BIRDBASE

COLLABORATORS			
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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

BIRDBASE

1.1 Main Menu

```
BIRD-BASE V1.1 (FEBRUARY 1996) Copyright © Marek Walford  ←
    1995-96.


Introduction
      But what does it do?

Shareware
      Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!

Copyright
      Hey buster, it's mine!

Features
      Can it really do that?

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      Do I need a banana?

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      Add a table spoon of salt!

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      Marty. I gotta back!

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      1066 and all that!


Editing Lists

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```

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1.2 What does it do?

BIRD-BASE is basically a computerised version of a field checklist.
Obviously you couldn't take your Amiga into the field, this program is for
storing you British list, Year list, County list, the birds you've seen
while sitting on the toilet etc.. when you get home.

BIRD-BASE enables you to enter the birds you've seen on your birding trips
by means of a simple interface; these are then added to your British list,
Year list or what ever else you had previously defined. In this way a
number of lists can be updated simultaneously. For instance if I saw a
Dodo at Holkham it would be added to my British List, County list and
Year list, but not my back garden list.

These sort of programs are widely available on the PC, both shareware and
commercial, yet there don't seem to be any on the Amiga. I hope Bird-Base
fills a gap in the market but if you do know of any such Amiga programs I
would like to hear from you.

1.3 Shareware

This program is shareware. This means if you like it and use it then you
should send the registration fee (a very reasonable £5.00) to one of the
addresses at the bottom of this page. In return you will receive the
latest version which will also have your name on the about window, WOW!

Send a cheque/postal order/euro cheque, cash (notes only and it's at your
own risk) for £5 (or more if you really want to) to one of the following
addresses, feel free to make comments or suggestions. No foreign cheques
or foreign cash please, it is a great hassle trying to change them.

Home Address: Term Address:

30 Smiths Lane   110 Bevendean Crescent
Fakenham   Brighton
Norfolk   East Sussex
NR21 8LS   BN2 4RD
England   England

Tel: 01328 862555   Tel: 01273 383562

Or you could E-Mail me at mw71@alpha2.bton.ac.uk
But I'll only be able to answer while I'm in Brighton.

When ordering please include details about your Amiga (memory, hard

drives, workbench version etc) If you find any bugs (there shouldn't be
anything major, I've tested it enough) then please let me know. Also if
you don't want to reigster but have some constructive criticisms or
suggestions then please write, phone or e-mail.

It would be better if you sent the order to my home address, there may be
a slight delay because I get my post from home sent to me once a week. If
you want to order while I'm at university and can't wait to get your
hands on this magnificent program then phone me first to make sure I'm
still living there or haven't been thrown off my course or run out of
money and died. I should be in Brighton till 1999. Incidentally, if by
some complete fluke somebody has got this program who is studying at
Brighton get in touch with me, cheers.

1.4   Copyright

The program "BirdBase" and all it's associated files are © Copyright 1996
Marek Walford. The shareware version ONLY may be freely distributed
providing all files in the archive remain intact, these are:

BirdBaseX.X - The Program
BirdBase.quide - The Guide File
BirdBase.doc - The Doc File
Bird.config - The Config file
DATA - Directory containing the example files

No profit must be made by distributing BirdBase, the shareware version
may be freely spread providing the price of a disk containing BirdBase
does not exceed £3 (or equivelant currency). Please feel free to distribute
the shareware version of BirdBase over the internet and as part of CD-ROMS.
All rights for the fully registered version remain with the author, the
registered version MUST NOT be distributed, details of version and register
status are held in the About menu.

The program is presented as is, no warranty is made of any kind, be it
expressed or implicit. Anyone using this program does so at their own risk.
In no way can the author be made responsible for any damage directly or
indirectly caused by the use or misuse of the program.

"Amiga" is a registered trademark of Amiga Technologies GmbH.

1.5   Features

Since the last release (version 1.0), Bird-Base has had a few new features
implemented and some of the code has been tweaked. Here are the most
significant new features for this version:

· The stats option has been updated to include the best year and day lists.

· The ability to add pictures has been expanded so you can now add pictures
  to individual birds rather than just one bird for the whole list.

- The search facility has also been improved so that you can now search for
  a particular bird by name rather than having to enter a page number.

- An extra function has been added to the PROJECT menu which enables you to
  output your lists to ascii files and then load them into your favourite
  word processor.

1.6 Requirements

BIRD-BASE has no special system requirements and should work with any Amiga
with at least ONE MEG OF RAM.

This version has been tested on the following systems:

Amiga 1200 with 4 Megs of Ram.

1.7 Installation

BIRD-BASE can very easily be installed onto a hard disk.

1. Create a new drawer on your hard disk (e.g B-BASE)
2. Copy all the files into your newly created drawer.
3. Add the following line to your user-startup:

        assign >nil: BIRD-BASE DH1:B-BASE/

4. Reset your Amiga and when WorkBench boots click on the BirdBase icon.

1.8 The Future

                    I originally programmed BIRD-BASE for my own use but I intend to ←
                      update it
if there is a demand. Please send any suggestions to my
                ADDRESS
                 . But
don't expect miracles, it is written in Amos and I'm teaching myself as I
go along so I can't guarantee anything but I'll certainly try.

I may do a PRO version which will have a complete British and Irish list
(about 550 species). It may also have detailed statistics on each species
so you could tell how many times you've seen a particular bird, what was
the earliest date you saw migrants? This version may cost more and I have
no idea when I will get round to doing it.

1.9 The Author

        If you want to contact me then you have the choice of two
        ADDRESSES
            ,
although it is highly unlikely if I'll be at both at the same time. I am
currently studying BA Computing and Information Systems at the University
of Brighton. This is great because I get an e-mail address so you can mail
me if you like (mw71@alpha2.bton.ac.uk) I am also on the WWW if you want to
look at my poor excuse for a web page:
(http://www.comp.it.bton.ac.uk/~mw71).

This superb piece of software was created on an Amiga 1200 with a 120 meg
hard drive, 4 megs of ram (2 megs of chip, 2 megs of fast), Star LC-10
printer, replacement mouse, akura TV and a ZipStik joystick (coz I like
playing games and I am a God at SWOS)

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Hall for all the help he's
given me in trying to learn how to use Amos. Here is a quick mention to a
bunch of people who over the years I've come to regard as people I met:

Chris, Dec, Seth, Ralph, Tony.

I would also like to thank Commodore for bringing out the Amiga and Escom
for saving? it. I would finally like to say that PC's are crap!!

1.10 History

V1.0 - First Public Release

V1.1 - Major Update. Improved stats and search functions and output files
       and picture links added as well as slight tweaking of the code.

1.11 Pull-Down Menus

            Project:
        New

        Load

        Save

        Save As

        Print

        Output to file

        Delete file

        About

