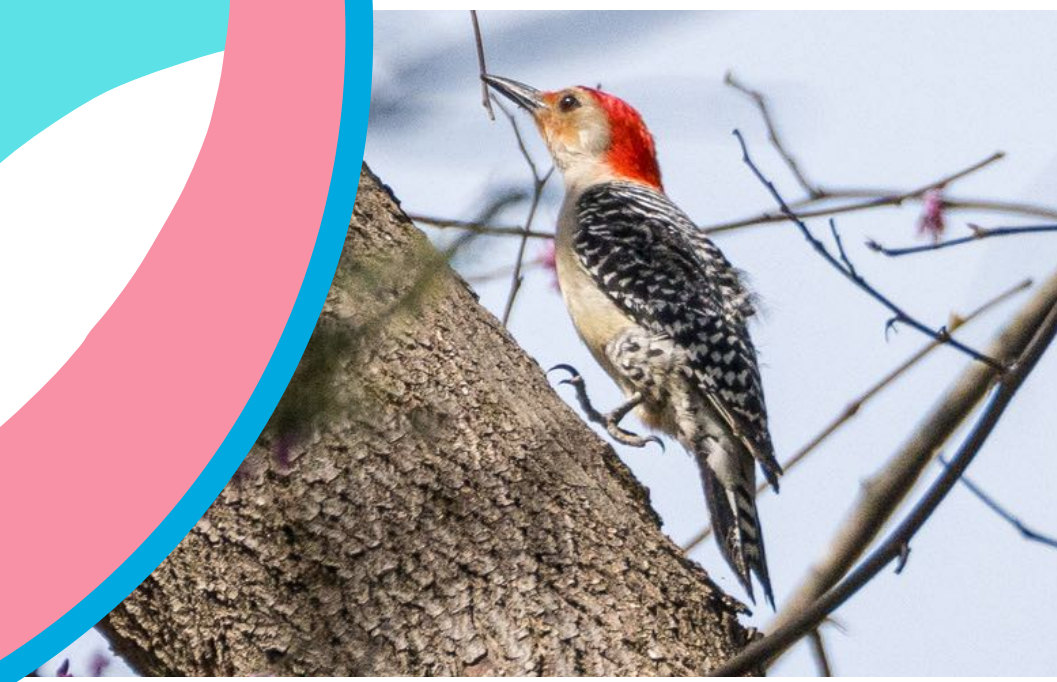


44th ANNUAL

nature forward birdathon

APRIL 15 - MAY 31, 2024

CAMPAIGN REPORT



Dr. Linda Lear &
Mr. John Nickum



Sandy Spring Bank



Scarlett

The Backyard Naturalist



"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 recognized author, and
founder of the modern environmental movement



Birds are part of Nature Forward's DNA

and the Nature Forward Birdathon is our longest and most important spring fundraising tradition

In 1897, volunteers organized the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia "for the protection and study of birds."

In 1960, the group broadened its mission in "recognition of the whole natural environmental picture" becoming the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States.

Today as Nature Forward, our members, donors, volunteers, staff, and supporters champion birds, blooms, habitats, and all facets of nature by inspiring people across the Capital Region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy. Nature Forward seeks to create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.



" was reminded how much I enjoyed being a part of the Nature Forward community: kindred spirits with boundless curiosity and a true love of nature."

Paul D'Andrea

Former Board member and a member of the
2024 Nature Forward Board Birdathon Team



Members of the 2024 Nature Forward Board Birdathon Team



Connecting people and nature

Powerful support for Nature Forward's mission work

"Igniting people's love for and protection of nature is so important," says Nature Forward Board President Nancy Voit.

Nature Forward's annual Birdathon is a celebration of nature and community. It brings together birders, nature-lovers, friends, and families to learn about and enjoy the natural world while raising funds that provide essential year-round support for Nature Forward's nature education, restoration, and advocacy work.

"The Birdathon truly is our mission in action - bringing people and nature together in the Capital region," says Board member Noel Carson.



