

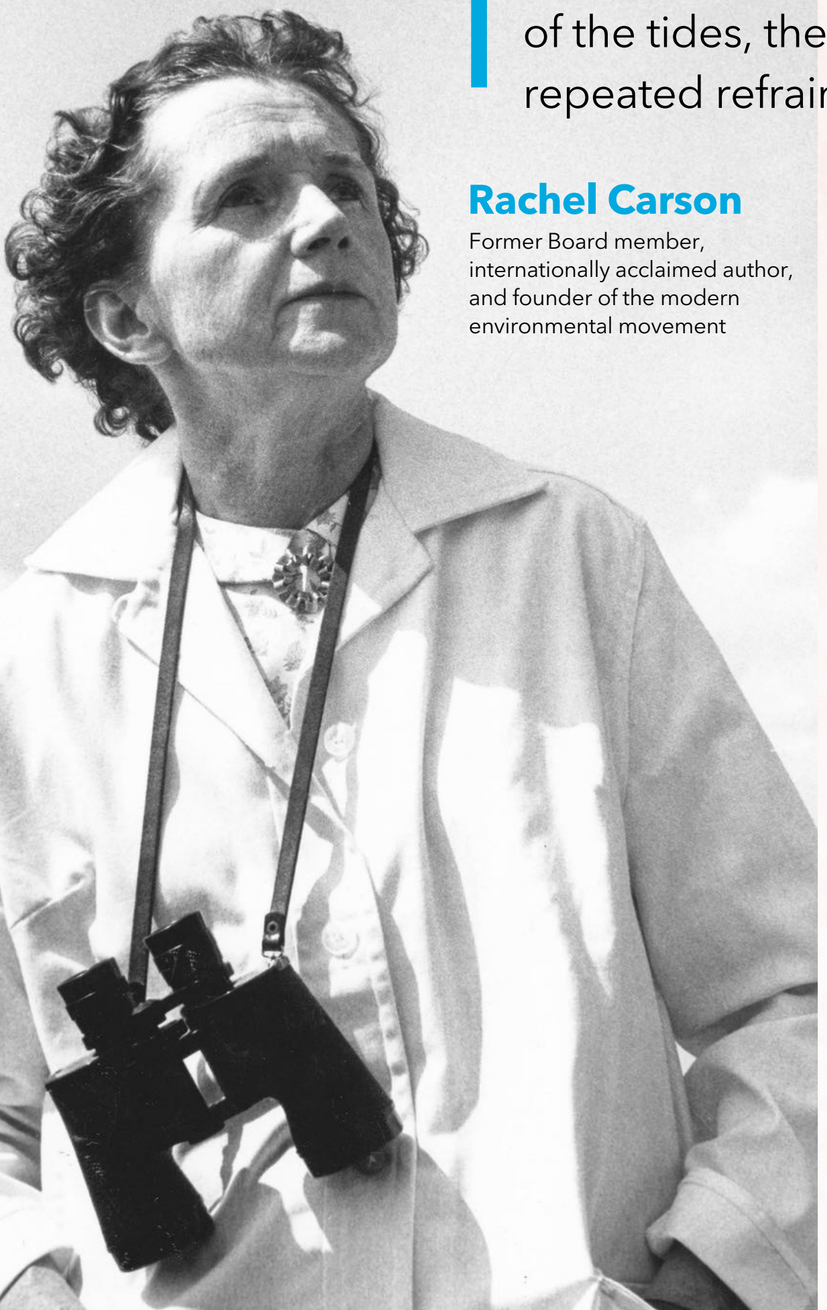
Photo by Jane Gamble

46th ANNUAL

nature forward birdathon

APRIL 15 - MAY 31, 2026

POST-CAMPAIGN REPORT



"There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter."

Rachel Carson
Former Board member, internationally acclaimed author, and founder of the modern environmental movement

Thank you to everyone who made our 46th Nature Forward Birdathon such a success!

The Birdathon is our longest and most important spring fundraising tradition

In 1897, volunteers founded the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia to protect and study birds.

By 1960, the organization had expanded its mission to encompass the entire natural environment, becoming the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States.

