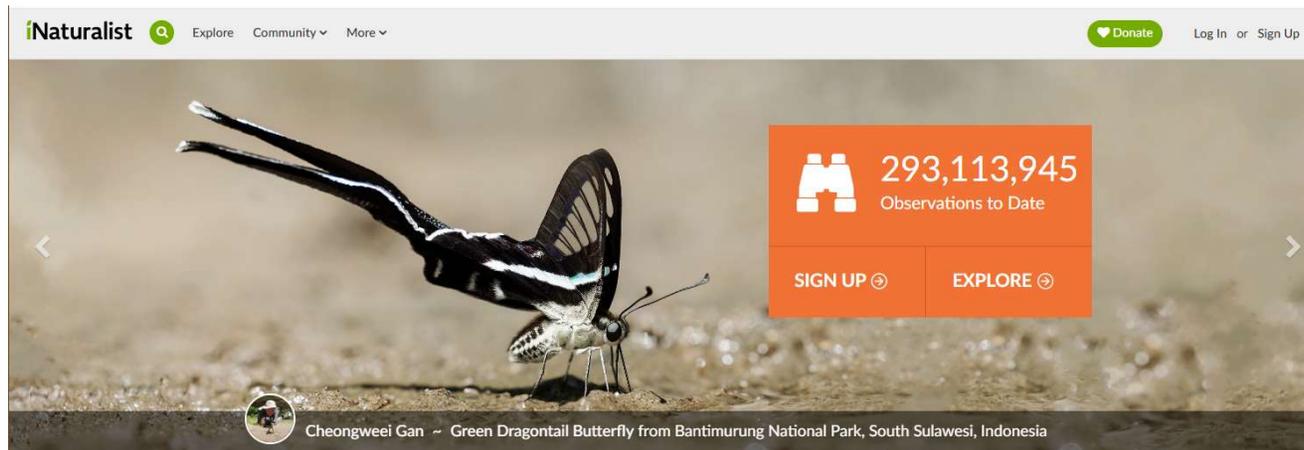


# Around the world with iNaturalist

Lori Buffum, Certified Texas Master Naturalist,  
Gideon Lincecum Chapter Class of 2014

[buffumhl@gmail.com](mailto:buffumhl@gmail.com)

# Set up your iNaturalist profile and get the APP for your smartphone



Update as of  
January 24, 2026:

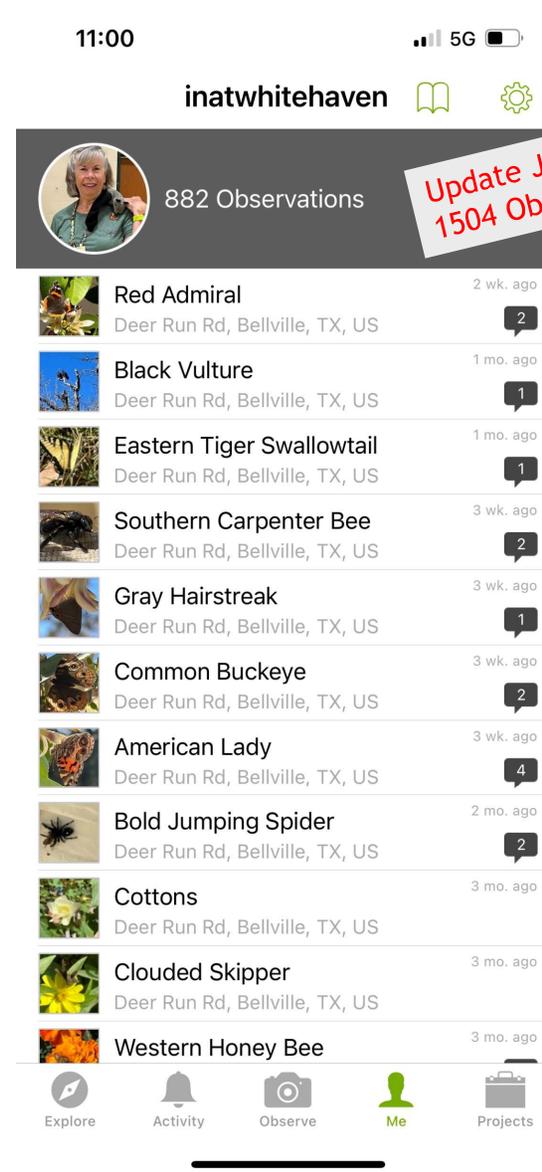
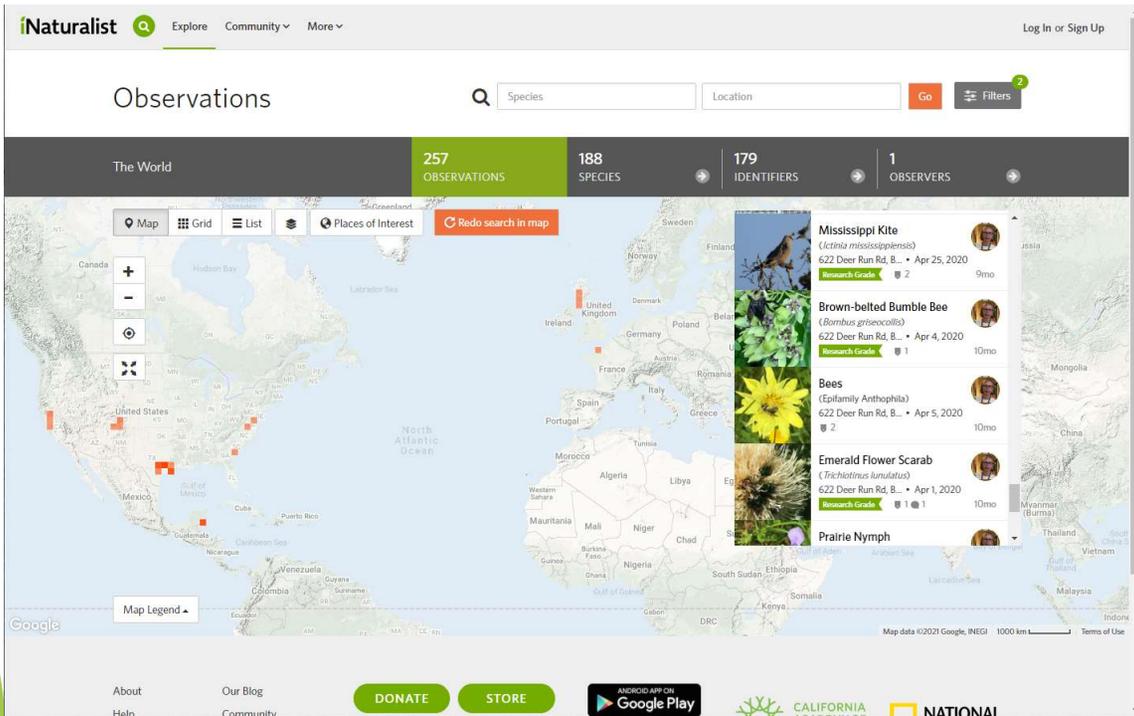


