

# BIRD SCIENCE!



You don't have to be an **ornithologist**, a scientist who studies birds, to contribute to important research about birds. Since scientists can't be everywhere birds are, individuals, families and other groups can help them gather information. These helpers are called **citizen scientists**.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology uses information from scientists and from citizen scientists. Through Project FeederWatch, you can keep track of the birds which visit your feeder and send the information to the researchers. Participants help in the understanding of the distribution (where they are) and abundance (how many there are) of birds. Participants in other citizen science programs collect

data on urban birds and nesting birds. To learn more about how you can contribute

to these and other programs at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, visit [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu) You can even view video of birds on their nests, caring for their young!

Contributors to New York's Breeding Bird Atlas project look for signs of birds nesting and raising young in the wild. To learn about the Breeding Bird Atlas project and to see distribution maps of breeding birds in New York, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/public/7312.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/7312.html).

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## EASTERN BLUEBIRD

New York's State Bird

**B**luebirds are among the first birds to return in the spring from southern wintering areas.

They prefer open habitats like fields, orchards and gardens, where they find plenty of insects to eat. Bluebirds are cavity nesters, which means they nest in holes in trees made by other birds like woodpeckers or in bird boxes provided by people. Once considered rare, they are more common today because of conservation efforts. Along U.S. Route 20, there is a research trail of bluebird boxes that stretches nearly 400 miles. Along U.S. Route 11, the New York State Bluebird Society is establishing an education trail of bluebird boxes, to be monitored by schools in the area. Visit our website for instructions to make and care for a bluebird nest box and links to the New York State Bluebird Society and the North American Bluebird Society.



### For more information:

- The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds (Eastern Region)* by John Bull & John Farrant, Jr., (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York, 1977)
- Birds, Birds, Birds!* (Ranger Rick's NatureScope) by Judy Braus, ed. (National Wildlife Federation, Washington, DC, 1989)
- Bird Watch* by Mary MacPherson (Summerhill Press, Toronto, 1988)
- Birdwise* by Pamela M. Hickman for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (Kids Can Press Ltd., Toronto, 1988)
- A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America* by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, 1980)