```
                        Quit
                                View:
                        Stats

                        Notes
                                Edit:
                        Clear

                        Search
                                Records:
                        Load

                        Save

                        Save As

                        Print

                        New

                        Edit

                        View
```

1.12 Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: NEW
Icon: None
Function: Set up new database file.

On selecting the NEW option you will be asked whether you want to clear the
present data, this is so you can change the name of the lists whilst
keeping the data intact. If you answer N then all the data will be cleared
and you can enter the names for an entirely new database; if you answer Y
then the data will not be cleared but you can still change the names of the
lists.
```

1.13 Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: LOAD
Icon: 2
Function: Load in a previously saved database file.

On selecting this option a file requester will come up from which you can
select the database file you wish to load.
```

1.14 Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: SAVE
Icon: None
Function: Save the current database file under the current name.
```

On selecting this option the currently loaded database will be re-saved
under the filename it was loaded, or last saved as. Please note, no warning
is given before the database is saved!

1.15   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: SAVE AS
Icon: 3
Function: Save the current database via a file requester.
```

On selecting this option a file requester will come up from whuch you can
select the file name you wish to save as.

1.16   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: PRINT
Icon: 4
Function: Send the current list to a printer.
```

On selecting this option you will be asked whether you are sure you want to
print. Press Y and the list will be printed out, press N and the operation
will be cancelled. Make sure that your printer is on-line before proceeding
to print!

1.17   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: OUTPUT TO FILE
Icon: None
Function: Saves the current list as an ascii file for importing into a WP.
```

On selecting this option a file requester will come up from which you can
enter the name you wish to save the list as.

1.18   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: DELETE FILE
Icon: None
Function: Deletes a file from disk via a file requester..
```

On selecting this option a file requester will come up from which you can
select the file you wish to delete. Be very careful when deleting files
because you CANNOT get back what you delete.

1.19   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: ABOUT
Icon: None
Function: Brings up a window displaying information about the program.
```

```
On selecting this option a window will come up dis[aying the program
version and a couple of other bits of useful information.
```

1.20   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: QUIT
Icon: 1
Function: Exits Bird-Base and returns to the workbench screen.
```

```
On selecting this option you will be asked whether you are sure you want to
quit; if you are then press Y and Bird-Base will quit, if not press N and
it won't.
```

```
You can also flip to workbench by using the far right icon or left Amiga
and M, but you must use left Amiga and M to flip back.
```

1.21   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: STATS
Icon: 5
Function: Display various statistics on the lists.
```

