a wing bar, or was it an opinionated beak and a smart set of epaulets? Still confident I'd recognize my bird when I stumbled across it, I would soldier through the pages of sandpipers and swallows, and fetch up eventually at finches, to no avail, and then consult the internet. And that is how I would discover that my bird exactly matched a bird whose entire range was the southern slope of a single mountain in a country

**A humorous  
look at a very  
real issue for our  
birding community**

## 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.*

