



Welcome to Audubon Naturalist Society's 39th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon

WHAT IS THE BLOOMIN' BIRDATHON?

The *Bloomin' Birdathon* is our annual fundraising event that provides an excellent opportunity for you, your family, friends and coworkers to engage in a fun outdoor activity while providing important support for ANS's environmental education and conservation programs.

As a participant, you are asked to raise funds to help support the mission of ANS. You'll want to start by setting a fundraising goal. We suggest a minimum of \$100 per person. Aim high – think about all the creative ways in which you can raise money and have fun with it!

You are the key to the success of the Bloomin' Birdathon, and to everything ANS hopes to accomplish. We thank you for your commitment to helping us nurture the next generation of nature stewards.

BLOOMIN' BIRDATHON GUIDELINES

Participation in this event is easy and open to novice and experienced wildflower and bird enthusiasts of all ages – you don't have to be an expert to count.

Register

- Sign up [online](#) or email Loree Trilling at loree.trilling@anshome.org.
- You may count as an individual, as part of a team, or join one of our bird leaders on a Saturday morning walk at Woodend to complete your count.

Raise Funds

- Ask family and friends to sponsor your efforts or just sponsor yourself. Sponsors can pledge an amount for each species you identify or make a fixed donation.
- Use the enclosed email template to invite potential sponsors to support your efforts and help raise critical funds for ANS.
- Promote your participation on Facebook or Twitter. Include pictures of birds or wildflowers you hope to see during your count.
- Tell your sponsors all about your adventure.
- Direct your sponsors to the Bloomin' Birdathon webpage: anshome.org/birdathon
- Mail your collected pledges and donations to:
Audubon Naturalist Society
Attn: Bloomin' Birdathon
8940 Jones Mill Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- ***Want to participate, but don't want to solicit sponsors?*** [Make a tax-deductible donation to the ANS Bloomin' Birdathon](#) and show your support for our environmental education and conservation programs.

Audubon Naturalist Society

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

Count

- Count wildflower and/or bird species during a 24-hour period between April 15 and May 31, 2019.
- Location is entirely up to you. Some people count birds at their backyard feeder, a local park, or favorite hiking spot. Others may travel to the mountains or beach, covering miles to find as many species as they can in a day.
- Check out the “Resources” section of this packet for a listing of birding areas in the D.C. metro region.

MATERIALS

To help you get started, the following items are enclosed:

- Bloomin’ Birdathon sponsor sheet
- Donation form for your sponsors
- Sample sponsor request email/letter
- Resources and birding locations in the area
- [Birding checklist](#)

All forms can be downloaded from our website: anshome.org/birdathon or sent to you via email. If you need materials to help identify species, stop by our Sanctuary Shop for the latest wildflower and birding books and tapes.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x12 or loree.trilling@anshome.org

- Make a donation by check and mail to:
Audubon Naturalist Society
Attn: Bloomin’ Birdathon
8940 Jones Mill Rd Chevy Chase, MD 20815
**Please note on the check the person you are sponsoring*
- Make a donation online: anshome.org/birdathon



Audubon Naturalist Society's 39th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon

SPONSOR SHEET

Please send this report to ANS after completing your count of wildflowers and/or birds.

Name/Team Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Count date: _____ TOTALS Birds: _____ Blooms: _____

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

Sponsor Name	Address, Phone, and/or Email	Pledge	Paid
TOTAL \$ Pledge/Raised:			



39th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon

April 15 – May 31, 2019

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

DONATE: Please choose to either sponsor an individual or a team. Or you may make a general donation in support of the *Bloomin' Birdathon*.

Name of Individual or Team: _____

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

DONATION AMOUNT:

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

Donations can be made online or by check:

Online donations: anshome.org/birdathon (Sponsors)

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.

Audubon Naturalist Society

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

SAMPLE SPONSOR REQUEST EMAIL/LETTER

Share your love of birding with your friends, family and coworkers. Invite them to sponsor you in the 39th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon!

Personal phone calls, emails and letters go along way when asking for support. Make a list of potential sponsors and call or email at least 5 potential sponsors a week. You'll reach your fundraising goal in no time!

The following is a sample email/letter to use when soliciting sponsors. Remember, the more personal you make it, the more effective it will be.

