



**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
YOUTH FISH AND WILDLIFE CLUB**



**January 29, 2025: BACKYARD BIRDS
BIRD WATCHING CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS**

Citizen science, or community science, is a practice where non-professionals can participate in scientific research. Citizen science allows the public to volunteer to help collect data and share important information that can contribute to valuable scientific research and knowledge.

Opportunities to participate in bird-watching citizen science projects

[eBird](#) – eBird is an online platform that allows birdwatchers to record and share their bird observations, contributing to a global database used for research and conservation. Any bird, any time can be submitted to eBird. Contribute your bird sightings today!

[Merlin Bird ID app](#) – The Merlin Bird ID app is a user-friendly mobile application that helps people identify birds by their appearance and sounds. Merlin contributes to citizen science by allowing users to report their sightings and upload photos and sound recordings to a centralized database that can be used for research and conservation.

[Great Backyard Bird Count](#) – The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual citizen science project where participants count and report the number of birds they observe in their backyards, parks, or other natural areas over a four-day period in February. [Learn how to participate in the 2025 Great Backyard Bird Count by registering for the FREE live webinar.](#) The 2025 Great Backyard Bird Count will occur from February 14-17.

[Project FeederWatch](#) – Project FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other places in North America. You don't even need a feeder to participate, just a place you enjoy watching birds! [Learn how to participate in Project FeederWatch from the US or Canada.](#)

[NestWatch](#) – NestWatch is a citizen science monitoring program designed to track the reproductive biology of birds, including the start of nests, number of eggs, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. [Learn how to become a certified nest watcher today!](#)

[Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#) – The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the longest running community science project in the United States. Every year, between December 14 and January 5, people go out to count as many birds as they can find in their communities. Counts are organized by volunteers and require coordination among counters. To learn how to participate in the Christmas Bird Count, [visit the count map to find a count circle near you.](#)