

2019 – Dr. Chris Wood



In 2019, we were thrilled to welcome Dr. Chris Wood as the keynote speaker at *Science Of The Service*. Dr. Wood is the Assistant Director of Information Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He and his team have developed a novel approach to citizen science by engaging diverse communities interested in watching birds while developing partnerships with scientists in a wide variety of fields. Collaborating with conservation biologists, quantitative ecologists, statisticians, computer scientists, GIS and informatics specialists, application developers, data administrators and expert birdwatchers has enabled eBird to reach a global audience. Advances at the intersection of ecology, statistics, and computer science allow this team to create new species distribution models that provide accurate estimates across broad spatial and temporal scales with extremely detailed resolution. eBird data are openly available and used by a spectrum of students, teachers, scientists, NGOs, government agencies, land managers, and policy makers. eBird has become a major source of biodiversity data, increasing our knowledge of the dynamics of species distributions, and having a direct impact on the conservation of birds and their habitats. Participants have collectively spent more than 40 million hours collecting effort-based checklists, amassing more than 500 million records, representing every country in the world.

Learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPQw9fdv710>