

iNaturalist Projects

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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 2020 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.

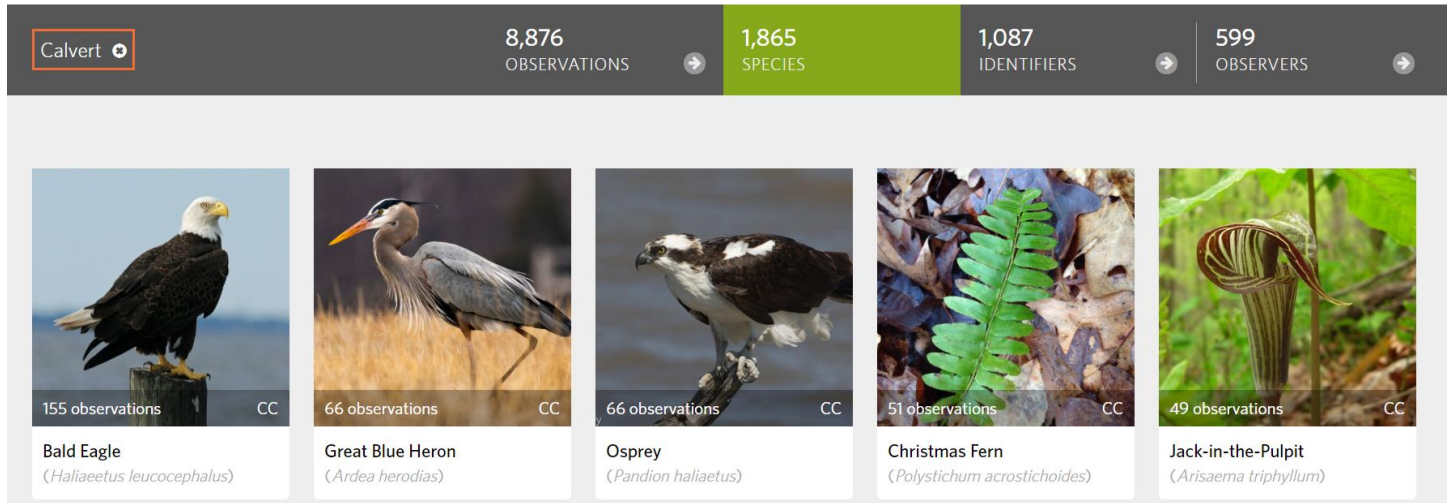
As expected, the pandemic curtailed any group activities or trainings, but iNaturalist provides a unique avenue for observing nature and engaging with other nature lovers. We held one volunteer training through Zoom, but overall depended on the individual contributions and the power of the iNaturalist project framework.