```
On selecting this option a window will come up showing the number of birds
in each list as well as a few other facts about the lists.
```

1.22   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: NOTES
Icon: 8
Function: Displays previously edited notes on the current list.
```

```
Text files can be linked to each list. This is to enable you to add any
additional notes, it can also be used to add any birds which are not in
the program.
```

```
Text files must be saved in ASCII format (most WP can save in this format)
To link a text file to list number 1 you must call the file "1.txt" and
save it in the DATA/TXT drawer. Like wise if you want to link a text file
to list number 2 it should be called "2.txt".
```

1.23   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: CLEAR
Icon: 6
Function: Clear the data from the current list.
```

```
On selecting this option you will be asked whether you are sure you want to
clear the current list. If you answer Y then the current list will be
cleared, if you answer N then it won't!
```

1.24   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: SEARCH
Icon: 7
Function: Search for a particluar bird.
```

```
On selecting this option you can enter the name of the bird you wish to
search for. If the bird is found you will be moved to the corresponding
page.
```

1.25   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: NEW
Icon: None
Function: Create a new list.
```

```
On selecting this option a window will come up from which you can enter a
number of details about the list: The Location, Date, Weather and Type.
The first three are fairly self explanatory. The "Type" is very important
because it determines which of the main lists will be updated.
```

```
If you enter:
"COUNTY" then the County, County Year and Life lists will be updated.
```

```
"SITE" then the Site, Site Year and Life lists will be  updated.
```

```
"NORMAL" then just the Year and Life lists will be updated.
```

```
If you don't enter anything at all (press Return) then NONE of the main
lists will be updated.
```

1.26   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: EDIT
Icon: None
Function: Edit the previously created list.
```

```
On selecting this option a list of the birds contained within the program
are displayed, from which you can select the ones you've seen.
```

1.27   Pull-Down Menus

```
Menu option: VIEW
Icon: None
Function: View the previously created list.
```

```
On selecting this option the currently loaded list will be displayed.
```

1.28   Editing Lists

```
                 Before you edit any lists it is important that you have set up a  ←
                   new
database using the
                 NEW
                  option from the PROJECT menu.
```

```
Once you have set up your lists you will see that they appear on both the
EDIT and VIEW menus. To edit one of the lists select it from the EDIT
menu, this will bring up a list of birds on the screen. To add one of
these birds to the list simply click on it with the left mouse button, it
will turn white, indicating that it has been added to the list. If you
want to remove a bird then simply click on it with the right button, it
will turn back to grey and consequently be removed from the list.
```

```
This is the basic principle behind editing lists but there are also a few
options to help. The
                 SEARCH
                  option on the EDIT menu can be used to
locate a particular bird. The arrow icons on the tool bar can be used to
move through the pages of birds, alternatively you can use the arrow keys
on the keyboard. To indicate what page you are on the page number is shown
on the right hand side of the status bar.
```

1.29   Viewing Lists

```
                 If you have set up some lists using the
                 NEW
                  option you will notice that
they have appeared on the VIEW menu. To view one of the lists select it
from the VIEW menu and it will be displayed on the screen.
```

```
If there is more than one page in the list you can use the ">" icon (or the
right arrow key on the keyboard) to go to the next page. Unfortuantly you
cannot go backwards as you can when editing lists, you will have to keep
going forwards until it loops round.
```

1.30   Updating Lists

Lists are updated according to their type. When you first enter ←
the names
of your lists using the
NEW
option from the PROJECT menu you are
asked to enter names for the various list types. The predefined lists are
Life, Year, County, Site, Normal and Single. You can also have County Year
and Site Year.

All lists are updated when you choose SAVE or SAVE AS from the PROJECT
menu. For example if you add a bird to your Year list when you select
save tbis bird will also be added to you Life list, if it not already
there. Lists are updated as follows:

YEAR >>> LIFE
COUNTY >>> LIFE
SITE >>> LIFE
COUNTY YEAR >>> LIFE, YEAR, COUNTY
SITE YEAR >>> LIFE, YEAR, SITE
NORMAL >>> LIFE, YEAR

1.31 The Config File

The config file should be in the Bird-Base directory and holds the
information telling Bird-Base where to look for pictures, text files
and the root directory for the saved files.

You can edit this file in any text editor, so you can alter the name
and location of the save directories. Please be careful when editing
files and make sure you have made a back-up before you start altering
things.

1.32 Adding Pictures

Pictures can be added to individual birds providing they are not in an
AGA screen mode (320x512 Half-Brite is recommended). Save the picture
into the DATA/PIC drawer as EXACTLY the same name which appears in the
program (including spaces).

To view the picture you must be editing the LIFE list. Press the SPACE
BAR and left click on the bird you want to view, if a picture file is
found it will be displayed. Press the left mouse button again to return
to the edit screen.