



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 41st 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.

Audubon Naturalist Society

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Headquarters | 8940 Jones Mill Road Chevy Chase, MD 20815 | 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

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BLOOMIN' BIRDATHON

Let's Do This! Nature is Counting on Us.

April 15 – May 31, 2021

SPONSOR TRACKING SHEET

Use this sheet to track your sponsors. Please send this report to ANS after completing your count.

Name/Team Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

TOTALS Birds: _____ Trees: _____ Flowers: _____ Butterflies: _____ Other: _____

Location(s): _____

*All donations to the Audubon Naturalist Society are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
All sponsors will receive a thank you letter for tax purposes.*

Track donation on the form below

Sponsor's Name	Address, Phone, and/or Email	Pledge	Paid



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SPONSOR FORM

Name of counter/s:

Thank you for choosing to support the Audubon Naturalist Society as a Bloomin' Birdathon Sponsor.

Sponsor Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

DONATE: You may sponsor a counter or make a general donation in support of the *Bloomin' Birdathon*.

Name of Individual or Family: _____

General Donation in support of the *Bloomin' Birdathon* \$ _____

DONATION AMOUNT:

\$ _____ per species pledge **OR** \$ _____ fixed donation

Donations and pledge payments can be made online or by check. (Remember to mention who you are sponsoring.)

Online donation and pledge payments: anshome.org/birdathon-donation

Checks made payable to: Audubon Naturalist Society

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

All donations to ANS are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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SAMPLE SPONSOR REQUEST EMAIL/LETTER

Here is a sample email or letter to use when asking people to support your count. Remember, the more personal you make it, the better it will be. Use the blank page for your letters.

Dear _____,

I love being outside and I love the animals that live in the woods and parks near my house.

Now that it's springtime, I want to help care for the trees, flowers and animals that live near me so I am going to do a special bird count [or tree count, or butterfly count] as part of a fundraiser for Audubon Naturalist Society.

Will you help me by sponsoring my count?

You can give a fixed amount, a match for the number of birds/trees/flower I count, or as a goal for getting to a big total.

Audubon Naturalist Society looks after all of nature. [Maybe add a sentence here about why you like Audubon Naturalist Society.]

By seeing how many birds [trees, flowers, butterflies] I can count while I am playing in my yard or walking round my neighborhood I am helping ANS make sure our water is clean, our animals are safe and that children like me can learn about nature in our schools.

Over the next few weeks, I am hoping to see at least ____ different types of birds / wildflowers / trees (insert what you are going to count). I'm especially hoping to see a _____ which is my favorite bird/ tree in bloom / etc.

Please can you fill out the enclosed Sponsor form to support me.

I can't wait to tell you how many things I counted and send you some pictures.

Thank you!

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Sample Social Media Posts

Social Media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are ideal for sharing your enthusiasm for birds, nature and Audubon Naturalist Society. Not only will your posts keep sponsors and supporters up-to-date on your progress, you might just inspire them to want to learn more about nature themselves.

One of the most important elements for creating compelling social media posts is to convey excitement and emotion. Be sure to let people know why you are excited about participating in the ANS Birdathon and why you are passionate about nature. And good photos are a must! Posts with a photo (or video) tend to get more attention from your friends and followers.

Please tag us so that we can share your posts!

Facebook: @AudubonNaturalistSociety • Twitter: @ANSTweets • Instagram: @ansnature

Hashtag: #ANSBirdathon

SAMPLE POSTS



This Carolina Wren is going on my count list for the #ANSBirdathon. It's so great to get outside and help support nature education and conservation at the same time! You can help, too, at anshome.org/birdathon-donation



It's my first #ANSBirdathon and this Carolina Wren is the first bird on my count list! I love being outside right now. You can join the fun AND support conservation and nature education from your own backyard! Learn how at anshome.org/birdathon



This beautiful Virginia Bluebell is going on my list of blooms for the @ANSTweets #ANSBirdathon. You can enjoy the outdoors and support nature education and conservation, too: anshome.org/birdathon



The 2021 #ANSBirdathon is more fun than ever. I don't know much about birds so I'm counting wildflowers like these Virginia Bluebells. Or you can count trees. Or butterflies. Whatever you count helps @ANSTweets conservation & nature education programs: anshome.org/birdathon



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Top Ten Birds!



