



April 15 – May 31, 2021

Let's have fun with nature and count for a cause!

Hi, nature loving kids and families!

We know you like to be outside.

We know you like looking for birds, flowers, trees, butterflies, insects and all the other things you can find in nature, if you search carefully.

So, we invite you to **have fun with nature** through our 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Bloomin' Birdathon.

The Bloomin' Birdathon is our spring fundraiser. You can help raise money for ANS by getting your family, friends and neighbors to sponsor you as you count different types of birds, plants, trees and other species in nature. The more you find, the more money you can raise.

The Bloomin' Birdathon is a great way to have fun in your yard or on a walk around your neighborhood while helping to protect the nature around us.

In this packet you will find many materials to help you count different species while you are outside. There are games, top ten tally lists, and resources to help you identify what you are seeing.

### WHAT ARE THE RULES?

Usually, people count as many different birds or flowers as they can in a 24-hour period between April 15 – May 31 and ask sponsors to pledge a set amount per species (for example \$1.00 per type of bird, wildflower etc.). Or, your sponsor could just donate a flat amount (say \$25.00 or \$50.00).

This year we are changing all the rules:

- Your 24 hours may be spread out over as many days as you like between April 15 and May 31.
- Children can count anything and/or use one of our games as often as they want.
- Families with young children may like to go as a team.
- All counters and their sponsors will receive a 20% discount coupon to the ANS shop.

Use this packet to have fun while you count and always follow the rules for social distancing to stay safe outside.

### HOW CAN I JOIN THE FUN?

#### 1) Register

- To register, sign up [online](#) or email Jacky Wershale at [jacky.wershale@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershale@anshome.org).

**Audubon Naturalist Society**

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Headquarters | 8940 Jones Mill Road Chevy Chase, MD 20815 | [anshome.org](http://anshome.org)

## 2) Raise Funds

- Ask your family, friends and neighbors to sponsor your count. People can give a fixed amount, a match for the number you reach, or as a goal for counting a large number of birds, trees, insects, etc. Every donation is welcome! You can use the enclosed sample letter for this.
- Get a grown-up to talk about what you are doing on Facebook and other social media. Include pictures of birds, wildflowers or other things you hope to see during your count.
- Tell your sponsors all about your adventures. Send them some photos or draw pictures of what you saw.
- People can make their donation online at: <https://anshome.org/Birdathon-donation>. Please ask them to mention who they are sponsoring.
- Or they can mail their donations to:

Audubon Naturalist Society  
Attn: Bloomin' Birdathon  
8940 Jones Mill Road  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

- ***Do you want to participate, but don't want to ask for sponsors?*** Make a tax-deductible donation to the ANS *Bloomin' Birdathon* at <https://anshome.org/Birdathon-donation> and support ANS's wonderful environmental education and conservation programs.

## 3) Count

- Count birds, wildflowers and/or other species between April 15 and May 31, 2021. Identifying a bird call counts as a sighting, too.
- Because of social distancing restrictions, we encourage participants to carefully follow CDC and government guidelines regarding where you go to count.

## MATERIALS

In this packet you will find lots of things to help you:

- Bloomin' Birdathon Sponsor Tracking Sheet
- Donation form for your sponsors
- Sample sponsor request email/letter and Facebook posts
- Top Ten Picture Tally Sheets to track what you have seen
- How to make bird feeders
- How to make toy binoculars
- Introduction to ***Seek*** by iNaturalist
- Nature Scavenger Hunt and Bingo Card

If you need bird seed or more help to identify species, our Naturalist Shop is now open for limited online ordering and home delivery: <https://audubon-naturalist-society.square.site/>

We hope you enjoy raising money for ANS. Your help will make sure we will always be able to hold our programs at Woodend and bring them to schools. Thank you for supporting our work – and we hope you have lots of fun outside.

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact Jacky Wershbaile at [jacky.wershbaile@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershbaile@anshome.org)

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