Mission: Citizen Science

What We Do
Research
Education
Citizen Science
Technology
Conservation
Lab Programs

How You Can Help

We rely on your support to further our mission to understand birds and other wildlife, to involve the public in scientific discovery, and to use our knowledge to protect our planet.

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We have lesson ideas that make for unique classroom projects.

Tina Phillips/Cornell Lab

Citizen Science

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world contribute bird observations to the Cornell Lab each year, gathering data on a scale once unimaginable. Scientists use these data to determine how birds are affected by habitat loss, pollution, disease, and climate change. They trace bird migration and document long-term changes in bird numbers, creating species-specific conservation plans and targeted action to help birds find the resources they need to survive.

If you enjoy watching birds, consider harnessing your passion for conservation, whether that be watching birds at your feeders during the winter, monitoring birds in the nest, or sharing your checklists anytime, anywhere through eBird. You'll be most welcome in our birding community!

Quick Facts

- At least 150 scientific papers have used Cornell Lab citizen-science data since 1997.
- More than 300,000 nesting attempts reported to the Cornell Lab since 1997.
- More than 7.5 million bird observations reported to eBird on average each month.

Project Highlights

Projects at a Glance | **Citizen-Science Results** | **Citizen-Science Technology**

eBird

eBird's global reach allows birders to keep track of their personal lists and collects vast amounts of data that can be used for science and conservation. eBird can generate graphs, maps, and detailed analysis tools to help scientists better understand patterns of bird occurrence and the environmental and human factors that influence them. eBird is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.

Susan Spear/Cornell Lab

Project FeederWatch

Maria Corcacas/PFW

Each year, thousands of people in the United States count birds at their feeders from November through early April for Project FeederWatch, enabling scientists to monitor changes in the distribution and abundance of birds. Using FeederWatch data, scientists have studied the influence of non-native species on native bird communities, examined the association between birds and habitats, and tracked unpredictable movements in winter bird populations.

NestWatch

Douglas Vogt/NestWatch

NestWatch participants help scientists track the breeding success of birds across North America by collecting information about nest location, habitat, bird species, number of eggs, and number of young. Launched in 2007 with funding from the National Science Foundation, NestWatch is building an unmatched database which, combined with historic data, is helping scientists understand how breeding birds are affected climate change, urbanization, and land use.

Celebrate Urban Birds

Aspira

Celebrate Urban Birds is a bilingual project focused on underserved urban and rural communities. Participants watch for 10 minutes and report on the presence or absence of 16 species of birds. The project also assesses the value of green spaces for birds. Celebrate Urban Birds partners with thousands of community groups to distribute educational kits in English and Spanish, and to support local bird, habitat, and art events with mini-grants.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Joan Condon/GBBC

The four-day Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a global event, integrated with the eBird online checklist program. Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome. Participants submit observations from more than 120 countries documenting more than half the world's species. The count is a joint project of the Cornell Lab and Audubon with Canadian partner, Bird Studies Canada.

Habitat Network

Habitat Network is a community of people interested in creating wildlife-friendly habitat in the places we live and work. Participants map their property, explore how collective efforts to transform yards and urban landscapes into more diverse habitat may support wildlife, and connect with others seeking to make room for the natural world within residential areas. The Habitat Network is a join project the Cornell Lab and The Nature Conservancy.

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