**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Interviewer:

Respondent:

**INT Great, different type of recording. So, first question is how long have you been recording and how did you start?**

P05 Right, well in terms of recording any wildlife I started with birds, which started back around the end of 2009. I was on holiday in Scotland, and I was trying to find out – there wasn’t much to do where we were and I’d noticed that there were a lot of birds around and I started looking on the internet for information about where to find birds and things, and more or less the first thing I came across and the thing that sort of kicked me off on this whole thing was finding the [WILDLIFE CHARITY]’s bird track website.

Now, when I was a kid and I was doing some birdwatching – the only tools I had were bird books and distribution maps that were fairly generalised and aside from knowing that when we went to various places in the Lake District or North Wales that there were different species of bird around. It didn’t really, well it was the combination of I was too young to drive and the actual information I had at my fingertips about where to actually find particular birds was very generalised.

So, it seemed quite a radical idea to me that this bird track website existed and people were recording what they’d seen, and that information was like shareable and you could see fairly up to date information about bird and that sort of prompted me to get interested again because as a kid there were lots of species I hadn’t seen, and I did want to see some of those species, so it gave me an introduction into the more modern world of birding where there are information services and there are more in depth guidebooks and things that will lead you to certain areas.

So, I first started doing that and recording stuff in my local area in [CITY], where I grew up in [CITY], where my parents lived at the time, and then as I, you know, got a smartphone and became familiar with apps I looked around for other apps, and then the next thing that prompted me was the big butterfly count and again I got involved, downloaded that, recorded a lot of species locally, well more than I expected to find at the time. And then from butterflies then there was I think – the specific version of iRecord for butterflies, and I have the mammal app and other things.

But I’ve tended to use the more generic iRecord app website for recording everything other than birds. So, my first interest was seeing some of those things that I felt I missed as a kid because I was able to drive, I was able to get to these places, and it was oh there’s all this information that passed me by. And then there was the other side – having become involved with regarding to some degree I realised that that information was then feeding into councils and things like that, and had an impact on the whole planning process.

And my patch in [CITY] is [SITE] which is on the route of HS2 which is destroying a portion of the habitat at the moment so it became more relevant to me in that I could see well in order to protect what we’ve got I need to make sure stuff that I see there is recorded, and I must admit most of my records there are birds but I have done some butterflies, and there are some other local butterfly specialists who have been monitoring the area.

Again, where my family live in [CITY] it’s kind of green belt ish and the [CITY] spatial plan or whatever it is, is going to basically spare the leafy parts of [place] and the [place] side of [CITY] while ripping up all the open land around the North [CITY] side for warehousing and other stuff that we don’t need. So, it seems more relevant to me than ever that we need to record things and in talking to – I mean the [CITY] area is quite good, the [CITY] Natural History Society has clearly been collecting records over a long period of time.

But that isn’t true in all parts of the country and – there’s a lot of gaps to fill in if we’re to protect what green belt we have left.

**INT So, you’re –**

P05 So, there was the interest side in terms of finding more species and seeing more things, the kind of nerdy side of things, but then understanding that recording that and keeping that information up to date plays a very important role in terms of protecting areas from being destroyed by further developments and so on.

**INT And have you been able to see the kind of – that feedback directly, so from your records to kind of informing any decision making or is it kind of more that you hope that that’s happening?**

P05 I hope that that’s – certainly when it comes [SITE] and HS2 it’s had no impact at all, they’ve just ridden rough shod over everything.

**INT Heart breaking isn’t it.**

P05 But then I recognise that actually even amongst the local people, and we seem to have a growing team of people who are interested in wildlife and want to protect it, there’s very few amongst them that want to do the boring stuff of actual data collection. But I’ve worked in IT for 40 years and databases and all that kind of stuff is day to day for me, and I’ve got that kind of OCD kind of – I want to be thorough about things, my attitude to things, so it appeals to me but I recognise for a lot of people it’s nice to see the stuff but they don’t have the same motivation to photograph or note down what they’ve seen.

And it worries me that, you know, if it’s only or two people recording – I’ve got my own species blackspots about things I don’t record, and it needs many more people involved with different interests to get a comprehensive view of the area and so on.