CALVERT COUNTY BIODIVERSITY

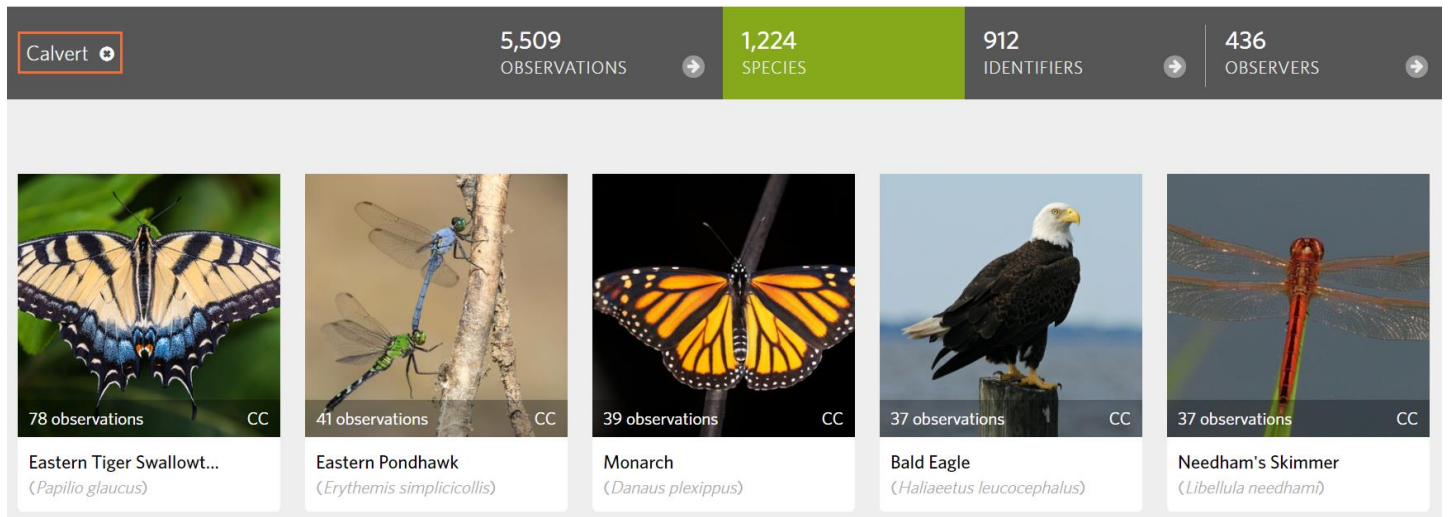
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/calvert-county-biodiversity>

This project was our first iNaturalist project and it collects all observations made within the Calvert County boundaries. Users have the option to join the project, although that is not required to have observations counted. Eighteen users have joined the project on iNaturalist. In 2020 there were 8,876 Observations of 1,865 species by 599 observers.

2020 Summary



2019 Summary



Top Ten Observers

Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	rosalie-rick	1,598	270
2	mdfamilygal	684	248
3	maryhollinger	329	167
4	jokalb	275	230
5	willet63	261	173
6	karynmolines	239	138
7	ben_springer	238	168
8	dorothy79	216	93
9	thefairylovesnature	146	89
10	jenniferh3	142	76

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

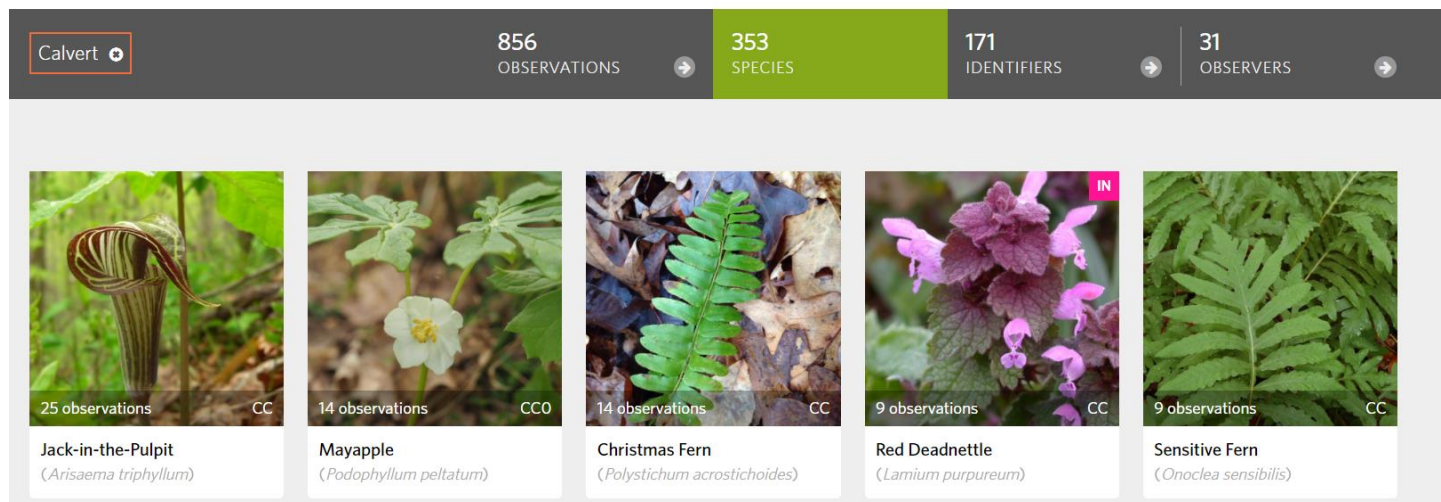
<https://www.calvertparks.org/CNC>

We were part of the coordinating committee. In its fifth year, the objective is to safely explore biodiversity April 24-27, 2020! Because of the pandemic, the challenge was expanded to the entire month of April.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-washington-dc-metro-area>