AMERICAN ROBIN
Song sounds like cheerio!
Sings early in the morning.



TUFTED TITMOUSE
Call: Peter, Peter, Peter.
Common in neighborhoods.



BLUE JAY
Raucous call: Jay! Jay! Jay!
Neighborhood police officer.



CAROLINA CHICKADEE
Tuxedo bird. Repeats its own name. Energetic.



CROW
Ubiquitous and noisy.



NORTHERN CARDINAL
East coast stunner!
Male is especially gorgeous.



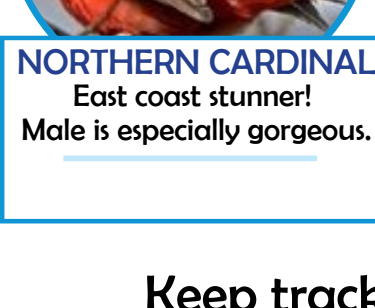
CAROLINA WREN
Small bird, loud voice with a teakettle, teakettle, teakettle song.



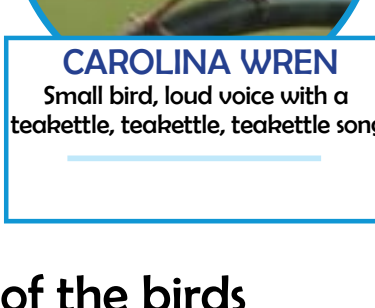
DOWNY WOODPECKER
Our smallest woodpecker.
Frequent feeder visitor.



RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER
Black and white.
Male has full red crown.



NORTHERN CARDINAL
East coast stunner!
Male is especially gorgeous.



CAROLINA WREN
Small bird, loud voice with a teakettle, teakettle, teakettle song.



MOURNING DOVE
Soft, drawn-out calls. Wings make whinnying sound.

Keep track of the birds you see or hear with tally marks!

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Top Ten Trees!



AMERICAN BEECH
Smooth, grey trunk.



NORTHERN RED OAK
One of our most common oaks.



BLACK LOCUST
Pendulous, white fragrant blooms.



TULIP TREE
Beautiful blooms that look like tulips.



EASTERN REDBUD
Pink flowers and heart-shaped leaves.



FLOWERING DOGWOOD
Pink or white blooms.



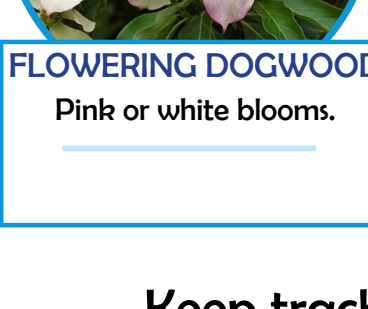
RED MAPLE
Common tree with "helicopter" seeds.



AMERICAN HOLLY
Prickly leaves with classic red berries.



AMERICAN SYCAMORE
Likes to be near water. Camouflage-like bark.



FLOWERING DOGWOOD
Pink or white blooms.



RED MAPLE
Common tree with "helicopter" seeds.



WILLOW OAK
Common street tree with narrow leaves.

Keep track of the trees you see with tally marks!

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Top Ten Butterflies!



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

One of the most common eastern butterflies.



ZEBRA SWALLOWTAIL

Its markings resemble zebra stripes.



SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL

Brilliant blue or greenish coloring on hindwings.



CABBAGE WHITE

Has one or two small black dots on wings.



CLOUDED SULPHUR

Medium sized and abundant with dark spots.



EASTERN TAILED-BLUE

Small, flies low to the ground.



RED SPOTTED PURPLE

A woodland butterfly.



PAINTED LADY

Flies fast and likes thistle plants.



PEARL CRESCENT

Small butterfly. Common along sunny road edges.



EASTERN TAILED-BLUE

Small, flies low to the ground.



RED SPOTTED PURPLE

A woodland butterfly.



MONARCH

Beautiful "King" of butterflies.

Keep track of the butterflies you see with tally marks!

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Top Ten Wildflowers!



SPRING BEAUTIES

Among the longest blooming spring wildflowers.



MAY APPLES

Umbrella-like leaves and one big flower.



TROUT LILY

Named for its leaves which are speckled like trout.



VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS

Bell-shaped, sky-blue flowers.



CUTLEAF TOOTHWORT

Leaves have deeply cut lobes that resemble teeth.