## How It Works



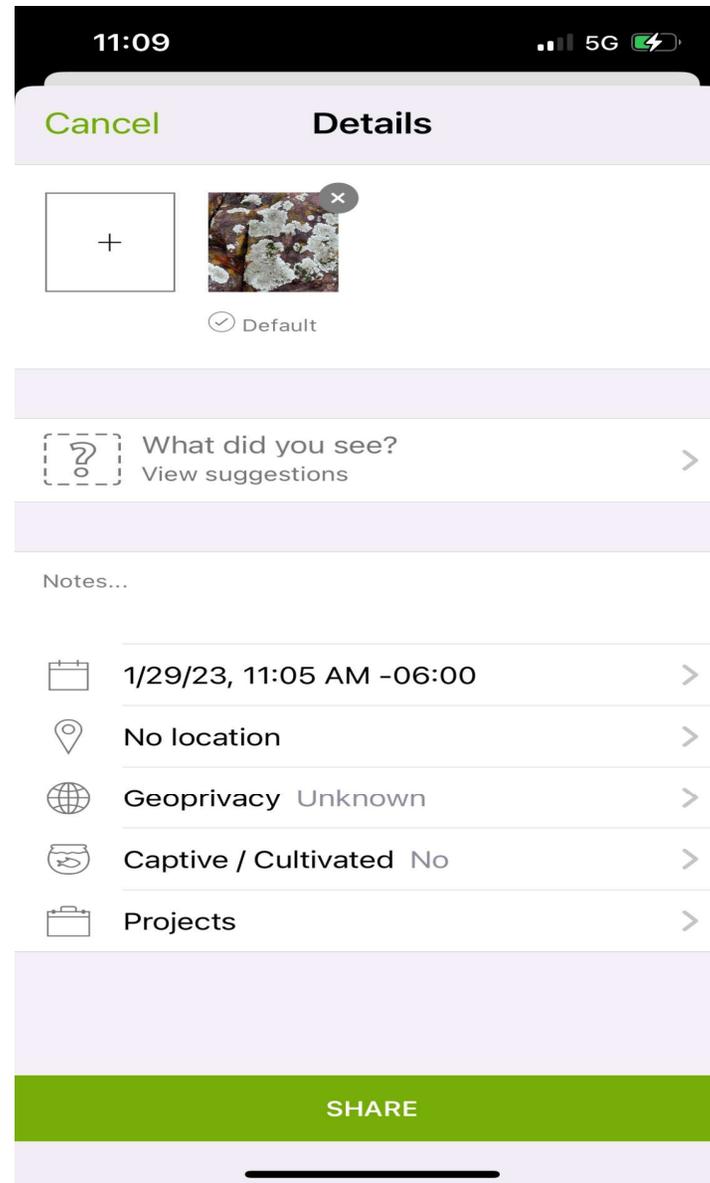
<https://www.inaturalist.org/> and iNaturalist APP for iPhone or Android