**INT So, the people that you kind of are aware of that you say have got an interest in the natural world but don’t record are they more interested in the more practical kind of conservation side of things or kind of how – or just like spending time in nature but not necessarily doing the recording?**

P05 I think more the latter, spending time in nature but not doing the recording. They’re very motivated to and perhaps a bit more involved than I am in terms of attending meetings and lobbying groups, and that side of things but whereas I’ve been doing things like breeding bird survey, I didn’t do the butterfly one, but I was going to, and things like that that are quite structured surveys it’s very much sort of ad hoc observations and things which unless they’re captured in some form, well, it doesn’t present a very convincing argument when you’re coming up against councils and developers and things.

**INT So, you mentioned birds and butterflies are there other species groups that you record or is it mainly those two?**

P05 It’s mainly those. So, yeah, well dragonflies and I must admit that – I mean I would record mammals but most of the time it’s fox or grey squirrel and that’s about it. I’m sure there’s more out there but –

**INT You would have to do some dedicated tracking or something like that.**

P05 Plants was something I was never really interested in but from a butterfly point of view it is useful to know the food plants of some species, so I’ve started dabbling a little bit in that and last year when lockdown hit I bought myself a moth trap, so I started doing a bit of mothing.

**INT How have you found that, it’s quite a learning curve after butterflies isn’t it, mind you, if you’re good at birds you’re probably all right.**

P05 I had been slightly put off by the idea that there were several thousand species to be able to identify but there’s a guy on Twitter who does a sort of buy me a coffee and I’ll identify your moth species.

**INT Is that the UK Moths, what’s he called –**

P05 Yes.

**INT He’s amazing isn’t he? I don’t know who he is but he’s just so willing to just give his time to anybody isn’t he.**

P05 Yeah. So, he was a huge help to me in IDing a lot of things but having done that and been able to enter some records through iRecord I was then contacted by the [COUNTY] Moth Recorder and he’s also been quite helpful in terms of IDing some species but, yeah, it’s a big world to dip into.

**INT So, you started with the birds, and you mentioned that then you sort of were looking around for other things to do, was that because you were wanting to learn new things in terms of like moving from the birds and the butterflies and other species groups?**

P05 Well, I think a lot of birdwatchers in the summer do some butterflying and dragonfly stuff, so when the – in the summer months when there’s no so much change and the birds are a bit less visible it seemed to be something that other people took an interest in, and I was still going out and looking at things but obviously butterflies were around, so it did catch my attention and – the big butterfly count push definitely helped motivate me to take an interest but initially it was during just those two or three weeks when they collect data, end of July and beginning of August but having got started with it I then started recording things throughout the year.

**INT And then you mentioned you were thinking about doing some of the structured butterfly recording but you didn’t, is that right, you were going to set up a transect, is that right?**

P05 Well, the – I think it was [Name] at the [WILDLIFE CHARITY] who organised the breeding birds survey, I think they were contacted by Butterfly Conservation and they basically said that the route you use for the breeding bird survey, if we do the same thing on butterflies and the problem for me with doing butterflies was it needs to be done later in the day whereas the breeding bird survey is a very early morning thing, and I could do that before work. I could find a day when the weather was fine and do it.

It was more problematic, it basically meant taking a day off work in order to do the butterflies, if I couldn’t do it at the weekend, and if it was raining or something then it was a damp squib. Now that I’m retired I’ve got a bit more time to do that kind of thing.

**INT It’s useful to have that flexibility for the weather isn’t it? So, you’ve mentioned [SITE] and the areas around [CITY], have you got local patches that you’re really interested in getting lots of detail on, or do you record in a wider area as well?**

P05 Well, when it came to birdwatching we have in [CITY] a Wiki site where sightings are posted and most of the year it’s just birds, but when we get into the summer months people do mention butterflies and dragonflies, etc. So, that did prompt me to travel to corners of [CITY] that I would never would have otherwise thought of going to, and I do record wherever I go. And I do try to do – so on the days when I was commuting into work in the city I would record birds around the centre of [CITY].

So, I might be working late, I might not be able to get out in the evening or something, so I have always done a mixture of urban and more reserved type birdwatching, but yeah, I mean bird track made it easy for me to make a note of what I’ve seen. So, I know there are birdwatchers that go to places to see particular species and they record that species, but nothing else. But I’m always like well I’m here, I might as well do what I usually do and record everything.