Today, as Nature Forward, we build on this vital mission work, uniting members, donors, volunteers, staff, and supporters to advocate for birds, plants, and habitats, and building a large, diverse community devoted to preserving the natural world.



Rachel Carson, 1961.
Photo: JHU Sheridan Libraries/Gado/Getty Images

Connecting people and nature

Powerful support for Nature Forward's mission work

Nature Forward’s annual Birdathon is a celebration of nature and community. The event invites nature lovers of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and skills to experience the outdoors and share their enthusiasm with friends, family, and others who pledge support for the birds they count. Birdathon participants solicit donor pledges for each bird species they spot while enjoying an eye and earful of amazing birds and birdsong! This spring tradition encourages individuals and teams to enjoy the natural world while raising funds that provide essential year-round support for Nature Forward’s nature education, restoration, and advocacy work.

We are especially grateful to a generous anonymous donor who provided a $30,000 Match Challenge, inspiring others to give and significantly increase support for nature education, conservation, and stewardship programs.







> "It’s always a joy to spend the day birding with lovely company in support of such a great organization."
>
> **Team Mason, Oves, Wall**
> Veteran Birdathon counters Stephanie Mason, Pam Oves, & Genevieve Wall

$79,000+ DONATIONS RAISED

TO SUPPORT NATURE FORWARD’S NATURE EDUCATION, CONSERVATION, & RESTORATION PROGRAMS

299 PARTICIPANTS & SUPPORTERS

10 BIRDATHON TEAMS

41 INDIVIDUAL COUNTERS



6 NATURE FORWARD–LED BIRDING EXPERIENCES

> "...You have been so important to our understanding and appreciation of our fascinating environment in the DC region..."
>
> **Tina Van Sickle & Campbell DeMallie**
> BIrdathon Supporters



Photos by Ben Israel



2026 BIRD SIGHTINGS

UNIQUE SPECIES
195

COUNT LOCATIONS
5 STATES + DC
GEORGIA
IDAHO
MARYLAND
NEW JERSEY
VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON DC