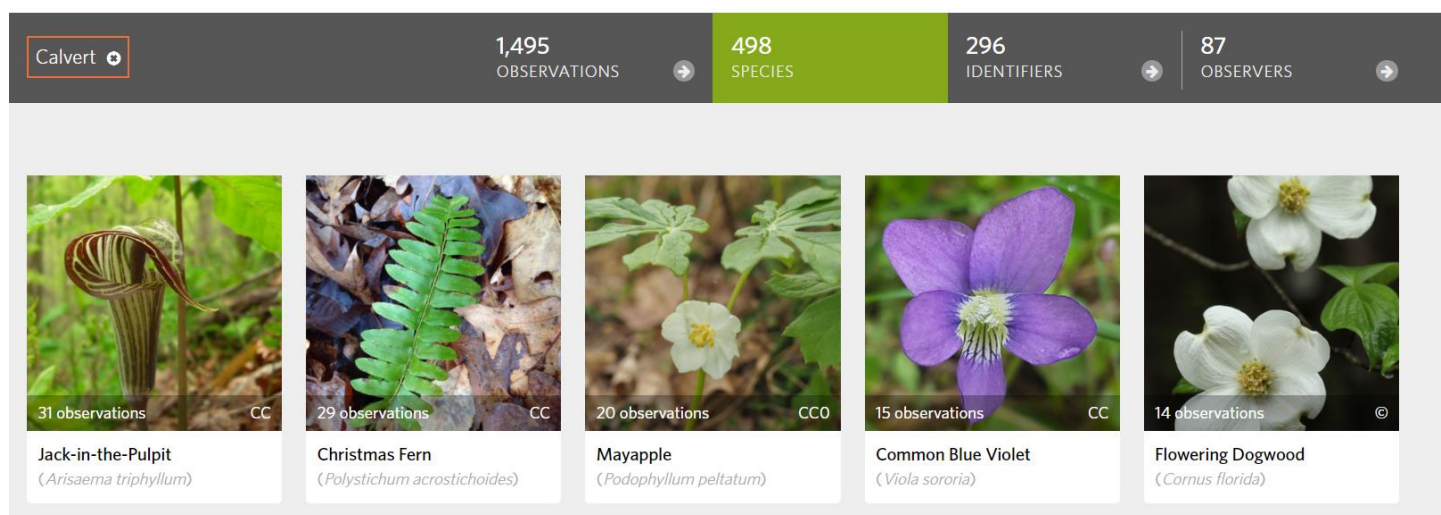
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-month-april-2020-washington-dc-metro-area>

Summary Calvert County Observations: April 24-27, 2020



For the whole City Nature Challenge for the Washington DC region there were a total of 28,182 observation of 2,393 species by 1,652 observers.

Summary Calvert County Observations: Month of April 2020



For the whole City Nature Challenge Month for the Washington DC region there were a total of 69,815 observation of 3,546 species by 4,286 observers.

