



SPRING SPECTACLES: When & Where to Find Jaw-dropping BIRDS, BLOOMS, & BEASTS in the Mid-Atlantic

Barbara J. Saffir

3/15/22 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

GUIDEBOOKS

A Year Across Maryland: A Week-by-Week Guide, MacKay, Hopkins University Press, 2013

Field Guide to the Natural World of Washington, DC, Youth, Hopkins University Press, 2014

Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area, Fleming, et al, Hopkins University Press, 1995

Walking Washington, DC, Barbara J. Saffir, Wilderness Press, second printing, 2018

NATURE'S MAGICAL MOMENTS CALENDAR

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>JAN. Bald eagles start nesting
Cranefly orchids display purple & green leaves
Tundra swans & diving ducks overwinter
Juncos & white-throated sparrows arrive
Skunk cabbage transforms from female to male</p> <p>FEB. Flying squirrels huddle in trees hollows and squirrel boxes
Maple syruping heats up
Hunt for multi-million-year-old sharks' teeth & other fossils
Long-tailed salamanders breed (over 50 species in VA)
Great blue herons return to heronries</p> <p>MAR. Wood frogs mate & spring peeper frogs "wail"
Black-crowned night herons return to National Zoo
Ospreys return and snow geese begin to depart
Woodcocks display
Hepatica blooms</p> <p>APR. Flower explosion includes Virginia bluebells
Great blue herons & cormorants nest at Great Falls
Ruby-throated hummingbirds return
National Arboretum azaleas start blooming
Morel mushroom hunting</p> <p>MAY Millions of trillium carpet Thompson WMA
Horseshoe crab & shorebird frenzy on DE beaches
Orchids, mountain laurels, & pitcher plants bloom
Peak migration of more than 30 warblers
Diamondback terrapins lay eggs</p> <p>JUNE Fawns born
Mulberries and blueberries ripen
Common milkweed & wild rhododendrons bloom
Baby birds abound
Fireflies in DMV (synchronous in NC/SC)</p> | <p>JULY Lotuses peak
Sunflowers peak
Mating timber rattlesnakes
Passionflowers & hibiscus bloom
Blackberries ripen</p> <p>AUG. American goldfinches nest
Shorebird migration
Ghost crabs patrol beaches
Jewelweed (hummer magnet) blooms
Bats put on show at dusk</p> <p>SEPT. Paw paw fruit ripens
Monarch butterflies migrate
Chimney swifts flock
Earthquake fault visible at National Zoo
Gray catbirds gobble pokeweed berries</p> <p>OCT. Sharp-shinned hawks migrate
Fringed gentians bloom
Brook trout spawn
Fall color peaks
Dig for fossils at MD's Dinosaur Park</p> <p>NOV. Fall-blooming camellias
Bald eagles mass at Conowingo Dam
Whitetail deer rut
Winter ducks arrive
Persimmons turn edible</p> <p>DEC. Saw whet owls visit
Asiatic bittersweet fruits ripen
Snow buntings hang out by manure
Christmas fern brightens forests
Wild mistletoe stands out in trees</p> |
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BIRDING & WILDLIFE TRAILS

Birder's Guide to Maryland & DC: <https://birdersguidemdc.org>

Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/vbwt>

Delaware Birding Trail: <http://www.delawarebirdingtrail.com>

SOME HANDY APPS & WEBSITES

Merlin/Cornell/eBird: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>

iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org>

Virginia Birding Listserv: <https://www.freelists.org/list/va-bird>

GAIA maps: <https://www.gaiagps.com> (free, fairly accurate map app)

Flickr photos: <https://www.flickr.com> (free photo sharing, membership NOT required)

iBird Pro Guide to Birds: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ibird-pro-guide-to-birds/id308018823>

eBird: <https://ebird.org>

"The Warbler Guide:" http://www.thewarblerguide.com/uploads/9/5/6/8/95684880/the_warbler_guide_visual_finders.pdf

SELECTED HOTSPOTS

VIRGINIA

[Bull Run Regional Park](#)
[Burnside Farms](#)
[Chincoteague NWR](#)
[Cub Run Stream Valley](#)
[Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve](#)
[Fort Bennett](#)
[Fort C.F. Smith](#)
[G. Richard Thompson WMA](#)
[Green Spring Gardens](#)
[Huntley Meadows Park](#)
[Mason Neck State Park](#)
[Meadowlark Botanical Gardens](#)
[Monticello Park](#)
[Ocoquan Bay NWR](#)
[Riverbend Park](#)
[Shenandoah River State Park](#)
[Sky Meadows State Park](#)
[W&OD Trail](#)

MARYLAND

[Assateague Island Nat'l Seashore](#)
[Battle Creek Cypress Swamp](#)
[Black Hill Regional Park](#)
[Blackwater NWR](#)
[Brookside Gardens/Nature Ctr](#)
[Conowingo Dam](#)
[Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center](#)
[Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary](#)
[Kenwood cherry trees, Bethesda](#)
[McKee-Beshers WMA](#)
[North Point State Park](#)
[Patuxent Research Refuge](#)
[Patuxent River Park](#)
[Sherwood Gardens](#)
[Smithsonian Environmental Research Center](#)
[Suitland Bog](#)
[Susquehanna State Park](#)

DC

[C&O Canal](#)
[Dumbarton Oaks Gardens](#)
[Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens](#)
[Kingman & Heritage Islands](#)
[National Mall](#)
[Rock Creek Park](#)
[Theodore Roosevelt Island](#)
[U.S. Botanical Garden](#)
[U.S. National Arboretum](#)

DE

[Bombay Hook NWR](#)
[Cape Henlopen State Park](#)
[DE Seashore State Park](#)
[Prime Hook NWR](#)