

Global Big Day 10th May 2026 Report

Swee-Yian Lim

Global Big Day May 2025 in brief:

- 2.1 million people identified birds with [Merlin Bird ID](#)—Merlin's Biggest Day ever!
- 22.2 million Merlin Sound ID detections
- 8,023 species reported
- 4,127,929 bird observations
- 197,640 eBird checklists submitted
- 80,245 eBirders from 203 countries
- [118,518 photos of birds](#) shared with the Macaulay Library
- [8,406 bird audio recordings](#) shared with the Macaulay Library

Global Participation Highlights

The highest numbers of species recorded were contributed by Colombia (1,566 species), followed by Peru (1,438 species) and Brazil (1,204 species). These countries continue to lead global species diversity reporting, reflecting both rich biodiversity and strong engagement from local observers.

In terms of checklist submissions, the United States remained the largest contributor with 89,726 checklists, followed by Canada with 17,085 and Colombia with 15,086. These figures underscore the sustained participation of North American birders and the growing involvement of observers in Colombia.

Several countries demonstrated substantial growth in checklist submissions compared to May 2025. The most notable increases were recorded in Vietnam (+203%), Mongolia (+134%), and El Salvador (+116%), indicating expanding community engagement and rising interest in bird monitoring activities across these regions.

Regional Highlights: Asia

Within Asia, India once again led the region in both species recorded and checklists submitted, contributing 853 species and 3,275 checklists. This continued leadership reflects India's large and active birding community as well as its high biodiversity.

On the checklist leaderboard, Taiwan ranked second with 1,188 checklists, followed by Türkiye in third place with 857 checklists. These figures indicate strong and growing participation across different parts of the region.

For species diversity, China placed second with 660 species, while Nepal ranked third with 437 species. Malaysia secured fifth place, contributing 372 species to the regional total.

State-Level Participation in Malaysia

Participation across Malaysian states showed clear variation in both checklist submissions and species diversity, with several regions demonstrating particularly strong engagement.

Sabah ranked first overall, contributing 57 checklists and recording 197 species, reflecting its position as one of Malaysia's most biodiverse and actively birded regions. Selangor followed in second place with 48 checklists and 166 species, supported by its mix of urban parks, wetlands, and accessible forest edges. In third place, Johor submitted 16 checklists and documented 143 species, indicating solid participation and good habitat coverage. Pahang ranked fourth with 10 checklists and 102 species, while Kuala Lumpur placed fifth with 9 checklists and 46 species, showing continued engagement from urban birders.

Several states contributed smaller numbers of checklists but still added meaningful species records. Kedah (6 checklists, 37 species) and Sarawak (6 checklists, 34 species) demonstrated moderate activity, while Pulau Pinang recorded 61 species from just 4 checklists, highlighting high species richness relative to effort.

Lower-volume contributions came from Melaka (2 checklists, 20 species) and Negeri Sembilan (1 checklist, 45 species), both of which nonetheless added valuable data to the national total. No data was available for Perak during this reporting period, resulting in the state being absent from the rankings. Its omission highlights the importance of continued outreach and engagement to ensure comprehensive national coverage in future counts.

Overall, the distribution of checklists and species across states reflects a combination of habitat diversity, observer density, and local birding activity. High-performing states such as Sabah, Selangor, and Johor continue to anchor national participation, while contributions from smaller states ensure broad geographic coverage across Malaysia.

Malaysian results:

Rank	Region	Checklists	Species
1	Sabah	57	197
2	Selangor	48	166
3	Johor	16	143
4	Pahang	10	102
5	Kuala Lumpur	9	46
6	Kedah	6	37
7	Sarawak	6	34
8	Pulau Pinang	4	61
9	Melaka	2	20
10	Negeri Sembilan	1	45

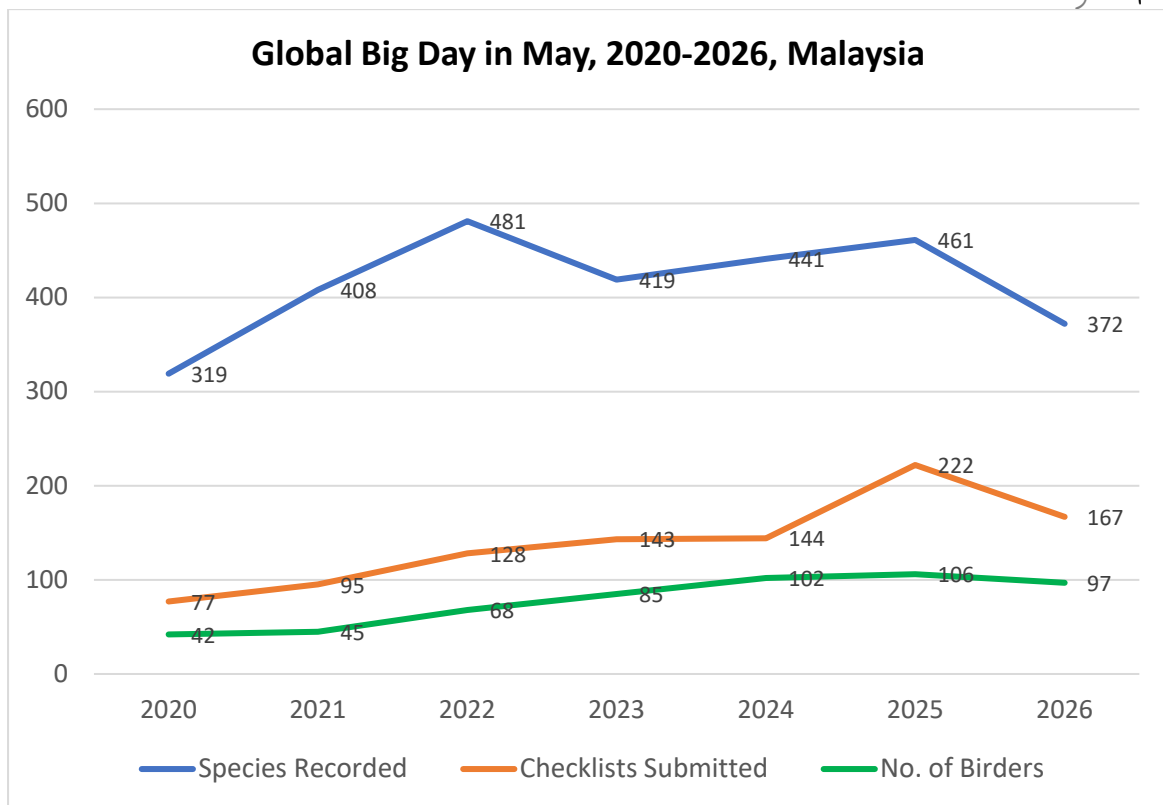


Figure: Global Big Day in May, Participation and Submission for Malaysia 2020-2026
Graph prepared by Amar-Singh HSS