Calvert County Top Observers

April 24-27, 2020

Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	mdfamilygal	293	103
2	karynmolines	217	128
3	willet63	135	104
4	melissa36	121	56
5	rosalie-rick	13	11
6	stealesj	13	9
7	jimmooore	10	9
8	waynesweeds	7	7
9	jerfein	5	5
10	kaylabrennan	5	2

Month of April

Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	mdfamilygal	293	103
2	karynmolines	221	130
3	willet63	198	143
4	dorothy79	159	60
5	melissa36	133	61
6	rosalie-rick	106	55
7	abbeybirch	40	23
8	el011	23	16
9	jasoneavery	17	16
10	birgitsharp	16	3

2019 Summary

Calvert

1,084
OBSERVATIONS

384
SPECIES

196
IDENTIFIERS

40
OBSERVERS

15 observations

CC

Showy Orchis
(*Galearis spectabilis*)

13 observations

CC

American Holly
(*Ilex opaca*)

11 observations

CC

Virginia Creeper
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

10 observations

CC0

Mayapple
(*Podophyllum peltatum*)

10 observations

CC

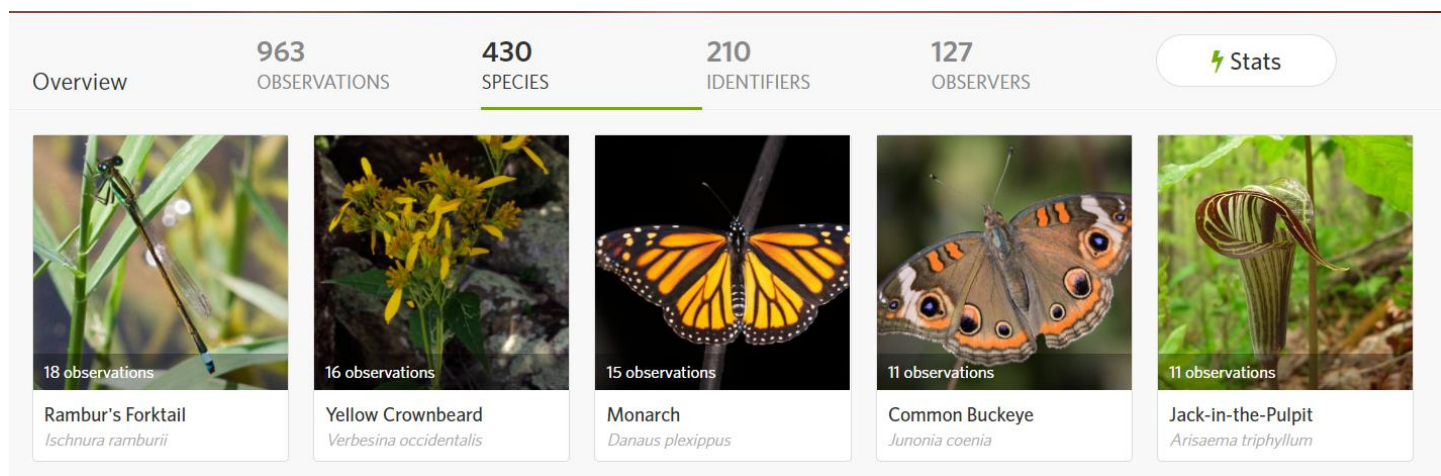
Common Pawpaw
(*Asimina triloba*)

For the whole City Nature Challenge for the Washington DC region there were a total of 30,262 observation of 2,165 species by 1,336 observers.

PARKS FOR POLLINATORS 2020: CALVERT COUNTY

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/parks-for-pollinators-2020-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. The Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz is organized by the National Recreation and Park Association. www.nrpa.org/bioblitz



HORSESHOE CRAB SURVEY: CALVERT COUNTY AND BEYOND!

For 2020 there were a total of 87 observation of by 63 observers throughout the Chesapeake region ,with 22 observation within Calvert (by 12 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.

VOLUNTEERS

Date	Opportunity	Hours	Volunteers
9/8/2020	iNaturalist Training	5	5
September	Parks for Pollinators	41	4

Karen Anderson
Grace Hanners
Mary Hollinger
Jennifer Horsmon
Karen Ritchie
Carol Russell
Jim Tetlow

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 30-May 3
- Schedule an iNaturalist field collection day or Bioblitz, preferably in association with one of the projects
- Develop a strategy for analyzing data from the observations

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

2020 Annual Report

Date of Issue February 2021

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