"Birds are so amazing!
So is the work that Nature Forward
does and so are you for supporting
us! Thank you very much!"

Debra Prybyla and David Blockstein

Veteran birders and Birdathon counters.
They were married at Woodend Nature Sanctuary
and recently celebrated their 30th anniversary.

Birding with a purpose

An engaged community of caring nature lovers

Nature Forward's Birdathon 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 and blooms they count.

By securing pledges (like a walk-a-thon or bike-a-thon) for the birds, wildflowers, butterflies, trees, and nature features they count, these dedicated counters raise much-needed funds for Nature Forward's environmental education, conservation, and restoration mission work.

To boost participation this year, Nature Forward naturalists led eight local and regional birding excursions and provided informative resources to encourage new and returning birders.



Solitary Sandpiper (top) and Baltimore Oriole by Gregg Petersen

DONATIONS RAISED
\$63,000+

**FOR NATURE EDUCATION,
CONSERVATION, &
RESTORATION PROGRAMS**

**PARTICIPANTS &
SUPPORTERS**
281

DIGITAL PIONEERS

18 COUNTERS ON 5 TEAMS SECURED
DONATIONS VIA OUR ONLINE
PEER-TO-PEER FUNDRAISING PLATFORM

16 BIRDATHON
TEAMS

8 NATURE FORWARD-LED
BIRDING EXPERIENCES



Pileated Woodpecker
by Gregg Petersen

2024 BIRD SIGHTINGS

Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Great Egret	Northern Harrier	Sandhill Crane	Worm-eating Warbler
American Black Duck	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Mockingbird	Savannah Sparrow	Yellow Crowned Night Heron
American Coot	Chimney Swift	Great-horned Owl	Northern Parula	Scarlet Tanager	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
American Crow	Chipping Sparrow	Green Heron	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Seated Sandpiper	Yellow-breasted Chat
American Goldfinch	Chuck-will's-Widow	Hairy Woodpecker	Orchard Oriole	Semipalmated Plover	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Oystercatcher	Clapper Rail	Hermit Thrush	Osprey	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo
American Redstart	Common Gallinule	Herring Gull	Ovenbird	Snowy Egret	
American Robin	Common Grackle	Hooded Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Solitary Sandpiper	
Anhinga	Common Ground-Dove	House Finch	Pine Warbler	Song Sparrow	
Bald Eagle	Common Merganser	House Sparrow	Piping Plover	Sora	
Baltimore Oriole	Common Nighthawk	House Wren	Prairie Warbler	Spotted Sandpiper	
Barn Swallow	Common Raven	Indigo Bunting	Prothonotary Warbler	Swallow-tailed Kite	
Barred Owl	Common Yellowthroat	Killdeer	Purple Finch	Swamp Sparrow	
Belted Kingfisher	Cooper's Hawk	Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Tree Swallow	
Black and White Warbler	Double-crested Cormorant	Least Tern	Red Knot	Tricolored Heron	
Black Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	Lesser Scaup	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse	
Black-bellied Plover	Dunlin	Lesser Yellowlegs	Reddish Egret	Tundra Swan	
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Eastern Bluebird	Limpkin	Red-eyed Vireo	Turkey Vulture	
Black-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Kingbird	Little Blue Heron	Red-headed Woodpecker	Turnstone	
Black-capped Chickadee	Eastern Meadowlark	Louisiana Waterthrush	Red-shouldered Hawk	Vesper Sparrow	
Black-necked Stilt	Eastern Phoebe	Magnolia Warbler	Red-tailed Hawk	Warbling Vireo	
Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee	Mallard	Red-winged Blackbird	Whimbrel	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Wood Pewee	Marbled Godwit	Ring-billed Gull	Whip-poor-will	
Blue-headed Vireo	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Marsh Wren	Rock Dove	White Ibis	
Boat-tailed Grackle	European Starling	Merlin	Rock Pigeon	White-breasted Nuthatch	
Brown Pelican	Field Sparrow	Mottled Duck	Roseate Spoonbill	White-eyed Vireo	
Brown-headed Cowbird	Fish Crow	Mourning Dove	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	White-throated Sparrow	
Canada Goose	Florida Scrub-Jay	Muscovy Duck	Royal Tern	Wild Turkey	
Cape May Warbler	Forster's Tern	Nelson's/Saltmarsh (Sharp-tailed Sparrow)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Willet	
Carolina Chickadee	Glossy Ibis	Northern Bobwhite	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Willow Flycatcher	
Carolina Wren	Gray Catbird	Northern Cardinal	Ruddy Duck	Wilson's Plover	
Cattle Egret	Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Ruddy Turnstone	Wilson's Snipe	
	Great Crested Flycatcher		Sanderling	Wood Stork	
				Wood Thrush	