**INT Is it sort of on a site basis then, so you’re thinking I’m going to this site and I’ll record everything I see on this kind of visit to this site?**

P05 Yeah. So, some of it will be RSPB places or Wildlife Trust or whatever but I do ordinary parks, any kind of green space.

**INT Do you have any – we’ll kind of come back to that I think – so do you have any particular role as well in the recording community, like do you verify records or anything like that?**

P05 No.

**INT So, you’re kind of recording –**

P05 Very casual.

**INT Okay. So, then going back to that point about I guess making a particular visit to do some recording what’s the process that you go through for that. Is it – what comes first, is it the location or the species, or because it’s part of a recording scheme, or something else, or a combination of different things?**

P05 Well in terms of the [CITY] area I used to have my local cemetery, [SITE], and then things like the train station where I used to commute from and things like that, so I would sort of set up a site for those particular locations and at least on like a monthly basis I would make sure I visited all of them. In terms of the kind of larger greener spaces it would usually be a morning visit or at the weekend it might be later in the morning, and it would just be more motivated by sort of seasonal changes.

Where I was perhaps expecting to see different birds, so in the spring and autumn I’d probably make more visits because there was a greater chance of seeing something different from day to day. During the quieter parts of the year the visits would be less frequent and I might – certainly at the weekend probably travel to some other part of [CITY] to visit some other site to pick up on some other species that I hadn’t seen.

But it was only really in terms of the breeding bird survey that I would have a plan. For my local patches I had certain routes that I would take but I can’t do the same thing every day. So, it would always be a slightly modified path or I’d visit one side of [SITE] and then if I had a bit more time I would do a whole circuit, but it was sort of driven by weather conditions. Whether I was late for work or not and so on.

**INT And then does the butterfly recording always come alongside the birds?**

P05 Yes.

**INT So, you don’t particularly –**

P05 Secondary, yeah.

**INT So, you’ve never sort of thought I want to go to that site because it’s a good butterfly site, you’re always going somewhere for the birds and then it’s whether you see any butterflies?**

P05 Yeah, I think that’s true to say, yeah. I think that again might be due to my knowledge level and what was available. I mean Butterfly Conservation do send me a lot of magazines but I must admit I’m not very good at reading them thoroughly and when I do I find there is a lot of information, and certainly that that [Nature Reserves] area that covers my flat in [CITY], they do have a lot of walks and things but, yeah, I kind of made a mental note saying next year I must do that but it hasn’t happened.

**INT Like you wouldn’t say that you were – I guess a sort of a member of that local butterfly community, do you have much interaction with them?**

P05 No.

**INT So, you don’t kind of get – you don’t get any information from them in terms of like where you might visit and things like that?**

P05 I think I do, it’s just that I have enough on my plate. And it wasn’t that big a motivation. I mean there are certain species like Purple Emperor and things like that, that I would like to see, and I’ve found people being very cagey about reviewing the information about where they were and so on. So, one of my bug bears with the birding community as well, that I kind of understand the species need to be protected but it does feel a bit clicky and excluding, and it’s like well hey, you know, I want to help. I want to record and do this.

But unless you’ve had some kind of physical sort of face to face contact or something, and you’re seen as a trusted person, and it’s like what do I need to do to be considered a trusted recorder or somebody who behaves responsibly with that information.

**INT Sometimes its like, like you say, it’s about who you know isn’t it and whether you’re in that inner circle. It can be quite easy to feel excluded I think. One of my biggest gripes about the birding community, and I think this is like nature in general maybe, is when people put a photo of something on Twitter and they don’t say what it is, they just say, “Look what I saw” that looks nice, but what is it. And I think there is a bit of that sort of ego sometimes isn’t there in terms of look how much I know sort of thing.**

**So, do you tend to be out on your own when you’re recording then, is it a thing that you like to do by yourself?**

P05 Yeah.

**INT And is that sort of one of the motivations as well in terms of just spending time outdoors and that kind of restorative kind of aspect of it?**

P05 Well, you know, again one of the kind of triggers that got me going out a bit more was that – it was around spring 2010, so I’d kind of started taking an interest in birds again and I have been trying to lose weight, and I’d been spending hours in the gym and things, and then I got shingles and I kind of lost the energy and motivation to go to the gym. And I thought well what can I do to replace that and I found going for walks and doing the birdwatching, and being out in nature sort of fill that gap.

