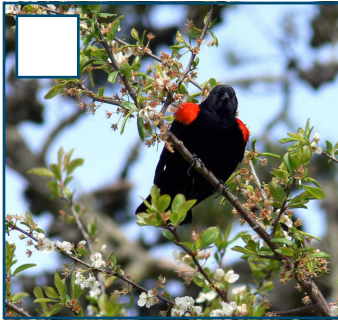


SIGNS OF SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge



Red-winged Blackbirds

Listen for the shrill, distinctive call of red-winged blackbirds returning to their nesting grounds in the marshes. Or, watch for the tell-tale flash of red.

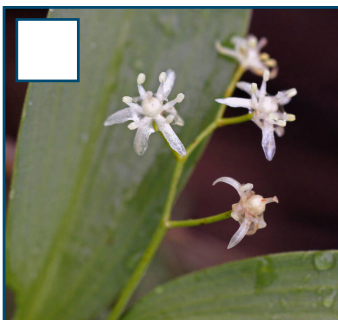
Hint: Try the marsh overlook on the Hellcat Boardwalk.



Raptor Migration

Watch for raptors soaring and swooping above. The refuge is one of the biggest spring hawk migration sites in New England, including over 600 American kestrels.

Hint: Stop by Lot 1 to visit the Eastern Hawk Watch group.



Early Wildflower Blooms

Keep an eye out for early spring flowers that quickly disappear after they've bloomed. These include star-flowered lily of the valley and solomon's seal.

Hint: Stroll the Pines Trail and look near sticks and leaf litter.



Bushes in Bloom

Throughout the spring, enjoy weeks of cascading flowers beginning with shadbush, followed by beach plum, and later black cherries.

Hint: Check out the dunes and along the Refuge Road.



Dancing Woodcocks

Around twilight, watch the sky for male woodcocks performing their elaborate sky dance in hopes of attracting a mate. Or, listen for the nasally 'peent' calls.

Hint: Look near the shrub areas by Bill Forward, past Hellcat.



Showy Ducks

Look out for male ducks showing off bright spring colors in hopes of attracting a mate. These include the northern pintail and blue-winged teals.

Hint: Try the salt pannes, or join 'Intro to Ducks' April 19 & 20



Shadbush Flowering

Look for the showy blooms of shadbush, also known as serviceberry. These early blooms provide critical food to species emerging from hibernation or returning from migration.

Hint: Abundant on the refuge!



Towhees Calling

Listen for towhees singing as they migrate back to the refuge to set up breeding and nesting territories. It sounds a bit like "drink-your-tea."

Hint: Listen along the forested areas of the Hellcat Boardwalk.



Frogs & Toads Singing

As temps rise, listen for the evening chorus of frogs and toads calling out for a mate. This includes spadefoot toads, a threatened species that thrives on the refuge!

Hint: Try the Lot 2 overlook, near the cranberry bogs.



Invasive Honeysuckle

Watch for bush honeysuckle developing leaves before many native shrubs. This invasive plant out-competes native species and shades out native wildflowers.

Hint: Look near the road edge.