

SONG SLEUTH SYSTEM SOFTWARE

Version 1.2 Release Notes

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New Features

Version 1.2 of the System Software includes the following new features.

High pitch shifter

Birders with high-frequency hearing loss often have difficulty hearing birds with high-pitched songs, such as warblers. These songs are typically higher than the highest octave on a piano. The high pitch shifter option automatically shifts these songs down an octave to lower frequencies so they are more audible. Songs that are naturally lower-pitched and easier to hear are not shifted, but left in their original octaves.

The high pitch shifter also filters out low frequency noise for a clearer listening experience. Sounds between 3-8KHz are divided in half to 1.5-4KHz, and sounds below 1.5KHz are reduced.

This feature works with live sound in Analysis Mode, and with both field and library recordings. It affects only sound heard through headphones. Recordings played through the speaker are not shifted, so that other listeners can hear them at their original frequency.

To enable the high pitch shifter:

1. Power up Song Sleuth while pressing SEL.
2. Press the up and down arrows to highlight the Hi Pitch Shift option.
3. Press SEL.
4. Press MODE.

Analyze selection option

The recording management menu now includes an Analyze Selection option to analyze a selected field recording. You can edit the field recording to capture a specific selection, clip out extraneous sounds, and loop the selection through the analysis software.

This feature enables you to repeat the analysis you saw at the moment Song Sleuth detected the song, and for rare or vagrant birds, to analyze the recording using a different module.

To use the Analyze Selection option:

1. In the Recording Management screen, use the up and down arrows to highlight Analyze Selection.
2. Press SEL.
The recording plays in a continuous loop.
3. To exit Analyze Selection, press MODE.

List species display preference

New song modules (version 1.1 and higher) can now display species names in one of three different ways:

- Alphabetical (default) displays and orders species names as before. Common names such as “Song Sparrow” are displayed in English. In the browse mode, they are sorted alphabetically.
- Taxonomical displays common names such as “Sparrow, Song”. In the browse mode, they are sorted in taxonomical order in accordance with the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU).
- Latin displays the scientific names such as “Melospiza melodia”. In the browse mode, they are sorted in taxonomical order.

To change the display preference:

1. Power up Song Sleuth while pressing SEL.
2. Press the up and down arrows to highlight the List Species option.
3. Press SEL until the desired display preference is indicated.
4. Press MODE.

Support for high-speed modules

New song modules may sample songs at higher rates of speed than earlier modules. Version 1.2 of the System Software is required to run these high-speed modules. For example, the new Warbler module samples songs at 32 KHz instead of 16 KHz, and requires version 1.2. The Warbler module displays an error if you attempt to use it with version 1.0 of the System Software.

Changes and Improvements

Version 1.2 of the System Software includes the following changes and improvements.

Power up display

Upon power up with SEL pressed, Song Sleuth displays a configuration menu. In version 1.0, it only toggled the internal/external microphone option.

The menu contains the following options:

- Select internal or external microphone
- Enable high pitch shifter
- Change default volume setting
- Change default microphone gain setting
- Change list species display preference
- Restore defaults

To use the configuration menu:

1. Press the up and down arrows to scroll through the menu and highlight the desired option.

2. Press SEL to toggle the settings or change the values for the option.
3. Press MODE to exit the configuration menu and save your changes.

Clear screen before Analysis Mode

Song Sleuth now clears the screen before entering Analysis Mode. In version 1.0 it briefly continued to display the contents of the previous screen as it entered Analysis Mode.

Volume and gain display

As you change the volume or gain in Analysis Mode, a pop-up display in the top line shows the change on a graph similar to the one commonly used on television screens.

Bug Fixes

Version 1.2 of the System Software includes fixes for the following bugs.

Zero-length recordings

The recording management screen allowed you to create a zero-length recording by holding SEL during playback. If this recording was saved to FLASH memory, it corrupted the filesystem.

Headphones disabled

Changing the volume or gain in Analysis Mode sometimes disabled output to the headphones.