COUNTRIES
2
ITALY
USA

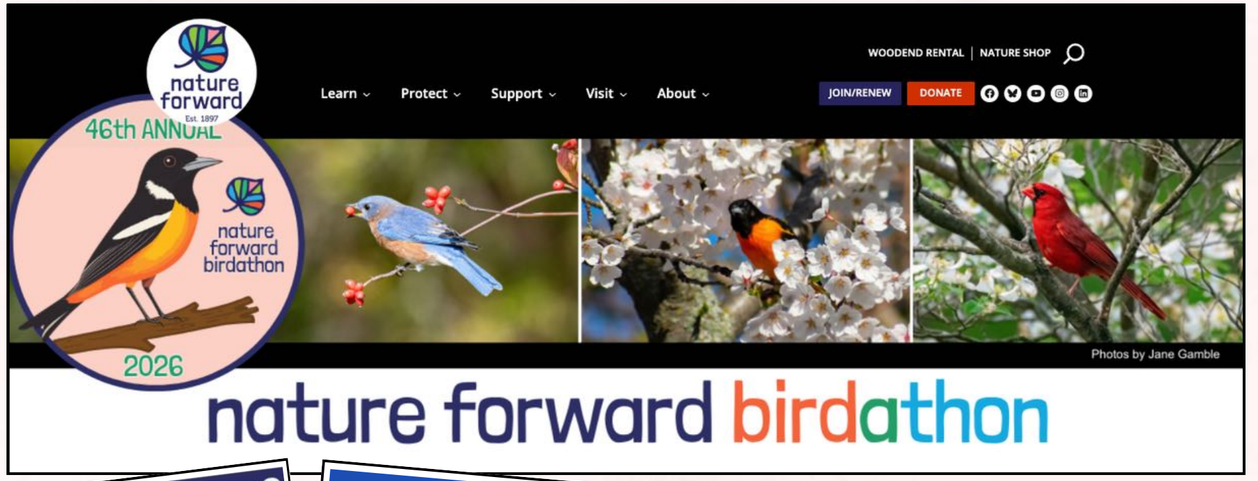
Acadian Flycatcher
American Bittern
American Black Duck
American Crow
American Goldfinch
American Herring Gull
American Kestrel
American Oystercatcher
American Redstart
American Robin
Anhinga
Bald Eagle
Baltimore Oriole
Bank Swallow
Barred Owl
Barn Owl
Barn Swallow
Bay-breasted Warbler
Belted Kingfisher
Black-and-white Warbler
Black-bellied Plover
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Black-crowned Night Heron
Black Skimmer
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Black Vulture
Blackburnian Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Blue Grosbeak
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue Jay
Blue-winged Teal
Blue-winged Warbler
Boat-tailed Grackle
Bobolink
Brown Pelican
Brown-headed Cowbird
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Thrasher
Canada Goose
Canada Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Carolina Chickadee
Carolina Wren
Caspian Tern
Cattle Egret
Cedar Waxwing
Cerulean Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Chimney Swift
Chipping Sparrow
Chuck-will's-widow
Clapper Rail
Coal Tit
Common Chaffinch
Common Gallinule
Common Grackle
Common Merganser
Common Raven
Common Redstart
Common Swift
Common Tern
Common Yellowthroat
Cooper's Hawk
Dark-eyed Junco
Double-crested Cormorant
Downy Woodpecker
Dunlin
Dusky Moorhen
Eastern Bluebird
Eastern Kingbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Screech-Owl
Eastern Towhee
Eastern Warbling Vireo
Eastern Whip-poor-will
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eurasian Blackbird
Eurasian Blue Tit
Eurasian Chaffinch
Eurasian Coot
Eurasian Jackdaw
Eurasian Jay
Eurasian Magpie
European Goldfinch
European Greenfinch
European Robin
European Serin
European Starling
Field Sparrow
Fieldfare
Fish Crow
Forster's Tern
Gadwall
Glossy Ibis
Gray Catbird
Great Black-backed Gull
Great Blue Heron
Great Crested Flycatcher
Great Egret
Great Horned Owl
Great Tit
Greater Yellowlegs
Green Heron
Gull-billed Tern
Hairy Woodpecker
Herring Gull
Hooded Merganser
Hooded Warbler
House Finch
House Sparrow
House Wren
Hudsonian Whimbrel
Indigo Bunting
Kentucky Warbler
Killdeer
King Rail
Laughing Gull
Least Sandpiper
Least Tern
Lesser Yellowlegs
Little Blue Heron
Louisiana Waterthrush
Magnolia Warbler
Mallard
Mississippi Kite
Mourning Dove
Mute Swan
Northern Bobwhite
Northern Cardinal
Northern Flicker
Northern Harrier
Northern House Wren
Northern Mockingbird
Northern Parula
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Northern Waterthrush
Northern Yellow Warbler
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Orchard Oriole
Osprey
Ovenbird
Painted Bunting
Palm Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper
Pileated Woodpecker
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Purple Martin
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-breasted Merganser
Red-eyed Vireo
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Pigeon
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Roseate Spoonbill
Royal Tern
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Ruddy Turnstone
Saltmarsh Sparrow
Sanderling
Sandwich Tern
Savannah Sparrow
Scarlet Tanager
Seaside Sparrow
Sedge Wren
Semipalmated Plover
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Snowy Egret
Solitary Sandpiper
Song Sparrow
Song Thrush
Spotted Flycatcher
Spotted Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper
Summer Tanager
Swainson's Hawk
Swainson's Thrush
Swamp Sparrow
Tennessee Warbler
Tree Swallow
Tricolored Heron
Trumpeter Swan
Tufted Titmouse
Turkey Vulture
Veery
Virginia Rail
Western Bonelli's Warbler
Western Cattle-Egret
Western House-Martin
White-breasted Nuthatch
White-eyed Vireo
White Ibis
White-rumped Sandpiper
White-throated Sparrow
Wild Turkey
Willet
Willow Warbler
Wood Duck
Wood Stork
Wood Thrush
Worm-eating Warbler
Yellow-bellied Chat
Yellow-billed Chough
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-breasted Chat
Yellow-crowned Night Heron
Yellow-legged Gull
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo
Yellow-throated Warbler
Yellow Warbler