# Take iNaturalist with you!



## The basic steps

- ▶ Take a picture
- ▶ Edit your picture on your smartphone
- ▶ Open iNaturalist APP
- ▶ Click Observe
- ▶ Select photo
- ▶ Add more details as needed (Location for example, or date/time if not indicated)



# The basic steps (continued)

- ▶ View suggestions
- ▶ Click **circled i** for information on each suggestion
- ▶ Once you think you have a match, click species name
- ▶ Click SHARE

< Details



Q Look up a species by name

WE'RE NOT CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION, BUT HERE ARE OUR TOP SUGGESTIONS.

	<b>Stonewall Rim Lichen</b> <i>Protoparmeliopsis muralis</i> Visually Similar / Seen Nearby	
	<b>Star Rosette Lichen</b> <i>Physcia stellaris</i> Visually Similar / Seen Nearby	
	<b>Golden-eye Lichen</b> <i>Teloschistes chrysophthalmus</i> Visually Similar / Seen Nearby	

< Back Stonewall Rim Lichen  
inatwhitehaven



(c) bjoerns, some rights reserved (CC BY-SA), uploaded by bjoerns

Select "Stonewall Rim Lichen"

Copy Scientific Name

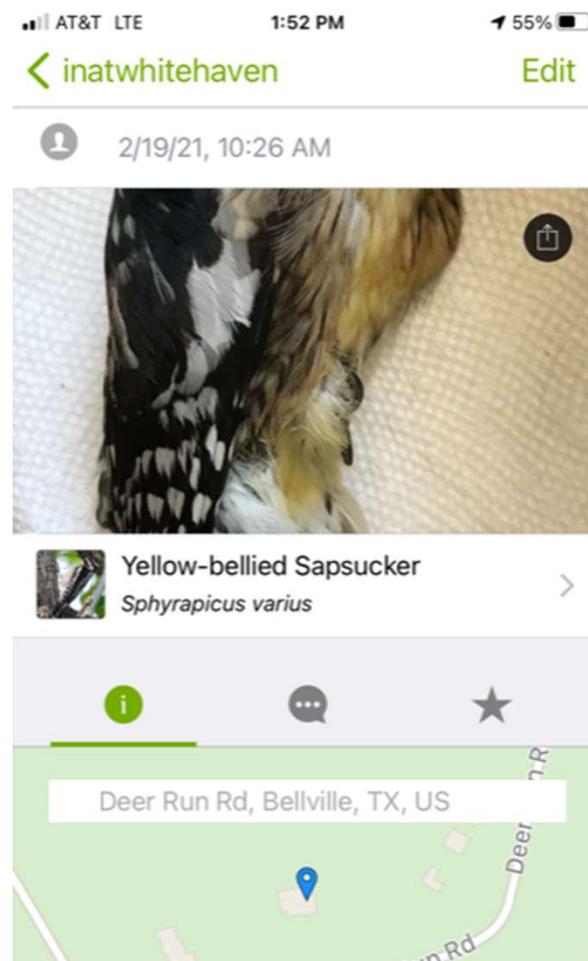
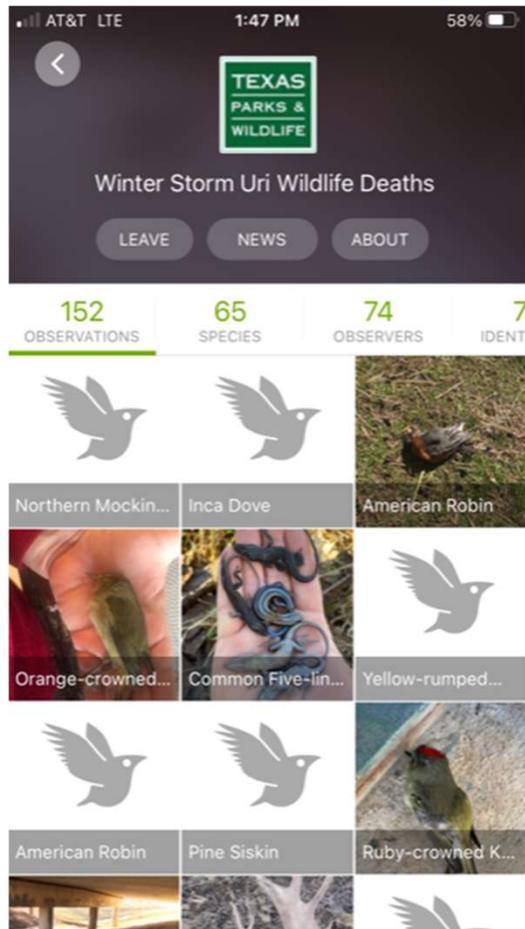
**Stonewall Rim Lichen**  
*Protoparmeliopsis muralis*