SMOOTH SOLOMON'S SEAL

Has dangling white flowers.



COMMON BLUE VIOLET

Heart-shaped leaves. Common in yards and woodlands.



WILD BLUE PHLOX

Bright blue-pink flowers in a woodland setting.



DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES

Blooms resemble a pair of upside down pants.



SMOOTH SOLOMON'S SEAL

Has dangling white flowers.



COMMON BLUE VIOLET

Heart-shaped leaves. Common in yards and woodlands.



PINK LADY'S SLIPPER

Two-to-three inch showy long flowers.

Keep track of the wildflowers you see with tally marks!

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NEIGHBORHOOD NATURE

A dozen signs of nature you can find right around you!

ANY BIRD WITH RED FEATHERS



YELLOW FLOWERS



TRACK OR FOOTPRINT IN MUD



CREATURE WITH 6 LEGS



PURPLE FLOWER CLOSE TO THE GROUND



FAN FUNGUS LIVING ON A LOG



TREE WITH SMOOTH BARK



CLOUD THAT LOOKS LIKE AN ANIMAL



A STAR



TREE WITH FLOWERS



SQUIRREL OR ITS NEST



A WORM



Do you hear? Woodpeckers drumming, Mourning doves cooing, Cardinals singing—cheer, cheer, cheer!

Do you smell? Onion grass, violets, crushed conifer leaves (pine, cedar, juniper), the air after a good rain!

LA NATURALEZA EN TU VECINDARIO

¡Doce señales de la naturaleza que puedes encontrar cerca de ti!

CUALQUIER AVE
CON PLUMAS ROJAS



FLORES AMARILLAS



HUELLA EN EL BARRO



CRUENTA CON 6 PATAS



FLOR VIOLETA
CERCA DEL PISO



UN HONGO ABANICO
EN UN TRONCO



ÁRBOL CON SU
CORTEZA LISA



NUBE CON FORMA
DE ANIMAL



UNA ESTRELLA



ÁRBOL CON FLORES



ARDILLA O SU NIDO



UN GUSANO



¿Puedes escuchar? ¡Pájaros carpinteros tamborileando, Palomas arrullando, Cardenales cantando: chir chir chir!

¿Puedes oler? ¡Cebollines silvestres, violetas, hojas de coníferos machacados (pino, cedro, enebro), el aire después de llover!

BIRDATHON BINGO

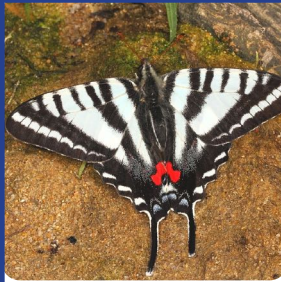
Shout out Birdathon BINGO when you find five of these items either horizontally, vertically or diagonally!



AMERICAN ROBIN



A WORM



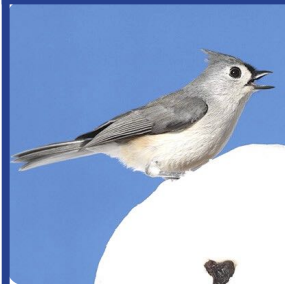
ZEBRA SWALLOWTAIL



CROW



TULIP TREE



TUFTED TITMOUSE



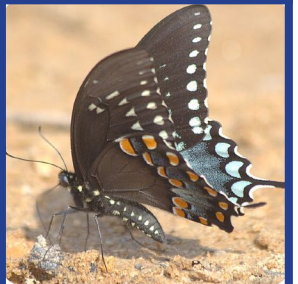
AMERICAN BEECH



A SQUIRREL



BLUE JAY



ANY BUTTERFLY



CREATURE WITH 6 LEGS



DOWNY WOODPECKER



**FREE
SPACE**



AMERICAN SYCAMORE



SPRING BEAUTIES



FAN FUNGUS ON A LOG



MONARCH



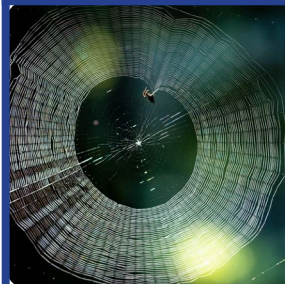
NORTHERN CARDINAL



VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS



ANIMAL TRACKS



SPIDERWEB



CAROLINA WREN



BERRIES



A YELLOW FLOWER



CAROLINA CHICKADEE

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HOW TO MAKE A BIRD FEEDER

ORANGE BOWL FEEDER (Courtesy SheKnows.com)

