

The Pussywillows

The willow tree's flowers also bloom in early spring, but we don't call them flowers, but catkins or pussywillows. They are small, grey-brown and feel soft to the touch. Stroking a catkin feels like petting a kitten.










Date first seen: _____







Place first seen: _____






Springwatch Puzzle






Here are six signs of Spring. Can you guess them all?
(The first letter of each picture will give you the clue.)






 +  +  +  =

 +  +  =

 +  +  +  +  +  =

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 +  +  +  +  =



Frog

Honey

Bee

Flower

Birds

March



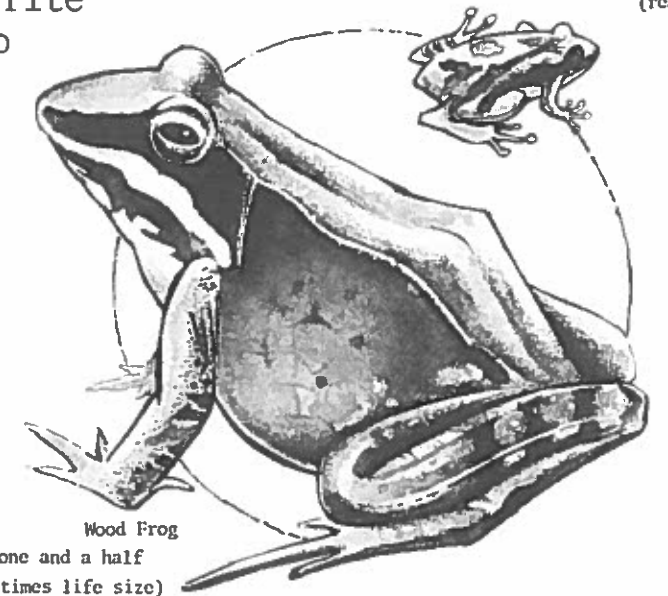
Nova Scotia Museum 1747 Summer Street Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6, Phone 429-1010

Springwatch

Spring arrives about March 21 each year. In March, April and May you can see many plants and animals again after the long, cold winter. These are the signs of spring.

Be a spring detective. Make a record of the signs of spring. Be sure to write the date and place you see them so you can check if there are any changes next year. Look for the same sign of spring in a valley and on the top of a hill. Does the sign come first in the valley or on the hill? Why?

Show your work to people living in other parts of Nova Scotia. Are your dates the same as theirs? Did they find the same signs?



Spring Peeper (real size)

Wood Frog (one and a half times life size)

In Nova Scotia, the first frogs to come out of their sleepy hibernation are Wood Frogs and Spring Peepers. They sleep all winter in safe dark places in the woods.

The Wood Frog

Wood Frogs are brown and about 4 cm long. Their call is a quack, like a duck. They have dark brown patches on their faces, like a hallowe'en mask.

Date first seen: _____

Place first seen: _____

The Spring Peeper

Spring Peepers are brown, too, but much smaller, about 2 cm long. They have a black mark like a broken X on their backs. In late April they call to each other, saying 'peep, peep, peep'.