Lecanora muralis (*Protoparmeliopsis muralis*) is a waxy looking, pale yellowish green crustose lichen that usually grows in rosettes radiating from a center (placodioid) filled with disc-like yellowish-tan fruiting bodies (apothecia). It grows all over the world. It is extremely variable in its characteristics as a single taxon, and may represent a complex of species. The fruiting body parts have rims of tissue similar to that of the main nonfruiting body (thallus), which is called being lecanorine.... (Source: Wikipedia, [Lecanora muralis](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#))

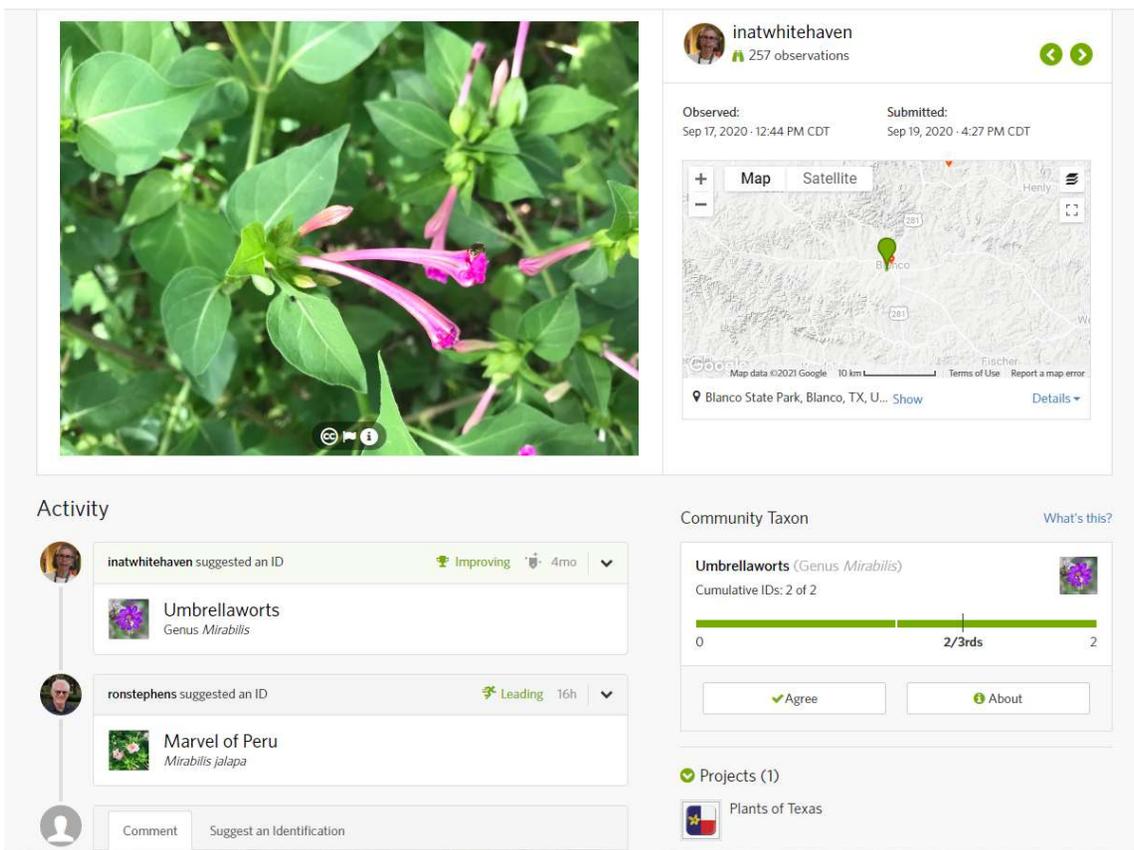
MAP OF OBSERVATIONS



# Join a Project - Share an Observation



# Community: confirming or correcting an observation or adding it to a project



The screenshot displays an iNaturalist observation interface. At the top left is a photograph of a pink flower with green leaves. To its right is the user profile for 'inatwhitehaven', showing 257 observations and navigation icons. Below the profile, the observation details are listed: 'Observed: Sep 17, 2020 - 12:44 PM CDT' and 'Submitted: Sep 19, 2020 - 4:27 PM CDT'. A map shows the location at Blanco State Park, Blanco, TX, U.S. Below the map is the 'Activity' section, which lists two suggestions: 'inatwhitehaven suggested an ID' for 'Umbrellaworts (Genus *Mirabilis*)' and 'ronstephens suggested an ID' for 'Marvel of Peru (*Mirabilis jalapa*)'. To the right of the activity is the 'Community Taxon' section, which shows 'Umbrellaworts (Genus *Mirabilis*)' with a progress bar indicating 'Cumulative IDs: 2 of 2' and '2/3rds' completed. Below the taxon section is a 'Projects (1)' section listing 'Plants of Texas'.

