

iNaturalist Projects 2023 Annual Report

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Number of Volunteers: 9 although hundreds more made observations

Number of Hours: 412.75

Purpose and Objectives

Calvert Stewards use the iNaturalist app and web site for a variety of projects.

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

Volunteers work independently to document the plants, animals, mushrooms and other living things throughout Calvert County through iNaturalist. Volunteers explore County-owned property to record observations using the iNaturalist app or web site. Surveys on private property will be limited to volunteers' homes.

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- Work independently or in teams
- Ability to transfer observations to iNaturalist via phones, tablets or web site

SKILLS NEEDED

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to photograph or record observations of life

Optional, but Preferred, Skills

- Ability to identify to species the observations of life made in Calvert County

TRAININGS

- Orientation through a workshop, in-person, or via phone to understand the project.
- On-going opportunities to join scheduled iNaturalist surveys

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Smart Phone or Tablet (Android or iPhone)
- iNaturalist App on your phone or tablet

PROCEDURES

iNaturalist projects are established that automatically collect observations matching specific criteria.

SUMMARY OF 2023 ACTIVITIES

Volunteers contribute to a combination of on-going projects as well as specialized or focused investigations. Because of the nature of the iNaturalist Projects, observers are not required to be current volunteers or record hours. iNaturalist provides a unique avenue for observing nature and engaging with other nature lovers. We held three volunteer trainings, but overall depended on the individual contributions and the power of the iNaturalist project framework.

CALVERT COUNTY BIODIVERSITY

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/calvert-county-biodiversity>

This project was the first iNaturalist project established and it collects all observations made within the Calvert County boundaries even if the person is not a Calvert Steward. Users have the option to join the project, although that is not required to have observations counted. The number of observers, observations, and species have increased each year since the project started in 2018.

Year	Observers	Species	Observations
2018	260	855	2,341
2019	449	1,223	5,532
2020	599	1,852	8,876
2021	736	2,147	11,362
2022	644	2,739	19,117
2023	673	2,848	22,474
TOTAL	2,527	4,604	72,708

Top Ten Observers in 2023

* Calvert Stewards who are recording hours; + other Calvert Stewards using iNaturalist

Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	tonyiajohnson*	8,630	1,277
2	mntndwnm*	1,304	587
3	rosalie-rick*	1,143	228
6	ronwertz	925	252
4	jmgconsult	868	261
5	maryhollinger*	661	316
8	ptlcruiser	497	289
10	jasonavery+	490	198
7	karynmolines	403	212
9	kdaniel20816+	288	162

Observations made in Calvert County in 2023

Observations

Go

Filters 4

The World

22,491
OBSERVATIONS

2,849
SPECIES


1,662
IDENTIFIERS

676
OBSERVERS

Map

Grid

List

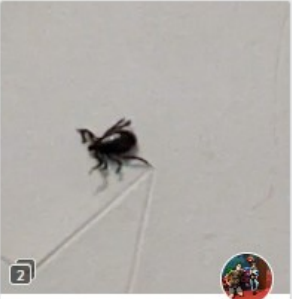


Barred Owl
(Strix varia)

Research Grade

4

7y

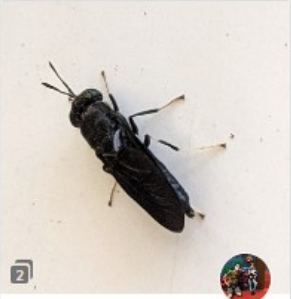


Eastern Black-legged Tick
(Ixodes scapularis)

Research Grade

2

4mo




Black Soldier Fly
(Hermetia illucens)

Research Grade

1

4mo

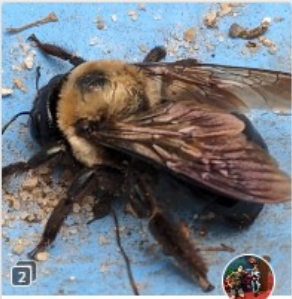


Northern Snakehead
(Channa argus)

Research Grade

4

5mo




Eastern Carpenter Bee
(Xylocopa virginica)

Research Grade

2

5mo




Bushy Aster
(Symphyotrichum dumosum)

Research Grade

1

5mo




Turkey-Tail
(Trametes versicolor)

Research Grade

1

5mo



Plateful of Pyramids Lepidella
(Amanita polypyramis)

Research Grade

1

5mo

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

<https://www.calvertparks.org/CNC>

Karyn is a member of the coordinating committee. In its seventh year, the objective is to explore and document biodiversity over a long weekend April 28-May 1, 2023.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2023-washington-dc-metro-area>

Summary Calvert County Observations: April 28-May 1, 2023

For the whole City Nature Challenge for the Washington DC region there were a total of 37,976 observation of 2,868 species by 1,615 observers. Within Calvert County, 45 people made 4,487 observation of 853 species. Calvert Steward Tonyia Johnson ranked as number 8 in the DC CNC.

