**Put our bird on it**

**by CatHacks**

**Logo**

**Project Description**

Have you ever noticed how many phones, apps and programs use tweet, chirp and cheep sounds as ringtones or notifications?

Exhibit A: the Twitter sound - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nB59EVmizo>

Exhibit B: Samsung Galaxy S3 chirps -

In Australia, there are 828 species of birds.[[1]](#footnote-1) So wouldn’t it be nice if our gadgets could tweet, chirp and cheep Australian bird sounds?

At CatHacks, we thought we should literally ‘put a bird on it’ and made some ringtone and notification sounds of some of Australia’s finest. And many of these live in the Australian Capital Territory!

Brolga

Sounds pretty chirping x 2

Extinct in Canberra but seems to be around elsewhere.

Honeyeater

Sounds pretty x 2

Several kinds in Canberra including the Eastern Spinebill, Fuscous Honeyeater, Nosy Friarbird, White Naped Honeyeater, White Plumed Honeyeater.

Show where located in ACT.

Lyrebird

Sounds pretty x 2

Lyrebirds are in Canberra.

Show where located in ACT.

Pied Butcherbird

Sounds pretty x 2

Rare in Canberra, mostly in north ACT.

Show where located in ACT.

Reed Warbler

Mostly pretty but barks a bit x 2

Common breeding summer migrant in suitable habitat on the tablelands. Odd birds remain over winter.

Show where located in ACT.

Great Bowerbird

Sounds awful x 2

Not in Canberra.

Show where located in ACT.

**How to install**

Android

iPhone

**How we did it**

The birdsongs were taken from 1962 to 1988. Hours of content in long audio files. How can we better appreciate this beautiful data?

Demonstrate creative hack on weekend.

You can find out all about them in the Atlas of Living Australia!

**Next steps**

With more time and resources, we’d love to expand the scope of these notifications to include many more of Australia’s native birds, such as Bellbirds, Cockatoos, Cormorants, Emus, Galahs, Herons, Kookaburras, Parrots, Thornbills and Willy wagtails.

**Conclusion**

We think this was a fun exercise that helps bring people closer to Australian fauna, with a focus on Canberrans. We hope you like it too! More accessible from raw data and appreciate its beauty.

**CatHack Team members**

Elizabeth McAnulty (Team Captain)

Tom Saunders (CatHacker Extraordinaire)

Cat Gomer (Design Specialist)

Chris Mitchell (CatHacker Extraordinaire)

Allison Sonneveld (BirdHacker)

Nick Sonneveld (CatHacker Extraordinaire)

Poppy (Cat)

Rosie (Cat)

**Prize Category Nominations**

International

* Storytelling Hack
  + Eligibility criteria: all Australian and New Zealand teams are eligible. Must use at least two Official GovHack Datasets. Open Government data must be used.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.

Major Category Prizes

* Creative Humanities Hack
  + Eligibility criteria: Entries must use at least 2 official dataset that are Open Government data. Video entries must explain how data is used and demonstrate progress of your creative hack over the competition weekend.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.

Australian Capital Territory

* Best Data Visualisation
  + Eligibility criteria: Must use some ACT Government data sets from data.act.gov.au.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.
    - ACT bird location data?
    - Another
* Best Data Wrangling
  + Eligibility criteria: Must use some ACT Government data sets from data.act.gov.au.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.
    - ACT bird location data?
    - Another
* Best in ACT
  + Eligibility criteria: Must use some ACT Government data sets from data.act.gov.au.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.
    - ACT bird location data?
    - Another
* Best Use of ACT Government Spatial Data
  + Eligibility criteria: Must use the ACT Government spatial data. Available at data.act.gov.au.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.
    - ACT bird location data?
* Most Fun Use of ACT Government Data
  + Eligibility criteria: Must use some ACT Government data sets from data.act.gov.au.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.
    - ACT bird location data?
    - Another
* Most Innovative Project for Canberrans
  + Eligibility criteria: Must use some ACT Government data sets from data.act.gov.au.
  + ‘Put our bird on it’ uses the following datasets:
    - The ‘Bird Songs Online’ dataset, made available by the State Library of Western Australia and available here http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/bird-songs-online; and
    - The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal, available here http://www.ala.org.au.
    - ACT bird location data?

**Data Used**

* Bird Songs Online
  + Link to dataset: <http://portal.govhack.org/datasets/2016/wa/state-library-of-western-australia/bird-songs-online.html> (CSV file used)
  + The audio files linked within this data set were sampled, mashed up and looped to make ring tones and message alerts of native Australian birds recorded in Western Australia, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.
  + No data reuse eligibility requirements.
* The ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ data portal
  + Link to data portal: <http://www.ala.org.au>.
  + Links containing biodiversity information about the six bird species sampled were drawn from this data portal.
  + Data reuse eligibility information for the images used are acknowledged in the video.
* <http://canberrabirds.org.au/birds>

**Software used**

* Audacity – Audio file editing
* Adobe Photoshop CS2 – logo design, web page graphics
* Microsoft Excel – Data management
* Github – Evidence repository and web page hosting
* Microsoft Word – Project development
* Slack – Team talk

**Evidence Repository URL**

The ‘Put our bird on it’ files and information is available at <https://github.com/AcousticCardigan/AcousticCardigan.github.io>.

**Video Entry**

The ‘Put our bird on it’ video is available at

**Demo URL**

Link to web page

**Notes**

Some of the bird songs are recorded in Canberra

ACC 8661A/5

ACC 8661A/10

ACT – Yes

WA – Yes

QLD - Yes

**Kinds of birds [solo birds]:**

Lyrebirds – yes in cbr

Brolgas – extinct in cbr

Canaries – not in cbr

Cormorants – cbr has great cormorant (common), little black cormorant (common), little pied cormorant (common), pied cormorant (rare), plus many in family group like the Australasian Grebe.

Ducks – like the Pacific Black Duck (common),

Great Bowerbirds – not in CBR?

Honeyeaters – Eastern Spinebill, Fuscous Honeyeater, Nosy Friarbird, White Naped Honeyeater, White Plumed Honeyeater.

Magpies – common to CBR

Reedwarblers - Common breeding summer migrant in suitable habitat on the tablelands. Odd birds remain over winter.

Pied Butcherbird – rare in CBR, mostly in north

**Future direction**

Expand scope of birds

Image of Nagra IV-S portable stereo 6.35mm analogue tape recorder

Recorded using Fi-Cord 202 portable reel tape recorder.

Recorded using a Ficord 202 recorder.

Recorded using Fi-Cord 1A portable reel tape recorder.

Image of John Hutchinson

Who is John Hutchinson?

1. Christidis and Boles 2008, cited in A. D. Chapman, 2009, *Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World*, 2nd edition, available at https://www.environment.gov.au/node/13867. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)