inatwhitehaven  
257 observations

Observed: Sep 17, 2020 - 12:44 PM CDT  
Submitted: Sep 19, 2020 - 4:27 PM CDT

Map Satellite  
Blanco  
Blanco State Park, Blanco, TX, U... Show Details

Activity

inatwhitehaven suggested an ID Improving 4mo

Umbrellaworts  
Genus *Mirabilis*

ronstephens suggested an ID Leading 16h

Marvel of Peru  
*Mirabilis jalapa*

Comment Suggest an Identification

Community Taxon What's this?

Umbrellaworts (Genus *Mirabilis*)  
Cumulative IDs: 2 of 2

0 2/3rds 2

Agree About

Projects (1)

Plants of Texas

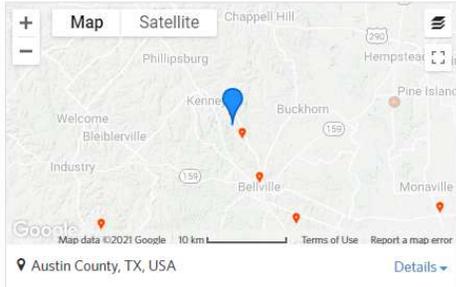
# An exciting morning

## Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) Research Grade Edit



**inatwhitehaven**  
258 observations

**Observed:** Jan 29, 2021 - 10:32 AM CST  
**Submitted:** Jan 29, 2021 - 1:12 PM CST



[Be the first to fave this observation!](#)