The screenshot displays the iNaturalist Observations interface for Calvert County. At the top, there are search filters for Species and Location, along with a 'Go' button and a 'Filters' button with a notification badge. Below the filters, a summary bar shows 'Calvert' selected, with 4,487 Observations, 853 Species, 391 Identifiers, and 45 Observers. The main content area features a grid of observation cards, each with a photo, species name, scientific name, grade, and date. The cards shown are: Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus), Green Heron (Butorides virescens), Toothy Skinks (Genus Plestiodon), Princess Tree (Paulownia tomentosa), Yellow-throated Warbler (Setophaga dominica), American Goldfinch (Spinus tristis), Heptagonal Orbweaver (Gesa heptagon), and Delicate Fern Moss (Thuidium delicatulum). A speaker icon is visible in the bottom left of the grid.

HORSESHOE CRAB SURVEY: CALVERT COUNTY AND BEYOND!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/horseshoe-crab-survey-calvert-county-and-beyond>

For 2023, there were a total of 124 observation of by 85 observers throughout the Chesapeake region ,with 53 of the observation within Calvert (by 23 observers)

This project documents the distribution and abundance of horseshoe crabs during their annual mating season along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County and beyond! The area includes the entire Chesapeake Bay Shoreline in Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware. We are really interested in Calvert County sightings, but any observations along the Chesapeake are important.

PARKS FOR POLLINATORS 2023: CALVERT COUNTY

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/parks-for-pollinators-2023-calvert-county>

The Division joined other park and recreation agencies from across the country in hosting Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz events throughout the month of September.

We had the fourth highest number of observations of all the agencies participating, and our iNaturalist wizard, Tonyia Johnson, was the top observer nation-wide with 1,225 observation of 398 species. The Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz is organized by the National Recreation and Park Association. www.nrpa.org/bioblitz

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist project page for 'Parks for Pollinators 2023: Calvert County'. The page features a header with the iNaturalist logo, a search bar, and navigation links. A large banner image shows a monarch butterfly with the project title and dates (SEP 1, 2023 - SEP 30, 2023). To the right of the banner is an 'About' section with a 'Members' count of 11 and buttons for 'Edit Project' and 'Project Journal'. Below the banner is a statistics bar showing 2,454 observations, 673 species, 302 identifiers, and 98 observers, along with a 'Stats' button. The 'Recent Observations' section displays four photos of plants: Chinese Silver Grass, Late Boneset, and two instances of Slender Goldenrod. At the bottom, three columns highlight top performers: 'Most Observations' by tonyiajohnson (1,225), 'Most Species' by tonyiajohnson (398), and 'Most Observed Species' Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (59).

Observer	Observations
tonyiajohnson	1,225
mntndwm	470
maryhollinger	187
godsarchitect	58
karyn-nrd	48

Observer	Species
tonyiajohnson	398
mntndwm	233
maryhollinger	101
karyn-nrd	30
kdaniel20816	29

Species	Count
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	59
Eastern Carpenter Bee	57
Huron Sachem	53
Common Eastern Bumble Bee	43
Monarch	25

TRAININGS

Throughout 2023, several trainings and workshops were held. We partnered with The Nature Conservancy on monthly virtual identification nights. People could join a zoom event to learn about identification of different groups of organisms, then break out into small groups to identify iNaturalist observations.

- iNaturalist Training Session 1: Apr 1, 2023
- iNaturalist Training Session 2: Apr 22, 2023
- City Nature Challenge 2023 (Ward Farm Field Explorations): Apr 28, 2023
- City Nature Challenge 2023 (Grays Road Greenway Field Explorations): Apr 29, 2023
- City Nature Challenge 2023 (Flag Ponds Field Explorations): May 1, 2023
- City Nature Challenge: Identifying Observations (Part 2): May 7, 2023
- iNaturalist Training & Plant Explorations (Parks for Pollinator Explorations 2023): Sep 17, 2023
- iNaturalist Virtual ID Nights: Monthly

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION

Tonyia Johnson was recognized at the Annual Volunteer Picnic for her efforts in documenting biodiversity.

Plans to schedule an iNaturalist Bioblitz would provide an opportunity to recognize the significant achievements of our volunteers. Gifts could include Rite-in-the-Rain notebooks, stickers, or field bag.

FUTURE PLANS

- Encourage volunteers to track hours and projects
- Promote the independent nature of making observations
- Coordinate activities in Calvert County for the City Nature Challenge, April 26-29, 2024
- Schedule an iNaturalist field collection day or Bioblitz, preferably in association with one of the projects
- Expand the education and outreach activities during Parks 4 Pollinators month.

Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces



CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

2023 Annual Report

Date of Issue March 2024

CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
c/o Natural Resources Division
2880 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
(410) 535-5327

Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

