


<p>TUCSON · BIRD · COUNT</p>  <p>APRIL 15 – MAY 15, 2019</p> <p><i>Bringing Birds Home</i></p>	<p>Tucson Bird Count c/o Jennie MacFarland Tucson Audubon Society 300 E. University Blvd., #120 Tucson, AZ 85705 www.tucsonbirds.org</p>
---	---

Dear TBC Participant,

Welcome to the 2019 Tucson Bird Count, and thanks for being a part of it!

Either emailed or mailed to you (or instructions on how to find on the website) - you'll find the following

- Detailed **Tucson Bird Count Route Map(s)** for your route(s)
- **List of Sites** on your routes, including location descriptions and GPS coordinates*
- **Tucson Bird Count Instructions**
- **Data Forms** (if you need more, they can be downloaded at the TBC website)
- **Optional: A TBC car sign** (it can be helpful to display in your window if counting in a residential neighborhood),
- You will also receive in your email a link to an online interactive map of all TBC locations that will allow you to zoom into your sites using Google MyMaps. This feature is better than ever and I strongly recommend you download the free Google MyMaps app to your smartphone. I will “share” the TBC interactive map to you directly and you should be able to see your location relative to the different points. It is very intuitive if you are comfortable with a smartphone.

A few quick notes:

- Please read the TBC Instructions for submission details and information on surveying your routes.
- Remember that the **window for surveying your routes is 30 minutes prior to sunrise to 4 hours after** – doing the surveys as close to sunrise is ideal. You can split a route over several mornings if that is more convenient.
- **After surveying your route, please submit all of the following to Tucson Audubon at the address at the top of this page:** (1) route map with changes marked, (2) corrected/improved site location descriptions, and (3) completed data forms. – **You can drop them off or mail them in to Tucson Audubon!**
- If you have internet access, **please submit your data online at the TBC website** (www.tucsonbirds.org) before mailing your data forms. Doing so will (1) dramatically reduce input errors, and (2) improve our ability to analyze data and disseminate results. **If you are not comfortable doing this you can mail the forms in without entering them online, just be sure to include a note on the form indicating it has not been entered online. Also please note: if your email address is a Gmail address – it cannot be used to log in and you will enter verdin1 instead!** This is somehow related to the University of Arizona’s new online security measures.
- Notify us *immediately* if you will not be able to complete your routes by May 15. If we know early enough, there is a small chance we can find someone else to cover your route.
- To ensure the TBC’s ability to track changes to Tucson’s bird population, **we would like to keep site locations as stable as possible**. If a site on your route is on private property where access is not permitted or safe, please relocate the site to the nearest publicly accessible point. (see instructions)
- **For new and old sites alike, provide or improve location descriptions**. The goal is for future counters to be able to use the location description to return to within a few feet of the same site. All of this will help future counts run smoothly!

Entering Volunteer Hours for TBC! - Report Your Volunteer Hours Online!

From 2015 forward, Tucson Audubon volunteers record their volunteer hours online.

Please record your hours on a timely basis, within one month after volunteering. For the Tucson Bird Count please report the hours for each route separately! If you somehow manage to do more than one route in a day, please enter each route as its own unit of volunteer time. This is so I can start to get a sense of how long each route takes. – your travel time to the count site and home again is also part of your volunteer hours!

How to record your volunteer hours:

1. Visit : www.tucsonaudubon.org/signin
2. Sign in using your Login Name and Password
 - a. If you forgot your Password, click Forgot Password to get it emailed to you
 - b. You can also sign in using Facebook or Twitter.
3. When you do this for the first time, there will be a small delay of up to 1 business day until you can get access to your account
4. From the dropdown menu near the top right of the next screen, choose Report My Volunteer Hours
5. On the next screen, you can see all of your volunteer hours recorded so far. Note that volunteer hours for 2013 were recorded cumulatively for the year on 12/31/2013 and hours prior to 2013 have not been recorded in this program.
6. Using either the dropdown menu of dates or the calendar icon which is right next to it, choose the week for which you will be recording your hours. Click Go.
7. On the next screen, check the box next to the program(s) for which you will be recording your volunteer hours. Click Next.
8. On the next screen, enter your hours for the appropriate days, in the appropriate program areas. Click Save.
 - a. If you would like to keep track of your mileage and expenses, you can also record these here, but it is not required.
9. If you will be recording additional hours for the week later on, you are done for now. Once you have recorded all your hours for a week, click Submit.

Note: Some volunteers find it easier to just email in their hours – feel free to do this instead of recording them yourself. Just email them to Luke at lsafford@tucsonaudubon.org

Important: When you have finished entering your data online at www.tucsonbirds.org, please mail in your datasheets (or drop them off!) and your maps (if you have marked a moved site or updated any locations) to: **Tucson Bird Count c/o Jennie MacFarland**
Tucson Audubon Society
300 E. University Blvd., #120
Tucson, AZ 85705

Pre-addressed and stamped envelopes are available on request. If you would like one, just send me an email or feel free to drop the datasheets off at the Tucson Audubon headquarters located on the south side of University Blvd just west of 4th Ave. (Also, if you live on the NW side of town you can also drop them off at our Mason Center at Thornydale and Hardy)

Thank you so much for helping with the TBC! The data from this long running project is so important and is contributing to the original ultimate goal of the TBC to make Tucson a friendlier place for birds. This data helps us to determine where in the city different bird species are able and willing to utilize urban habitat and once we find out what makes this urban habitat attractive to them, we can create urban habitat guidelines and recommendations for Tucson residents to make their own urban bird habitat.

We are currently working on a new TBC website (www.tucsonbirds.org) which will feature outreach materials to Tucson residents on how to make Tucson a better place for birds and for all of us!

We couldn't do it without you! Thanks so much!

Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or want to talk about your route.

Sincerely,
Jennie MacFarland