

## Out&amp;About



[ Nature Nuts ]

## Be a Biologist

Join the ranks of citizen scientists and collect real data in the name of the environment, whether from your own backyard or in the field. Following is a sampling of research opportunities; discover more projects at [inaturalist.com](http://inaturalist.com). —Brenda Rees

### Not Too Taxing

#### SKY

Help Audubon track and discover where and how hummingbirds migrate. Download the **Hummingbirds at Home** app, grab a chair, and record which and how many hummers visit your feeders, trees, and flowers. [hummingbirdsathome.org](http://hummingbirdsathome.org).

#### LAND

Learn and use wildlife tracking techniques at the **Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy**. Weekly tracking surveys monitor and check for signs of coyotes and red and gray foxes. November through March. [pvplc.org](http://pvplc.org).

#### WATER

Trained volunteers identify and count whales and dolphins and note behavior for the **Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project**, sponsored by the American Cetacean Society, Los Angeles Chapter. Daylight hours, December through May at Point Vicente Interpretive Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. [acs-la.org](http://acs-la.org).

### Roll Up Your Sleeves

The U.S. Forest Service needs your eyes from December through March for its annual **Bald Eagle Count** held at various lakes in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains, including Big Bear Lake. [fs.usda.gov/sbnf](http://fs.usda.gov/sbnf).

Reptiles and Amphibians of Southern California (RASCals), a project of the **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**, wants to know what you've discovered in backyards or parks, on trails, or anywhere else. Submit images or audio to [rascals@nhm.org](mailto:rascals@nhm.org).

Certified divers can submerge with a purpose when they join **Reef Check California**. Divers are needed at numerous sites to identify, count, and measure which species of fish, invertebrates, and more inhabit rocky reefs. One-day and overnight surveys. [reefcheck.org](http://reefcheck.org).