Date first seen: _____

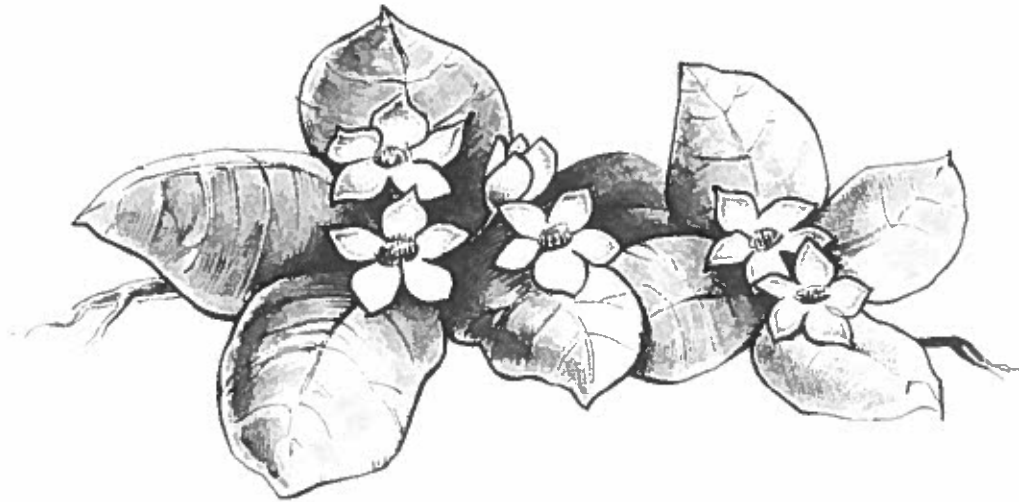
Place first seen: _____

The Mayflower

Mayflowers bloom as soon as the snow melts – often before the month of May! The small pink-and-white flowers bloom close to the ground, among the dead leaves. They smell wonderful. The Mayflower is the provincial flower of Nova Scotia.

Date first seen: _____

Place first seen: _____



The Butterfly

Warm sunny days wake up butterflies. Some butterflies hibernate, or sleep, all winter long; they don't even wake up to eat. Butterflies can hibernate in attics or hollow trees, under piles of rocks, or in empty cans in garbage dumps.

In spring they lay their eggs on plants. The eggs hatch into caterpillars which eat the plants.

Date first seen: _____

Place first seen: _____

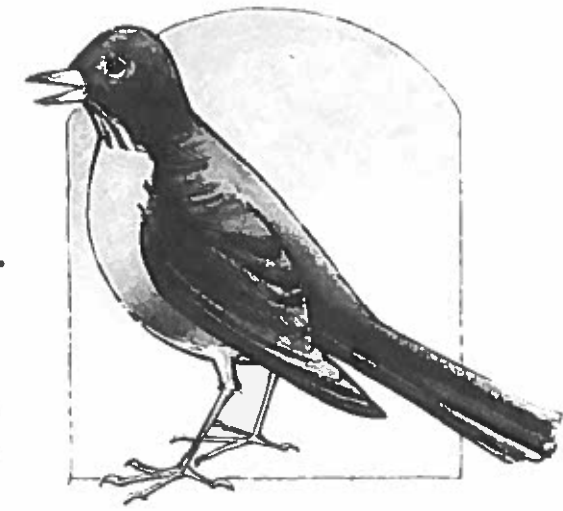


The Robin

Some robins spend the winter here, but most fly South and come back here in early April. You can tell them by their orange-red breast. They live in town and city gardens, on farms and in the woods. They love to eat worms.

Date first seen: _____

Place first seen: _____



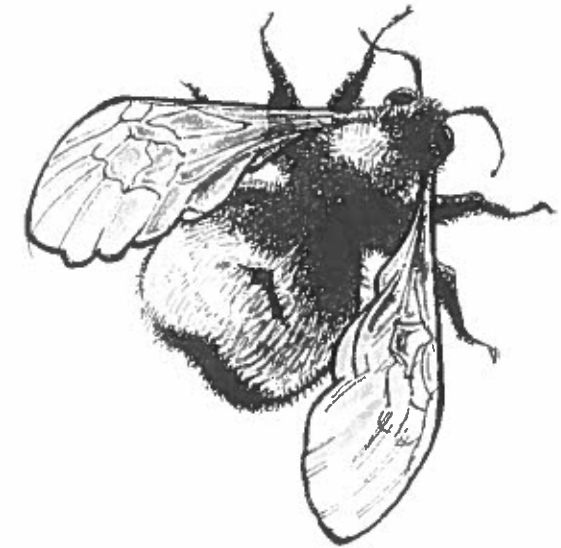
The Bumblebee

You can only find Queen bumblebees in spring. They hibernated in a safe place all winter. The other bumblebees died.

The Queen bumblebee builds a new nest every spring, under the ground or in a bunch of dry grass. Sometimes she uses a mouse nest or a chipmunk burrow underground to make a home. She lays her eggs and gives her babies honey to eat.

Date first seen: _____

Place first seen: _____



The Coltsfoot

Coltsfoot is another early spring bloomer. Its little yellow flowers can be found along roadsides and look a bit like dandelions. The flowers bloom before the leaves come out.

The stem of the coltsfoot is thick and hairy, just like the leg of a colt.

A colt is a young horse.

Date first seen: _____

Place first seen: _____