### Activity

**inatwhitehaven** suggested an ID Improving 2m

 **Red-shouldered Hawk**  
*Buteo lineatus* Compare

**troydeclan** suggested an ID 2m

### Community Taxon

**Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)** What's this?

Cumulative IDs: 3 of 3



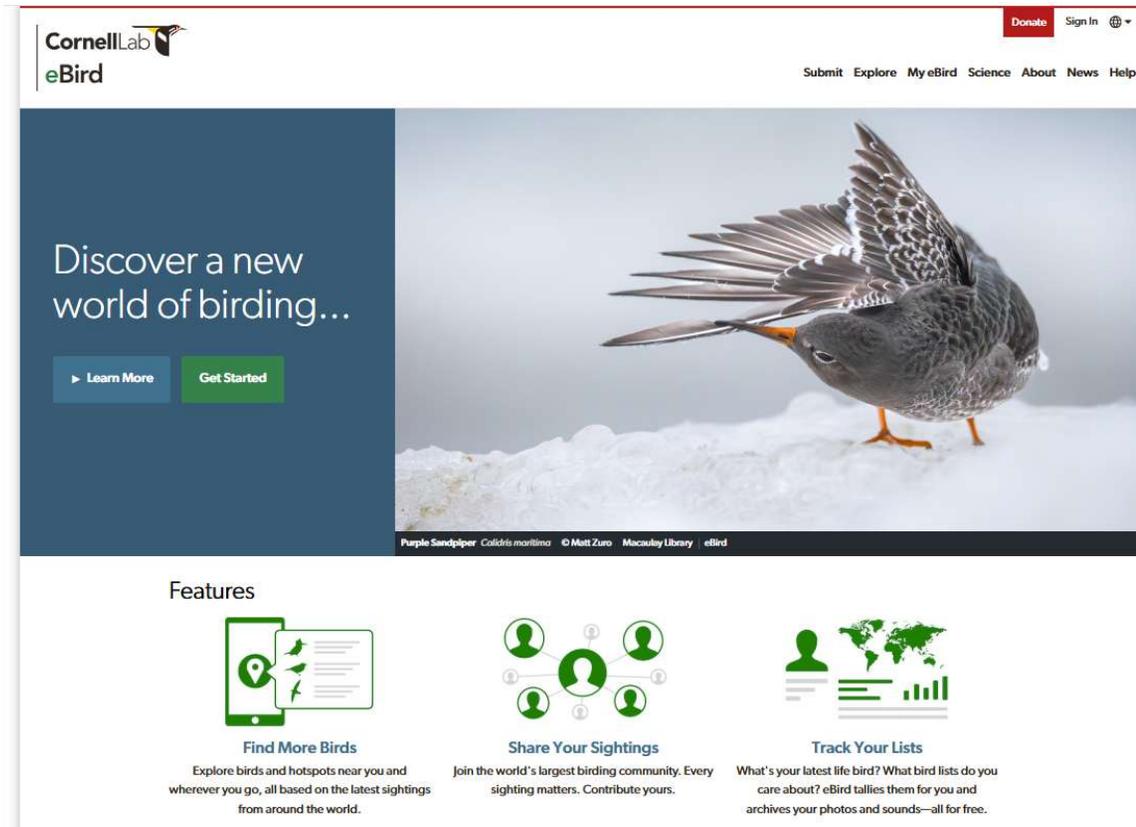
Agree Compare About



# Birding with the World - eBird

A citizen science activity

# Set up your eBird profile and get the APP



The screenshot shows the eBird website homepage. At the top left is the Cornell Lab eBird logo. On the right, there are links for 'Donate', 'Sign In', and a globe icon. Below this is a navigation menu with 'Submit', 'Explore', 'My eBird', 'Science', 'About', 'News', and 'Help'. The main banner features a photograph of a Purple Sandpiper on snow. To the left of the photo, the text reads 'Discover a new world of birding...' with two buttons: 'Learn More' and 'Get Started'. Below the banner, the 'Features' section is divided into three columns: 'Find More Birds' (with a smartphone icon), 'Share Your Sightings' (with a network of people icons), and 'Track Your Lists' (with a world map and bar chart icon). Each feature has a brief description.

Cornell Lab  
eBird

Donate Sign In

Submit Explore My eBird Science About News Help

Discover a new world of birding...

Learn More Get Started

Purple Sandpiper *Colaptes auratus* © Matt Zuro Macaulay Library eBird

### Features

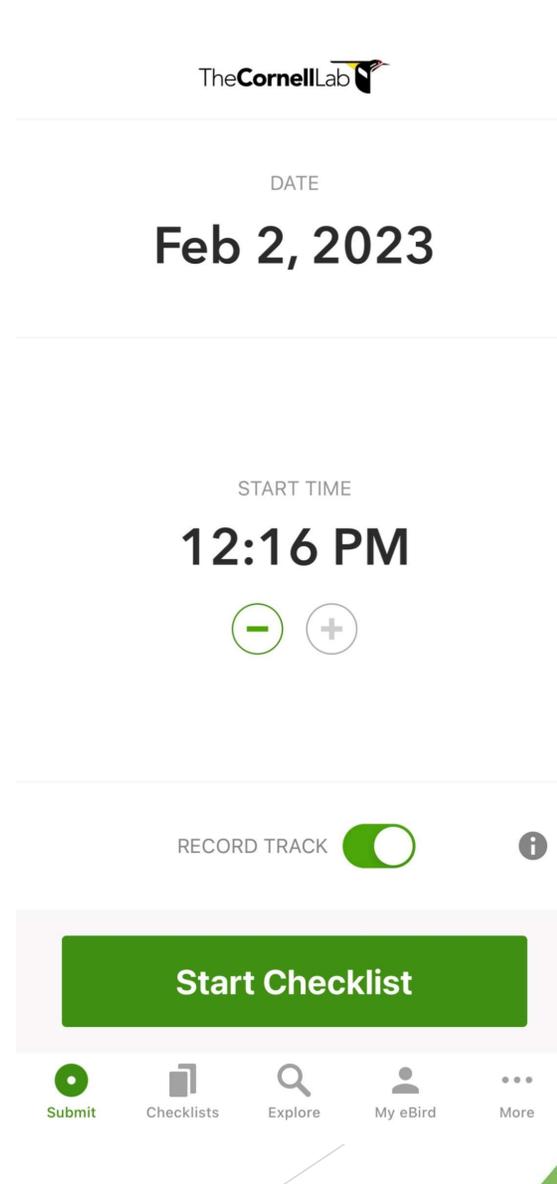
**Find More Birds**  
Explore birds and hotspots near you and wherever you go, all based on the latest sightings from around the world.

**Share Your Sightings**  
Join the world's largest birding community. Every sighting matters. Contribute yours.

**Track Your Lists**  
What's your latest life bird? What bird lists do you care about? eBird tallies them for you and archives your photos and sounds—all for free.

<https://ebird.org/> and eBird App for iPhone or Android

Open eBird APP to start “birding”



Type name of bird  
or select from list

20:52 0.00mi Auto selected 30.02231, -96.29224 ✓

Likely species based on 27 checklists in 20x20km area

+ Add observation or find species

+ Inca Dove
+ White-winged Dove
+ Mourning Dove
+ Rufous Hummingbird
+ Killdeer
+ Double-crested Cormorant
+ Black Vulture
+ Turkey Vulture
+ Red-shouldered Hawk
+ Red-tailed Hawk
+ Barred Owl
+ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
+ Red-bellied Woodpecker
+ Downy Woodpecker

+ ☰ ✓ 2 Stop

# Click on Merlin to learn about that bird

- Enter number
- Choose breeding code
- Add any details you want
- Click on Merlin ID to learn about that bird
- Click Done to return to checklist

**Chipping Sparrow**  
*Spizella passerina*

Number Observed  
**7**

Add details about this observation

BREEDING CODE

**H** H In Appropriate Habitat

F	H	S	S7	M
P	T	C	N	A
B	PE	CN	NB	DD
UN	ON	FL	CF	FY
FS	NE	NY		

Close

Chipping Sparrow  
*Spizella passerina*



BREEDING ADULT

Small, slender sparrow with short bill and long, narrow tail. Plain grayish breast, rusty cap, and black eyeline in breeding season. Not as bright in winter, but still shows a brown cap and dark eyeline. Juveniles are extensively streaky. Common and widespread throughout most of North America. Usually found in open woodlands, scrubby areas, or even in suburban settings. Often gathers in flocks in fall and winter. Visits feeders. Frequently heard singing a fairly dry trill. Compare with similar Clay-colored, American Tree, and Brewer's sparrows, but look for Chipping Sparrow's gray rump and dark eyeline.