TOTAL BIRD COUNTS

471

UNIQUE SPECIES COUNTED

206

COUNT LOCATIONS

4 STATES + DC
WASHINGTON DC
DELAWARE
FLORIDA
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA

"It's the Birds who inspire us to criss-cross states during migration and witness their phenomenal journey so we may learn to be better stewards of nature."

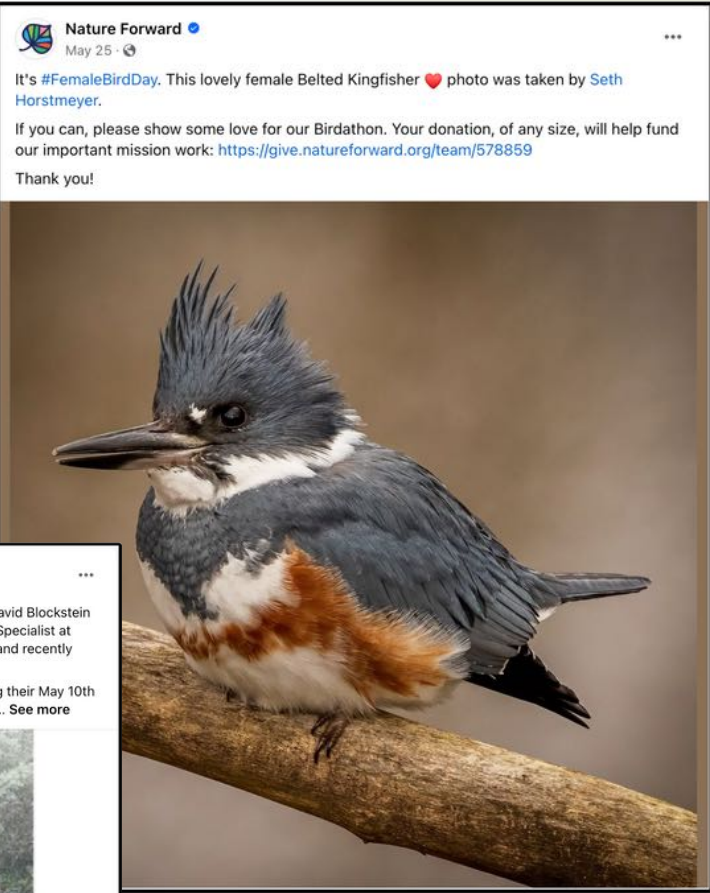
Nancy, Eric and Tommy Voit & Kelly and Mike Strzelecki

2024 Birdathon Counters

Nature Forward Birdathon: REACH

Robust web traffic and dynamic social media engagement were highly effective in building awareness and excitement for the 2024 Nature Forward Birdathon.

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



Celebrating Birds (and all of nature!) with the 44th Nature Forward Birdathon



The arrival of spring is an exhilarating time for nature lovers! The flight of migratory birds painting the sky. The vibrant symphony of birdsong. The anticipation and hope of spotting rare species.