But in terms of recording I always find that when I’m with somebody else there’s always some sort of conversation going on and I’m being distracted or somebody wants to walk at a faster pace and I feel I’m not being as thorough as I’d like to be in terms of recording what I see around. So, I do like to record things like species counts, breeding behaviour and some of the additional information, it’s not just I’ve seen this species here, I like to get a feel for the number of birds that are around and whether they’re singing or not, or young birds and they’ve bred and so on and I find that when I’m with somebody else some of that detail gets lost.

**INT And can you make all of that detail in the bird track app directly?**

P05 Yeah. So, I don’t always do all of it there and then. In those days when I was commuting I’d have a 40 minute tube journey into work so I could record the details of the species and then while I was on the tube I could add in details of where the birds were located, and breeding behaviour, and make it a more detailed record before I uploaded it.

**INT You must have an amazing resource by now, I mean do you like to kind of look back at, presumably in the app you can see just your own data, so do you use it – do you interrogate that data yourself in terms of looking at changes over the years?**

P05 Yeah, I look for sort of trends and birds, what did I see during the month of May, where did I see that particular species, just to sort – as triggers to me for like you haven’t found a White Throat this month or something, just to maintain that interest level. So, I’ve got about 90,000 records in there.

**INT That’s amazing.**

P05 But I recognise I’m a bit kind of [laughs].

**INT So, do you use that information to decide where to go, so might you look back at it and think oh I saw that species at that site, this time last year, I’ll go to that site again?**

P05 Yeah, sometimes.

**INT Sorry, I’m just looking at my list of questions. So, from the kind of birding community are there sources of support, you mentioned [NAME] at the [WILDLIFE CHARITY], is it the [WILDLIFE CHARITY] that you tend to kind of communicate with around recording and do you get any support from them or anyone else in terms of, I don’t know, ID help and things like that?**

P05 Not really, no. No, I mean I have had contact with a number of people there but it was more giving feedback on what I didn’t like about bird track and what bits didn’t work properly, from an IT point of view. So, I know [NAME], he would recognise me, and I’ve met a few of the other people, but I was fortunate where I am at [SITE], I met [Name] and he was very good in terms of helping me out with ID skill and so on.

And I’ve done a number of [WILDLIFE CHARITY] workshops and training courses, and taken some birding holidays with people who have again helped me. And I’ve been doing quite a bit online last year so the Fields Studies Council put a load of great stuff on, so I did some mammal stuff and a really good butterfly – no a really good dragonfly and damselfly course, and I dabbled with a couple of botany related things but it’s really not my forte.

**INT Yet to be persuaded.**

P05 But there is so much stuff out there, I’ve got lots of – I feel like there’s lots of material that I can use and now that I’ve discovered where it is I can hopefully apply some of that this year.

**INT And then in terms of the butterflies has that been more self-taught?**

P05 Yeah, but I think – I think there’s a couple of courses coming up online very soon. So, I tend to look for things on Eventbrite because there’s a – it just seems to be the place where more of these sort of wildlife type things are being advertised, and I’ve found some very useful stuff through that.

**INT So, I guess more linked to the purpose of this project then, would you be persuaded to – or how would you feel if somebody asked you to record in a particular place, would that be something that you would be willing to do, or do you like to just kind of stick to the places that you’re used to recording, because you like to see those changes over time in those places?**

P05 Well, I guess one of the things that I have noticed is that, particularly with bird track you get people focusing on the big reserves where you’re going to see lots of birds, and then there’s huge areas of the country that aren’t covered at all, and it’s like well I would personally find it useful if someone said, “Well, we’re okay for records in these areas but we’ve got some good habitat in these areas that aren’t being covered, could anyone do that?” And that, to me, seems an excellent use of the information that’s available.

I’m perfectly happy to stick my hand up and say, “Yeah, I’ll go there. It will make a change. A different place for me to visit” but I don’t really have any experience in terms of doing like a formalised survey with transects and so on, but I’m sure I could learn. And yeah, it seems a – exactly what organisations like Butterfly Conservation should be doing, is encouraging people to increase the coverage.

**INT And it would be that sort of organisation that you would be sort of willing to receive those prompts from.**

P05 Yeah.