ID Info



Sounds



Map

Add observations until you're ready to complete that checklist. Click Stop.

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for bird observations. At the top, there is a status bar with a green location icon, the time '20:52', the distance '0.00mi', and the text 'Auto selected 30.02231, -96.29224' with a green checkmark. Below this is a grey bar with the text 'Likely species based on 27 checklists in 20x20km area'. A green plus sign icon is followed by the text 'Add observation or find species'. Below this is a list of bird species, each with a plus sign icon to its left: Inca Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, Killdeer, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Downy Woodpecker. At the bottom of the screen, there is a navigation bar with a green plus sign icon, a green menu icon, a green checkmark icon with a blue circle containing the number '2', and a green button labeled 'Stop'.

20:52 0.00mi Auto selected 30.02231, -96.29224 ✓

Likely species based on 27 checklists in 20x20km area

+ Add observation or find species

- + Inca Dove
- + White-winged Dove
- + Mourning Dove
- + Rufous Hummingbird
- + Killdeer
- + Double-crested Cormorant
- + Black Vulture
- + Turkey Vulture
- + Red-shouldered Hawk
- + Red-tailed Hawk
- + Barred Owl
- + Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- + Red-bellied Woodpecker
- + Downy Woodpecker

+ ☰ ✓ 2 Stop

Complete any additional fields (like location) and click Submit

2:10 5G

FRI 3 Feb 2023 01:58 PM

622 Deer Run Rd, Bell...30.02230, -96.29226

STATIONARY ▾

Observers 1 Minutes 11 Miles

Is this a complete checklist of the birds you were able to identify?

