

Citizen Science connects the public with the natural world and science in a way that allows them to contribute to scientific knowledge. Some people who participate in citizen science gain satisfaction and enjoyment from both contributing and learning from scientific studies. Many are motivated by concern for the environment and a sense of responsibility toward the natural world.

Citizen science benefits society by increasing the scientific knowledge of its citizenry. By involving the public in scientific research and data collection we are able to create a more educated citizenry who will be advocates for long-term conservation in the future. In addition to being beneficial educational tools, citizen science projects can provide valuable data for policy development.



Montana Audubon advocates for and encourages the use of citizen science in scientific research where applicable and reasonable. We support, participate in, create, and lead citizen science projects related to birds, wildlife, habitat, conservation and other related topics.

The policy of Montana Audubon regarding Citizen Science is to:

- Encourage and advocate for the environmental and scientific literacy of all Montanans
- Encourage and advocate for involving the public in scientific research via citizen science projects
- Recognize the importance of connecting the public with the natural world through citizen science projects
- Advocate for funding and programs that support high quality citizen science projects
- Support citizen science projects that use peer-reviewed methodology, and collect high quality data
- Recognize that the onus is on the project developer (i.e MT Audubon) when designing a citizen science project to be scientifically rigorous
- Support citizen science as a tool for understanding species of greatest inventory need