**INT And are there particular like – say if they were to give you a reason, are there particular things that would motivate you or do you think it would just be the act of them asking that would be sufficient?**

P05 I think that would be enough, I mean obviously if they were to say I would be likely to see some particular species and that was something I hadn’t seen before, or I’d only seen infrequently, that might provide added motivation but, yeah, if certain areas were identified as these are areas that we think are important and they’re not being covered, can you help us, then that would be enough.

**INT And what about if they asked you to go at a particular time of year, would that be something that you would be willing to accommodate?**

P05 Yeah.

**INT And then in terms of sort of other species groups perhaps would you – if the call was there look for this other group while you’re there, would that be something that you would think about, I guess it depends on the skills that you feel you’ve got.**

P05 Well, I’ve got an under used sweep net and butterfly net and things, so I’ve got the kit. If you point me at some – I mean I did try a little bit of that last year but I was mainly finding sort of ladybirds and red soldier beetles, and things like that. I did find a few interesting moths but I think it – I would find it helpful if I was directed towards some suitable areas, but I just did a bit of exploring myself and some, I wouldn’t say wasteland but rough land that seemed sad and forgotten by the side of the motorway.

But I did find quite a lot of stuff there. It would feel more worthwhile if I had some direction in relation to those activities, yeah. And evening birding for some things. I find myself mainly – if it’s in walkable distance of where I live then at some stage or other I will have birded there and recorded what I see. But with insects and butterflies, perhaps, my knowledge of suitable areas is not as good.

**INT Yeah. So, then moving on to – I think we’ve touched on this really, but what you do with your data that you’ve collected. So, you put the bird data into bird track and then everything else sort of goes into iRecord. And you use it for your own purposes but you’re also happy that it’s going to be used by others as well.**

P05 So, for instance, in the case of the bird data I do know that the [CITY] Bird Club has a yearly download of the data from bird track and that does go into feeding into the [annual publication]. I know that the [CITY] Natural History Society does have perhaps smaller teams that are focusing on insects and botany, and all that, but I don’t know – since, what was his name, [Name] or whatever got involved last year, he was doing these courses at the Field Studies Council.

And he started working with [CITY] Natural History Society to encourage further use of iRecord and really before that I was putting my data in and I could see that some of the people I knew were recorders, for instance, for dragonflies and so on who entered some data but (a) the kind of validation process seemed to be quite slow, and (b) I didn’t get any feedback in terms of how it was being used, other than I would say I do think that the butterfly conservation people were taking the data.

But certainly with lockdown last year the number of records that I had in that were then validated shot up as people were stuck at home last year. So, I would say something like 60 to 70% of what I’ve entered has been reviewed and validated now, which gives me greater confidence that that data is being used.

**INT But you say you don’t get any other feedback other than your records being validated; you don’t receive anything else back from systems?**

P05 No. I mean I’ve had the odd record queried and things like that, but that’s it really.

**INT And is it the same for the bird data?**

P05 Well, when the [annual publication] does get published I can see my name in there and I can – for certain sightings for some of the rarer species I can see that some of my data has been used. Most of it will be, you know, corvids and tits, and all the boring stuff, and when I do see the odd rare bird I can usually pick that out. When I get my copy of the [annual publication] I do feel confident that my data has contributed to that.

**INT And are there other things that you think that your data is being used for other than producing those atlases and reports?**

P05 I’m not aware of any, no. No.

**INT And is there anything that you sort of wouldn’t like your data to be used for?**

P05 Well, it’s a bit – well I think Google is tracking me enough as it is, if you look at your Google’s location history, it knows where you’ve been and you could tie that in with my bird track data and say you went for a walk around [SITE] and then you went across [CITY] to [NATURE RESERVE], and things like that, so it’s kind of like – yes, in some ways I don’t like it but if it’s in connection with something that is in line with altruistic aims like safeguarding the environment and green spaces, then fine.

I don’t really have anything to hide. I can understand that people feel a bit uneasy about it. I did think at times about well, yeah, if something – if my employer got hold of my bird track data they could see why I was late that day. Because I’d gone for a walk here and must have seen something interesting, and I was late.