Items needed:

- 1 large orange
- Twine or string
- Knife
- Scissors
- Spoon
- Small screwdriver
- Bird food/granola/crumbs/grains

Instructions:

1. Carefully slice the orange in half with a sharp knife and scoop out all the fruit and pulp to form a bowl (save the fruit for a snack for yourself).
2. Poke two holes into the orange opposite each other and about half an inch from the edge of the bowl.
3. Cut a piece of twine about 18 inches long. Thread the twine between the two holes in the orange to create a loop for hanging.
4. Fill the orange bowl with food and hang outside.



TOILET PAPER ROLL FEEDER

Items needed:

- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Twigs, 2 per roll
- Bird seed
- Peanut Butter
- String
- A Hole Punch

Instructions:

1. Punch holes on opposite sides of the toilet paper roll.
2. Thread the string through the holes to make a loop for hanging.
3. Punch four holes on the other end of the toilet paper roll. They should be opposite from each other to push twigs through as perches for the birds.
4. Spread a layer of peanut butter on the toilet paper roll above the perch holes.
5. Sprinkle or roll bird food onto the peanut butter.
6. Thread thin sticks through the 4 holes to create perches.
7. Hang outside.





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HOW TO MAKE TOY BINOCULARS

Items needed:

- 2 undamaged cardboard tubes from toilet paper rolls
- Glue
- 2 paper clips
- Hole puncher
- String or yarn 36" - 37" long
- Newspaper



Instructions:

1. Remove traces of paper from tubes.
2. Place a line of glue the entire length of one tube.
3. Gently press another tube against it. (NOTE: The tubes should match in size and color.)
4. Paper clip the tubes together at both ends.
5. Using the hole punch, make a hole about 1/2 inch down from the top of a tube opposite where it is glued.
6. Make a second hole in the opposite tube.
7. Thread a 36"-37" piece of string/yarn through one hole and knot 3 times
8. Repeat with the other end of string through the other hole.
9. Trim ends to about 1/2 inch.
10. Set the tubes aside to dry on paper towels or newspaper to protect table.
11. When glue is completely dry, remove paper clips.



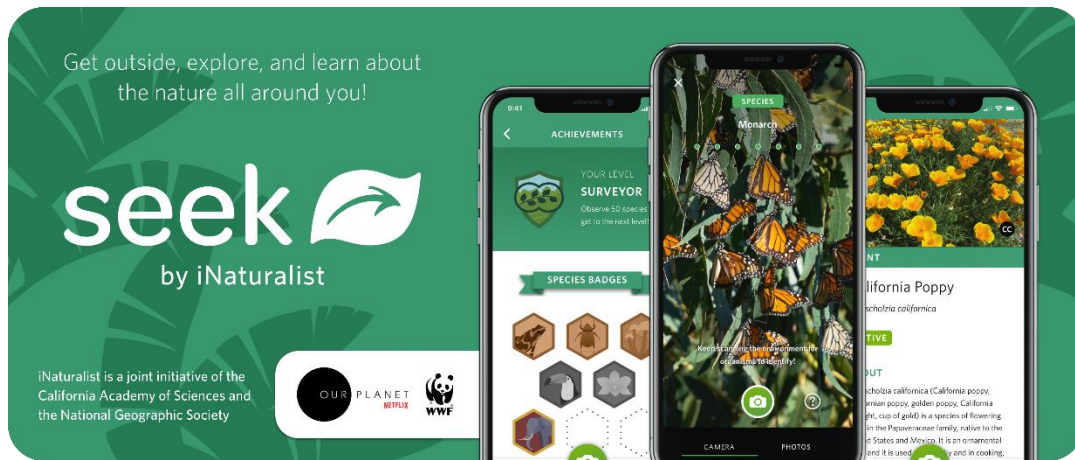
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INTRODUCTION TO *SEEK* BY iNATURALIST



Found a mushroom, flower, or bug, and not sure what it is? Download the *Seek* app, take a picture and see if *Seek* can identify it.

Seek is a simple and easy to use app to identify trees, plants, and animals using image recognition software.

Simply hold your camera up to a plant, organism, or leaf and the app will identify it in real-time.

This is a great app for families who like exploring nature together.