

Be A Citizen Scientist!

Citizen Science is a way for you to connect with the natural world through fun activities that generate vital information for the conservation of birds. This partnership benefits us all: you will learn about birds by taking part in these science-based activities, and the scientists gain invaluable information about changes in bird populations. Most importantly, the birds benefit because it helps conservationists focus on those birds and habitats that need our help most. Here are a few examples from the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

- **eBird:** (anytime, free) Submit any bird at any time from anywhere in the world. Use it to manage your personal lists, find birds you want to see, and explore “hotspots” to visit. The more people who contribute, the more accurate and useful the database becomes. ebird.org
- **Christmas Bird Count:** (Dec 14-Jan 5, free) For over a century CBC participants have been collecting data on early-winter bird populations. Participants sign up with a Compiler to help with a particular count held on a particular day. Teams spend the day counting every individual of every species. It is an opportunity to meet other birders, hone your skills, and take part in a seasonal tradition. Results are used to understand long-term changes in bird populations across the Americas. birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count
- **Great Backyard Bird Count:** (mid-Feb, free) This four-day Presidents' Day Weekend event encourages you to count birds in your backyard and beyond for at least 15 minutes at a time. Submit checklists through a GBBC portal in eBird. Includes a photo contest and gallery. gbbc.birdcount.org
- **Project FeederWatch:** (Nov-March, \$18) A winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, and elsewhere. All you need is a bird feeder to attract birds. New participants are sent a research kit. Provides a detailed picture of weekly changes in bird distribution and abundance. feederwatch.org
- **NestWatch:** (spring-summer, free) A nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds. Become a certified NestWatcher, find a bird nest, visit the nest every 3-4 days, and record what you see. nestwatch.org
- **Habitat Network/YardMap:** (anytime, free) Literally draw a map of the habitat resources provided in your yard, farm, garden, or school. Read articles to help you to make better decisions about how to manage landscapes sustainably. Network with like-minded individuals across the country and see what their yards are like. Become part of a conservation community focused on sharing strategies, maps, and successes to building more wildlife habitat. yardmap.org
- **Hummingbirds at Home:** (anytime, free) Watch your “patch” for hummingbirds, sources of nectar, and feeding events. There is a growing mismatch between flowering times and the arrival of hummingbirds caused by climate change. Data will provide new insights to devise actions to help hummers. hummingbirdsathome.org

Make your birding count for the birds!