



About GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™

The 55-year history of Guinness World Records began with a single question, the type of question that has been repeated millions of times at dinner parties, pubs, kitchen tables, classrooms and work places across the globe.

During a shooting party in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1951, Sir Hugh Beaver — then Managing Director of the Guinness Brewery — asked a simple question: what was Europe’s fastest game bird? Despite a heated argument and an exhaustive search within the host’s reference library he could not find the answer.

Sir Hugh realized that similar questions were going unanswered all around the world, and that a definitive book containing superlative facts and answers would be of great use to the general public. With the help of the London-based fact-finding twins Norris and Ross McWhirter, he soon set about bringing this definitive collection of superlative facts to reality. On 27 August 1955, the first edition of *The Guinness Book of Records* was bound and, by Christmas that year, became Britain’s number one bestseller.

Over the intervening years, copies of *The Guinness Book of Records* — later renamed *Guinness World Records* — have continued to fly off bookshop shelves. During this time, it has become clear that, to [the] readers, a world record is more than a simple fact: it’s a means of understanding your position in the world...a yardstick for measuring how you and those around you fit in. Knowing the extremes — the biggest, the smallest, the fastest, the most and the least — offers a way of comprehending and digesting an increasingly complex world overloaded with information.

Guinness World Records is now a global phenomenon. Known as the ultimate authority on superlative facts and record-breaking achievement, [their] books are international bestsellers, [their] television programmes entertain across all ages, [their] websites satisfy the curiosity of millions of visitors, and [their] live events motivate and inspire a global audience; but the bedrock of our business is still — and will always remain — world records.

—Excerpt from http://corporate.guinnessworldrecords.com/about_us_main.aspx

Current High Five Record

The GUINNESS WORLD RECORD™ for “most High Fives by any individual in 24 hours” currently stands at 3,131. The record was set by Blake Rodgers from Rhode Island, USA on August 25, 2008.