Yes No

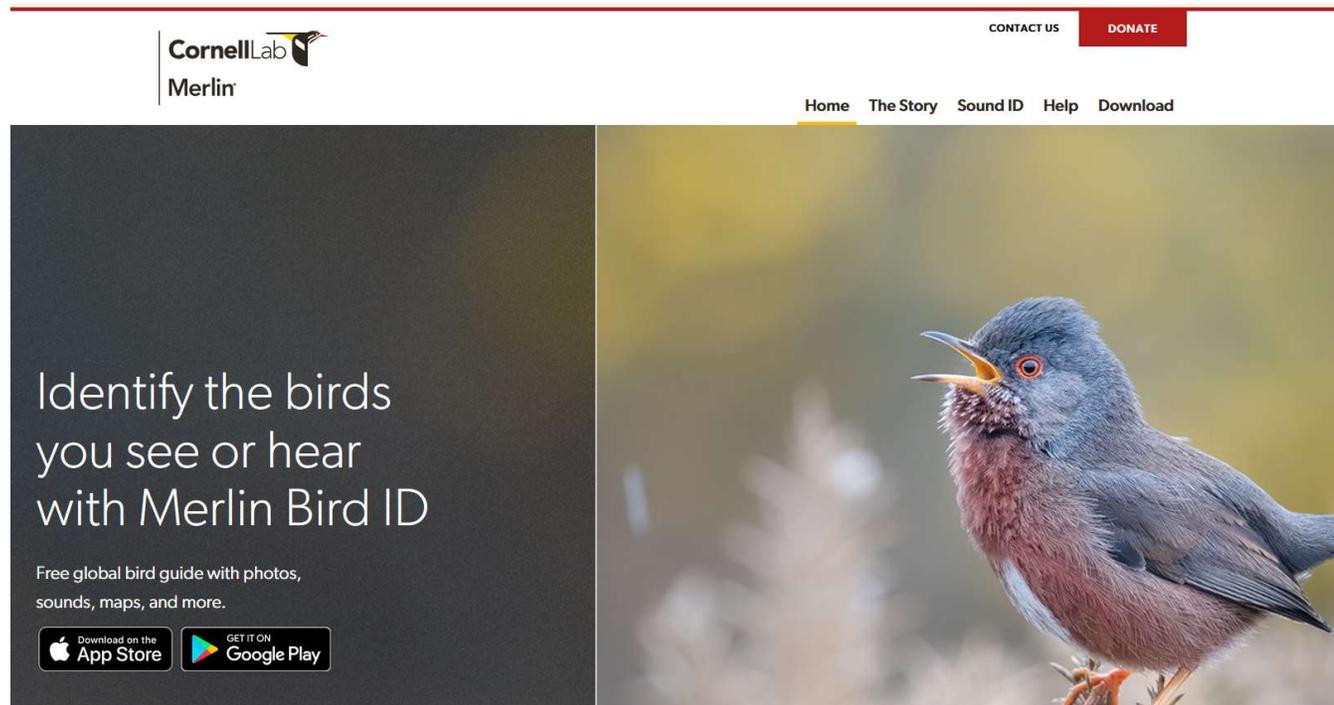
ADD CHECKLIST COMMENTS

1 Species

1	American Robin
---	----------------

< Submit

# Learn about Merlin Bird ID



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Merlin Bird ID website. At the top left is the Cornell Lab Merlin logo. To the right are links for 'CONTACT US' and 'DONATE'. Below these are navigation links: 'Home', 'The Story', 'Sound ID', 'Help', and 'Download'. The main content area features a dark grey box on the left with the text 'Identify the birds you see or hear with Merlin Bird ID' and 'Free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more.' Below this text are buttons for 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play'. To the right of the text is a large photograph of a blue and red bird with its beak open.

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> and Merlin Bird ID App for iPhone or Android

# Learn more about each bird

Cornell Lab  
All About Birds

GET INVOLVED GET NEWS DONATE

Birds Live Cams Courses Merlin Bird ID Search

## Great Egret

Overview ID info Life History Maps Sounds



Adult



Breeding adult (American)

Listen ID Info

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org>

# Join the Great Backyard Bird Count February 13-16, 2026



GET NEWS CONTACT US English ▾

Great Backyard Bird Count

Home About ▾ Help ▾ Participate ▾ Search

## Global Bird Count in February

Join the world in connecting to birds  
**February 13–16, 2026.** Watch the  
video to learn more about the count.

Play Video ▶



<https://www.birdcount.org/>

# Sign up for Project FeederWatch

There's still time to sign up for the 2025-26 FeederWatch season, which runs through the end of April. [Sign up today!](#)

Cornell Lab of Ornithology   BIRDS CANADA  
OISEAUX CANADA

JOIN, RENEW, OR DONATE MY COUNTS English ▾

Project FeederWatch

Home About ▾ Learn ▾ Community ▾ Explore Data ▾ Search



## Project FeederWatch

Join thousands of people in watching, learning, and contributing observations about the natural world

[Learn How FeederWatch Works](#)

November - April  
Cost: \$18  
An approved TMNGLC  
citizen science  
opportunity

<https://feederwatch.org/> and an APP for your phone!

# Practice, practice, practice

- ▶ Reach out to a chapter buddy for help using the APPs.
- ▶ Try observing 1 thing a day or 1 thing a week to build up your skills and your lists
- ▶ Pay attention to ID confirmations or corrections
- ▶ Take advantage of the program websites for help, tutorials, webinars, and more.
- ▶ Learn more by researching your observations at websites like <https://www.wildflower.org> or <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>
- ▶ Share your experiences on our chapter Facebook group or in our newsletter
- ▶ Have a blast!!!
- ▶ Earn volunteer service hours when you join an event (with eBird) or a project (with iNaturalist)

## Log volunteer service hours

- ▶ Posting observations on iNaturalist when you are contributing to a PROJECT that has been prequalified by the GL chapter; for example,
  - ▶ City Nature Tracker Challenge (coming up in April)
  - ▶ Pollinator Bioblitz (October)
- ▶ Entering eBird data for a particular EVENT / COUNT / WATCH that has been prequalified by the GL chapter; for example,
  - ▶ Project Feederwatch (annually November - April)
  - ▶ Great Backyard Bird Count (over 4 days, set dates)
  - ▶ NestWatch
  - ▶ Global Big Day
  - ▶ Christmas Bird Count

# 2026 Training Class Homework Assignments

- ▶ Set up your iNaturalist account/profile
- ▶ Put the iNaturalist APP on your smartphone
- ▶ Complete at least 3 observations
- ▶ Do some research about each observation
- ▶ Write a short report about the 3 observations:
  - ▶ Common name
  - ▶ Scientific name
  - ▶ When and where you observed it
  - ▶ One fun fact that you learned about each
- ▶ Set up your eBird account/profile
- ▶ Put the eBird APP on your smartphone
- ▶ Complete a checklist that includes at least 1 species of bird
- ▶ Do some research about that bird
- ▶ Write a short report about your bird:
  - ▶ Common name
  - ▶ Scientific name
  - ▶ When and where you observed it
  - ▶ One fun fact that you learned about your bird

Email completed reports to Lori Buffum [buffumhl@gmail.com](mailto:buffumhl@gmail.com) Deadline is February 10. Students who complete both assignments can log an hour of Initial Training with the description of Citizen Science Apps Homework.