

## What is Citizen Science?

Bird watching is fun, and relaxing and rewarding. But did you know that bird watching can be an important contribution to science and conservation? Yes!

As is the case for other animals, including bears and caribous, knowing when and where birds are is an important piece of information needed for making decisions around responsible recreation, habitat protection, and other conservation measures. And, since there are so many birds and they move around from season to season, scientists need help from citizens all over the world to track them. Citizen science is just that - people collecting and sharing their observations and data as part of a joint project with professional scientists.



## How to Contribute?

There are many citizen science bird watching opportunities available. Here are a few:

### eBird

An app where you can search for birds and record your sightings at the same time.

### Nest Watch

Learn to find and monitor nests. Record and share data about species, eggs, and young birds. Become a certified NestWatch monitor!

### iNaturalist

An app to help identify and record all encounters with the natural world, not just birds.

### Wildsight

Wildsight recently completed a five-year waterbird survey that engaged more than 230 volunteering citizens in documenting more than 380,000 birds in the Columbia Wetlands.

### Christmas Bird Count

Happens between December 14 and January 5 every year since 1899! Advanced registration required. Must join a team and collect specific data.

### The Great Backyard Bird Count

Every February, for as little as 15 minutes at a time. Next event is February 12-15, 2021. Great for all levels of bird watchers and includes a photo contest. Joint project between Audubon and Cornell University.

### Celebrate Urban Birds

Specifically for urban areas. Watch for 10 minutes a day for three days.

### Project FeederWatch

A winter bird count focused on watching bird feeders. Happens from November to April.



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