



SPRING 2021 CHECKLIST

PLANTS AND INSECTS

- Flowering Red Maples
- Skunk Cabbage emerging in wetlands. Their unpleasant odor will attract pollinators such as flies and beetles
- Shadbush (or Serviceberry) white blossoms in wet woodlands
- Trillium blooming on the forest floor
- Ferns unfurling “fiddleheads”
- Large pink blooms of the lady slipper orchid
- Bumblebee queens flying in a zigzag pattern
- Mourning cloak butterflies

BIRDS

- Tom turkeys gobbling and displaying. They will fan their tails and drag their wings while they strut back and forth. Hens will be close by and possibly hidden from view
- Tree swallows as they scout for nest boxes and tree cavities
- American Woodcock’s in their nuptial flights. Listen for their distinctive “peee-nt” call and whistle of wing tips around fields and forest edges at dusk.
- Ruby-throated hummingbirds feeding from sap wells made by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in late April. Put up a hummingbird feeder if you like their company.
- Black-capped Chickadees will sing their sweet fee-bee fee-bee call as they prepare for nesting season.
- Mourning Doves cooing from a perch.
- Listen for Gray Catbird’s feline-like meowing

MAMMALS

- Red fox kits emerged from their den
- Grey squirrels
- Chipmunks
- Raccoons
- Coyote (or their scat)

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

- Wood frogs quacking
- High pitched whistles of spring peepers
- Spotted salamanders
- Egg masses in vernal pools
- Painted turtles basking on logs and rocks

MOON AND STARS

- Earth Day is April 22ND! Send us photos on how you celebrated locally in your yard.
- Full SUPER MOON on April 27th
- The Lyrid meteor shower peaks mid-late April
- Venus is often brightest in late April. Look for it in the western sky after sunset

FELLOW NATURE LOVERS

- Someone using binoculars
- Someone going for a walk
- Someone taking a photo
- Someone picking up litter from their yard
- Someone walking their dog on a leash

Email photos and questions to landstewards@lexingtonma.gov

Connect with other nature enthusiasts through online platforms such as [iNaturalist](#) and [eBird](#)