Dear _____,

This year I am helping to support the mission of the Audubon Naturalist Society to inspire residents of the greater Washington, DC region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education and advocacy.

I have decided to make a difference. I set a personal goal of raising \$_____ to help grow the next generation of nature stewards. You can also make a difference by joining my team and counting with me, or by donating funds to help me reach my goal.

My team is "_____." We will be counting together at _____ on _____. We are hoping to see at least ____ different type of bird species and/or wildflowers. Personally, I'm hoping to see a _____ -- my favorite bird!

I'd love to have you join us! Or, if you would like to donate, [please donate online](#) here. You may also donate by check. Make your check out to the Audubon Naturalist Society and mail it to the Audubon Naturalist Society Attn: Bloomin Birdathon 8940 Jones Mill Road Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Don't forget to include my name in the "memo" portion of the check!

I'm looking forward to telling you all about my birding adventures. Thanks in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

2019 Bloomin' Birdathon Participant

Audubon Naturalist Society

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

Resources:

- A copy of the [Maryland Ornithological Society Field Checklist may be downloaded](#) and printed on your personal computer. It is designed to be printed two-sided on 8.5" x 11" paper, flipping on the short edge.
- You will also find a variety of birding field guides and checklists by visiting the Audubon Naturalist Shop at Woodend Nature Sanctuary or [online](#).
- American Birding Association publishes a Membership directory with a listing of members who will give local birding information.
- *Finding Birds in the National Capital Area* by Claudia Wilds. Smithsonian Institution Press. 1992. \$14.95. Comprehensive guide to best birding locations in and around nation's capital (within a half-day's drive- from Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Coast). This map filled guide includes lists of birds, along with notes on their regional and seasonal occurrence, plus useful information on climate, geography, distances, bird clubs, and cooperative birding activities in the region.

Washington, D.C. Birding Areas

- Close-in birding areas: The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Maryland, Great Falls Park, Virginia, Roosevelt Island, and Rock Creek Park in D.C.
- Any stretch of the C & O Canal from the Capital Beltway (I-495) west is prime habitat, particularly Pennyfield Lock, Violet's Lock, Seneca, and McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area. Closer in areas of the towpath (Carderock Picnic Area, Old Angler's Inn, and Great Falls Park) can be rewarding as well. By METRO: Foggy Bottom-GWU on BLUE or ORANGE lines is closest. To reach Potomac River go west (right) 1 block on I St. plaza and left 2 blocks on New Hampshire Ave. Cross Virginia Ave, turn right (NW) and walk 1 block along Virginia Ave to Rock Creek Pkwy. Take 30th St. north from Thompson Boat Center by the big sundial to the Canal
- Roosevelt Island, a trap for migrant land birds, is reached by car from the northbound George Washington Parkway, or by METRO: from the Rosslyn Station BLUE OR ORANGE LINES (ask for a "Wild Places are closer than You Think" brochure at the station manager's kiosk. or map of the area) Exit to Moore ST and head north (left) 1 block to 19th St., then east (right) 1 block to N. Lynn St. Follow signs North (left) 2 blocks to paved trail that leads to the Island)
- Rock Creek Park offers a variety of edge, field, and stream habitats, though best in migration. The Nature Center, located at Military and Glover Roads, has a short loop trail and surrounding woods and fields. (You can reach one section by using METRO RED line to Cleveland Park: exit on east side of Conn. Ave. Travel .2 mi to Melvin Hazen Park & follow foot trail down a wooded ravine to the Park)
- Across the Potomac River in Virginia, Great Falls Park, a national park 4.3 miles up Georgetown Pike from I-495 and Riverbend Park, a county park a mile upstream, are excellent sites during migration (nice spring wildflowers, as well). The most renowned park in southern Fairfax County is Huntley Meadows, an extensive freshwater wetland just southwest of Alexandria. Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, just south of Alexandria along the Potomac River, affords good seasonal waterfowl and land birding.
- Summer and Winter Birding farther afield: across the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware Refuges. Shore birding is excellent at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and Little Creek Wildlife Area on the Delaware Bay. Claudia Wilds says "At almost any time of the year the very best area to see the greatest diversity of birds in a single day's outing from Washington is a twenty-mile stretch of impoundments and marsh, fields, and woods near Dover, Delaware."