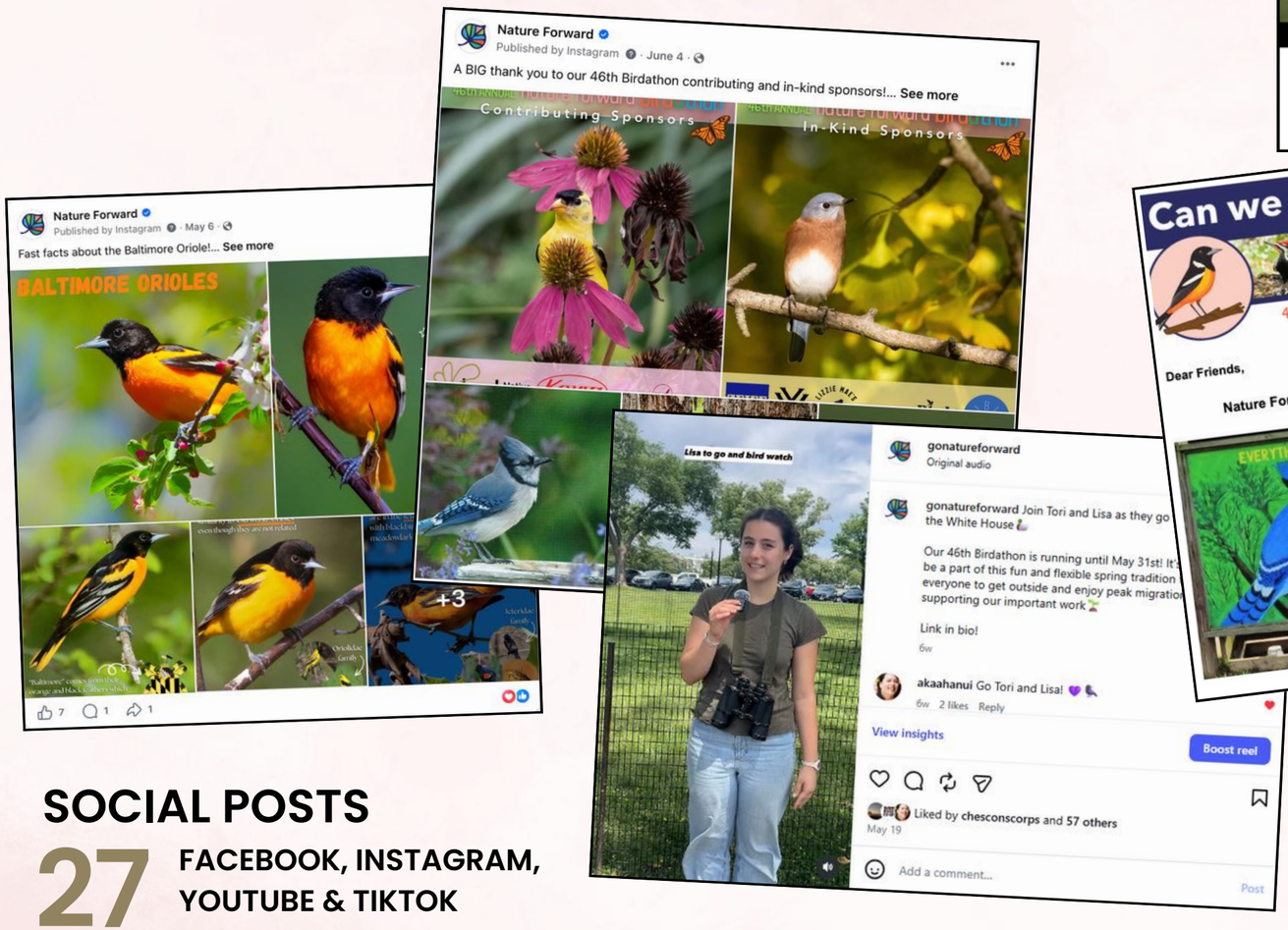
Photo by Ben Israel

Nature Forward Birdathon: REACH

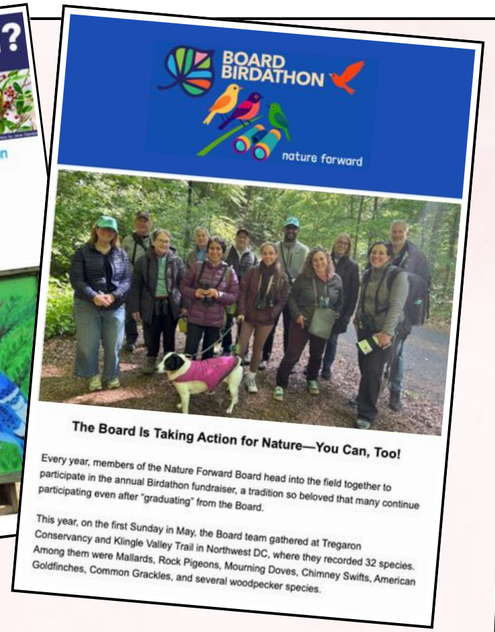
Dynamic social media engagement and web traffic were effective in building awareness and excitement for the 46th annual Nature Forward Birdathon.

Outreach included email marketing, social media, public events, and our Nature Forward Quarterly publication, which has a readership of approximately 12,000.











SOCIAL POSTS

27 FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, YOUTUBE & TIKTOK

7.4K+ SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

EMAIL MARKETING

18 PROMOTIONAL MESSAGES

1,930 UNIQUE WEB VISITS

2 FEATURES IN ENEWS & NATURE FORWARD QUARTERLY

THANK YOU, nature forward birdathon SPONSORS!

We appreciate your generosity and community leadership on behalf of our 40,000 members, supporters, visitors, and program participants .

Contributing Sponsors

Izel Native Plants
Every Plant Counts, Grow Natives.

Kowa
Crystal Clear Optics

The Backyard Naturalist

In-kind Sponsors

ZEISS

VORTEX OPTICS

LIZZIE MAE'S CRAFT BIRDSEED

opticron

Birds & Beans

Your support of the nature forward birdathon as a counter, donor, or sponsor helps Nature Forward...