**INT You said your train wasn’t running on time and actually you were off birding. Just going back to the point about feedback, is there anything that you would like to receive feedback on, on your records, so like anything that would kind of keep you interested or help you – or motivate you in terms of receiving something back from those organisations that are using your data?**

P05 Well, I mean I don’t think I’m really – my motivations are not to really do it from the point of view of look at me, I’ve seen all these species, and given the number of people that are involved in recording and things like that, then there must be thousands of other people like me, and I’m not particularly special. You could probably say out of those people I probably have a slightly more specialised or more knowledgeable on this particular part of [CITY], or this patch or so on but beyond that no, I’m not really in it for that kind of thing.

As long as I see some evidence that it’s being used and that can be in terms of its being used to generate atlas data or something which is going to inform people, and be useful going forward, but when it comes to wildlife and environmental data it’s – you’re just kind of carrying the torch for a period of time. Hopefully somebody else will, you know, will carry it on when you’re not there. So, I don’t really, you know, it’s not like I’m an amazing finder of rare birds or anything.

I’m just interested in what’s around me and I guess I remember how things were when I was a kid and we had rooks and skylarks singing, and lapwings on the golf course, and things like that, and now there’s none in this area at all. And it’s like, well, yeah, so throughout my, you know, thinking back 50 years, some of those species have just gradually left the area as things have been developed and so on.

And it’s kind of like, well, it does give you a feel for a rate at which things are changing, disappearing and I guess that is a motivation in terms of like well I want to record what’s here so that others can actually see the erosion of species and things over the past, and perhaps that will motivate them to make more effort to protect things.

**INT So, how do you feel about leaving all of your local patches in [CITY] then? Do you feel like a bit of a sense of loss?**

P05 Well, I was able to pop down a couple of times last year so I don’t feel totally disconnected from it but I particularly would look down last year and finding myself sheltering and things, I was stuck in the garden and that was a bit frustrating but then it motivated me in different ways, I was like, well I’ll get a moth trap. I’ll start doing [unclear] and recording bird sounds and things like that, and that filled up my time.

I recorded something like – about 80 or 90 species of moths and things in the garden, and up until then I had been a very casual and sceptical user of naturalist mainly from the point of I’m like well why should I enter my data in a system that’s based in California, and I felt like that I was giving these people my data and they’re probably selling it back to the organisations over here in the same way as I don’t understand birders who use the American eBird system.

We’ve got a national system, why, but again with these organisations they’re obviously, you know, they’re focused on their own nations but their remit is changing and the value of data, whether it’s captured in one system or another, hopefully it eventually ends up in the right location where people can do something with it but what I do like about naturalist, you know, the ability to add more photographs, and it’s a bit more open than the other systems in terms of for a casual inexperienced user.

They can get information, so I’m here, and I can look and I can see what species have been seen in the locality. So, that did drive me to be a bit more thorough in terms of making sure every species of bird I’ve seen – I’ve got photos and I’ve uploaded it. I did a lot more botany. I did all the moths and things like that, and I’ve got a species list for the local area that’s getting up to about 500 now, and it’s not all me that’s added it in, but I’ve added a substantial part of that.

But then it’s like well, okay, now I’ve done how do I share it and how do I get other people as enthusiastic about it as I am, and that’s the hard bit, I find.

**INT Yeah. So, have you tried any –**

P05 So, I’ve tried sharing it through the local kind of Facebook groups and things like that so – because with lockdown people have been going out walking locally a lot more, lots more people have been taking pictures. We’ve had a very cooperative kingfisher around that sparked interest in lots of people and I thought well perhaps it would – have you got music on – it’s all right, I’ve just got music appearing.

**INT I don’t think it’s coming from me.**

P05 I don’t know where that came from. I’ve shut it off now. So, I thought well perhaps other people when they’re going out might like some information in terms of what birds are around at the moment, what plants are flowering, and so on. So, I’m working on ideas of how to do that but it’s hard.

