

# ONE ELEUTHERA FOUNDATION

## Citizen Science at The Bird's Eye View Trail

**Citizen science** is when everyday people help collect scientific information that researchers and conservation teams use to better understand and protect nature. Anyone can participate! All it takes is curiosity and a willingness to observe.

The Bird's Eye View Nature Trail is a living classroom, and every sighting adds valuable data to help us protect the wildlife that depends on Eleuthera. These include native, endemic, and invasive species.



### By recording what you see here, you help us:

- Track bird and wildlife populations
- Understand habitat health over time
- Detect new or spreading invasive species
- Strengthen The Bahamas' conservation knowledge

## How to Be A Citizen Scientist!

### Download and log birds with eBird!

Why use it: eBird is a global citizen-science platform that collects bird sightings, your checklist helps scientists track bird populations, migration patterns, and habitat use worldwide.

# eBird

### How to get started:

1. Download the free eBird app (iOS or Android) or visit eBird.org and create an account.
2. Open the app when you go birding; start a new checklist and select "One Eleuthera Foundation's Nature Trail / CTI Farm", when you began, and how you observed (e.g. "Traveling", "Stationary").
3. Record all the birds you see or hear during your visit, with counts if possible. Indicate if you think your checklist is complete (i.e. you recorded all species you detected).
4. When done, submit the checklist, even a short walk or quick spotting helps build the baseline data for Eleuthera.

Tip: Want help identifying a bird? Use the free companion app Merlin Bird ID, take a photo or listen for the call, then return to eBird to log it.





## Download and log plants, animals and fungi with iNaturalist

Why use it: iNaturalist is a global platform that allows anyone to submit observations of any living (or once-living) organisms, from trees and butterflies to fungi, reptiles, and more. Each observation builds a global biodiversity map, helping scientists monitor species range, emergence of invasives, and ecosystem changes.

### How to get started:

1. Download the free iNaturalist app (iOS or Android) or visit [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) and sign up for an account.
2. Take a clear photo or sound recording of the organism or sign (e.g. nest, track); open the app, tap “Observe” / “+”, upload photos/sounds, select or search for the organism name (or leave as general “plant / insect / fungus” if unknown).
3. Location and date are recorded automatically by most phones, double check before saving. Your observation will become part of the public biodiversity database.

Note: If you’re unsure of the species, that’s okay, put your best guess, or a broader classification (e.g. “unknown tree”), and the community / platform experts can help confirm. The Bird’s Eye View Trail will soon be added as a community project, check back for updates!

### Best Practices & What You Can Do

1. Stay on trail and avoid disturbing wildlife, only observe, don’t collect or remove organisms.
2. Take good photos from a safe distance. For plants: leaves, bark/fruit; for animals: ideally two photos (one showing shape/size, one of unique markings).
3. Try to fill in all required fields (date, location, photo or sound), so your observations are useful and can be verified.
4. Review and explore: check what others have found. Learning from the community helps deepen understanding of island biodiversity and seasonal changes.
5. Consider revisiting to track changes over time, repeated observations help build long-term data.
6. Report any unusual or concerning sightings (e.g. rare species, invasive outbreaks, injured animals) to OEF/CTI so they can follow up responsibly.