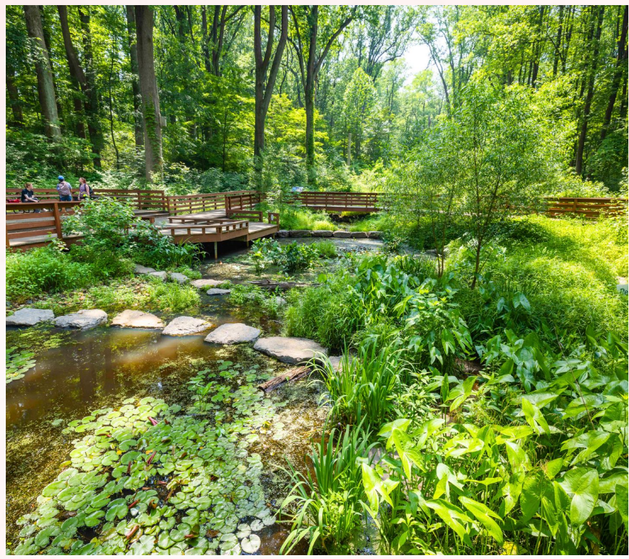
Educate thousands of children about the natural world and foster a lifelong love of nature



Protect and restore biodiversity and habitats for people and wildlife



Raise awareness about the threat of climate change and ways to mitigate it



Advocate for green energy and green infrastructure policies

Thank You!



nature forward

We value your input and feedback!

Your ideas and recommendations help us improve and grow events held in support of our important mission work.

Let's strengthen our relationship!

Registration and Donation Questions?

Erin Mosley, Membership and Annual Giving Manager,

at erin.mosley@natureforward.org or 301-450-1471

Sponsorship Questions?

Talissa Bavaresco, Special Event and Sponsorship Manager,

at talissa.bavaresco@natureforward.org or 301-450-1381

Nature Forward earns top ratings from independent non-profit evaluators for accountability, transparency, and financial best practices.

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR

Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

SPUR LOCAL 26 CRITICAL NONPROFIT

Donations to Nature Forward are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.