Nature Forward's 44th Birdathon celebrates all the joys of spring with an added bonus: the opportunity to give back to nature. From experienced birders to nature newcomers, our Birdathon fosters curiosity and wonder while supporting our important mission work for nature and people. Similar to a walkathon, Birdathon participants count bird species for spring wildflower blooms or anything in nature! and ask friends and family to donate to Nature Forward based on their counts. Last year, Birdathon counters and sponsors raised more than \$75,000 to support our mission work.

"The Birdathon is our longest-running event, and it's also just so much fun," explains Nature Forward Executive Director. "It's a great way to learn more about local nature, and it's also just so much fun."



SOCIAL POSTS

121 FACEBOOK, X (TWITTER) & INSTAGRAM

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

24,000+

UNIQUE WEB VISITS

1,300+

EMAIL MARKETING

9 PROMOTIONAL MESSAGES

5

nature forward birdathon 2024

THANK YOU, nature forward SPONSORS!

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

Premier Sponsors

Dr. Linda Lear & Mr. John Nickum

Community Sponsor



Sandy Spring **Bank**

Supporting Sponsor



Contributing Sponsors

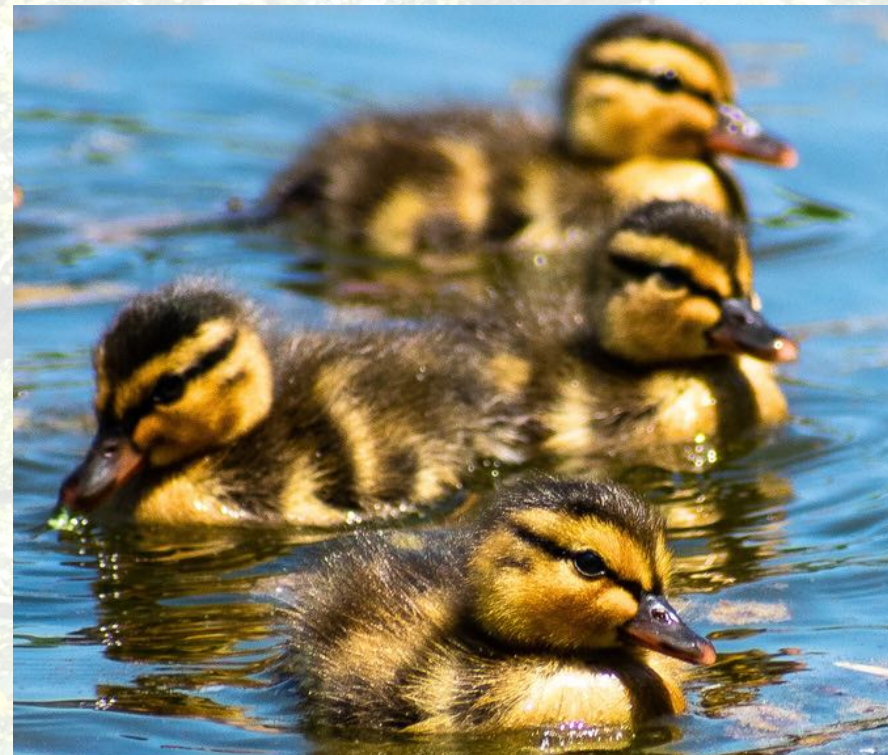


Scarlett®

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



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



Raise awareness about climate change threats and help build climate resilience in our community



Advocate for green energy and green infrastructure policies across the DC region



Protect and restore biodiversity and habitats for wildlife and ensure access to nature for all people

Thank You!



Photo by Jane Gamble

We value your input and feedback!

Your ideas and suggestions help us improve and grow in our mission

Let's strengthen our relationship!
If you have questions about your generous gift or sponsorship, please contact:
Talissa Bavaresco, Special Event & Sponsorship Manager
talissa.bavaresco@natureforward.org
301-450-1381



Nature Forward is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and earns top ratings from independent non-profit evaluators for accountability, transparency, and financial best practices.



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