**INT We’ve got a lovely lady in our village who produces like a monthly sheet, it’s just like an A4, and it’s just like things you might see this month and then particular places in the village that you might look for them, and she just puts them on the Facebook group, and it’s really lovely. And it’s aimed at all ages as well so there’s activities that you can do with kids as well as things that are targeted at adults I guess, so there’s something for everyone. It’s really lovely.**

**I think you’re right that it feels like a time to capture that enthusiasm that people have got for spending time outdoors and recognition of the importance of spending time in nature, it feels like there’s something there that we don’t want to lose. We don’t want in a way people to go back to their old lives of forgetting about what nature gave them during this time and, yeah, getting people to kind of hold on to that somewhere. If we could all do our bit perhaps.**

**I’ve taken up enough of your time. This is an hour. I think that’s the end of my questions but if there’s anything else you wanted to say about your recording activities then feel free.**

P05 No, I think the last thing I had to say was kind of like now that we’ve done that how do we share it in a way that encourages further participation, because it does seem like, okay, for every 30 or 50 people that are interested in birds only, it seems to me only 1 in 10 is interested in capturing that information.

**INT I think it goes back to what you were saying earlier, in terms of it can be a bit elitist and it can be a bit impenetrable sometimes to work out what you’re supposed to and who you’re supposed to send records to, and it doesn’t help that there are so many different ways you can submit records. And I think even those kinds of practical steps for some people can be a barrier.**

P05 Yeah, because the kind of whole local recorder thing, list of things that – you mustn’t talk about locally, somebody will get upset, and there’s all these little things but until you’ve tripped over them you don’t know that they’re there. And I think to the casual person who just steps into it you can be met with a barrage of angry emails and things.

**INT Then you’re put off for life, aren’t you.**

P05 Yeah. It’s very off putting.

**INT My mum, I worked on her for ages to submit records to iRecord. The first record she submitted she got an email back saying “Are you sure that’s what you saw?” She was like I’m not doing that anymore, if you don’t trust me – and it’s fair enough, they want to kind of make sure the record are right but you’ve got to do it in a constructive way. I think it’s just about making it as easy as possible for people and removing those barriers. I think butterflies are a good gateway into that wider recording because there’s only a handful of species you’re going to see out and about, and it’s quite an easy way.**

**Like a manageable way in, especially with the app, to kind of enter that world, like you’ve done, you started with the birds and there’s lots of different avenues you can go off from there and expand what you’re doing.**

P05 It feels like, it’s that education gap, how do you support somebody who’s taking that first step and do it in a way that doesn’t put them off, and being quite detail orientated it appeals to me, but when you say you could do that and you could add that, and you can see people’s eyes glazing over. They’ve had enough. Well, you asked me to take a picture of it; I’ll do that but nothing more.

**INT But you do almost need that kind of arm around the shoulder for it, just to get you started, and like I say to make those first steps as easy as possible, and then you’ve kind of got to hope that once people are over that initial kind of getting to grips with it then they can be independent but it is that initial engagement that I think is the hard bit.**

P05 Again, with naturalist because they produce all these tables and statistics and things, this person has seen 10,000 species and so on, yeah, one of my friends works with app development software and he’s like well, yeah, this gamification of everything is like the way forward and I’m like well I think it appeals to a certain group of people that are competitive but it is a big barrier at the same time to other people. I can see it will encourage some traction but you’re limiting the audience for that.

**INT Even that’s something that puts you off using it because you just don’t like that element of it, or do you feel like you can ignore that bit?**

P05 I feel like ignoring it, it’s not my motivation. It’s nice to see, I’ve seen some new species today but, yeah, you know, I’m not really a gamer.

**INT No, like you say it’s a certain group of people that appeals to and it’s not for everybody. Okay, thank you very much for your time.**

P05 It’s all right, been nice talking to you.

**INT I hope you get to get out and about a bit further afield this summer.**

P05 Me too.

**INT If you are interested in next stages of the project, being involved in those then we can keep your contact details.**

P05 Yes, please do.

**INT Like I said there is a focus on [county] and [city] at the moment so I’m not quite sure what – there’s another element, another part of the team that are working on kind of developing the online tool that will kind of be making recommendations to people for places to visit, and things like that. And I’m not sure at the moment whether the focus of that will be geographically limited to those areas or whether it will be something that is kind of UK wide, I’m not quite sure.**

**We will keep your details on the system, if that’s okay, and then you’ll get email updates, even if it’s just about the project it might be of interest, and there might be opportunities to be involved.**

P05 All right.

**INT Thank you so much.**

P05 Thank you very much.

**INT Take care.**

P05 You too. Bye, bye.

**INT Bye.**

**Audio ends: [01:05:36]**