

Signs of Spring Bingo Guide

Some facts and hints to help you on your way!

Beech Tree:	Beech trees wait all winter to drop their leaves in the spring right before new leaves appear. <i>Hint: Look for pale gold leaves, which will be replaced by soft green growth later in the month.</i>
Betelgeuse:	This red giant, a type of star, has dimmed significantly over the past months, generating a buzz of astronomical intrigue. <i>Hint: Look for the constellation Orion, with his three-starred sword and belt, then scan upwards for a red star near his "head."</i>
Black-Capped Chickadee:	Maine's state bird, the Black-Capped Chickadee is a year-round resident and common bird feeder visitor. <i>Hint: Scan the branches of nearby trees anytime you hear "chicka-dee-dee-dee!"</i>
Crow:	While common, crows are among nature's smartest birds, capable of using tools and recognizing faces. <i>Hint: Listen for a loud "caw!"</i>
Full Moon:	The "Pink Moon," named after the color of blooming spring flowers, will reach full on April 7th. <i>Hint: Weather-permitting, just head outside and look up!</i>
Green Cattail:	Cat-tails regenerate each year, sending up new shoots among the dried out stems and leaves from previous years. <i>Hint: Check at the base of leftovers from last season for new, green shoots.</i>
Lilac Bloom:	Lilac blooms typically emerge a couple weeks after leaves, providing a second data point for the start of spring. <i>Hint: If you found the leaves already, check back 2-3 weeks later for blossoms.</i>
Lilac Leaf:	Lilac leaves and blooms are tracked by scientists accross the country as a proven indicator of the start of spring. <i>Hint: One of the earliest species to put out leaves; check bushes and hedgerows for signs of life.</i>
Lyrid Meteor Shower:	Meteor showers occur when the earth, usually on an annual basis, passes through debris left by a comet. <i>Hint: Meteors are easier to see when there is no moon in the sky - keep an eye out in the early morning of April 20-24.</i>
Maple Tree Flowers:	Different species of maple will produce different color flowers in spring. <i>Hint: Look for drooping flowers in different colors.</i>
Migrating Geese:	Geese are among the easiest birds to recognize as they pass high overhead. <i>Hint: Look up when you hear them, and watch for flocks moving up the coast.</i>
Oak Tree Leaves:	This hardwood tree grows yellow flowers and characteristic, multi-lobed leaves in the spring. <i>Hint: Follow the acorns!</i>
Outside Air Temperature Above 60° F:	Daytime high temperatures drift slowly upwards as our days get longer and the sun has more time to warm the earth. <i>Hint: Keep an eye out over the course of the day to determine the highest point.</i>

Patch of Snow:	In the shadiest spots and rockiest crevices, snow can survive into May, even here in Southern Maine! <i>Hint: If your yard gets a lot of sun, try a shadier park or preserve nearby.</i>
Pleiades:	A dense constellation of stars, through which Venus will travel as it peaks this month. <i>Hint: If you found Orion, follow his bow to the right, past V-shaped Taurus, to find this cluster.</i>
Rabbit or Hare:	Snowshoe hare shed their coats in spring, returning to brown for better camoflaug. <i>Hint: These are crepuscular, so look at dawn and dusk, when they're more active.</i>
Red-Winged Blackbird:	Red-Winged Blackbirds are one of the first bird species to return in spring. <i>Hint: Listen for a song, and watch for flashes of red as it flies by. Wetlands are your best bet.</i>
Redback Salamander:	Maine's most abundant salamander emerges from underground dormancy in the spring to mate in marshes and vernal pools. <i>Hint: Look under rocks and logs, where moisture stays trapped during the day.</i>
Robin:	Robins are another species of bird that returns early in spring. <i>Hint: Keep an eye on lawns and fields, especially on warmer days when insects or worms are more active.</i>
Satellite:	Believe it or not, satellites can be easy to spot with the naked eye. <i>Hint: Easiest to spot about an hour after sunset, or an hour before dawn, when they catch the setting/rising sun from their orbits.</i>
Sit Spot:	Find a spot to sit and observe the nature around you. What do you notice? <i>Hint: You can return to this same spot throughout the spring (and later) to track changes over time.</i>
Spotted Salamander:	These salamanders are less common than Redback, but oftentimes larger and easier to spot. <i>Hint: To maximize your chances, look closer to vernal pools where they might be headed to mate.</i>
Spring Peeper:	Perhaps the the most recognizable sound of spring, these frogs flock to freshwater ponds and marshes each spring in hopes of finding a mate. <i>Hint: Easy to detect with your ears, but harder to spot: look for low branches overhanging shallow water.</i>
Venus:	This planet happens to be at it's brightest point in an eight-year cycle, peaking on April 28th. <i>Hint: At twilight, look towards the northwest - Venus will be one of the brightest objects in the sky.</i>
White-Tailed Deer:	A common sight in Southern Maine, keep an eye out for young calves as we move into May. <i>Hint: You're more likely to spot them near sections of woodland, especially if there are food sources nearby.</i>

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Questions or comments? Email education@capelandtrust.org