

Signs of Summer

The sun is shining and life is blooming and growing.
Use your senses to take it all in!



Taking flight

Young birds are to leaving the nest as they learn to fly. They may spend some time on the ground before they've mastered flight. If you see a mostly feathered bird on the ground, it's best to leave it – its parents are probably nearby and will continue to feed it. If you're unsure, call a wildlife rescue organisation.



A berry buffet

Numerous plants put out their seeds wrapped in a sweet, fleshy covering. The berry ripens when the seeds are mature and this sugary treat encourages animals to eat the berries and spread the seeds when they excrete them. From birds to bears, animals large and small take part in this summer feast.



Reptiles on the go

Cold-blooded reptiles are most active in warm weather, so summer is their time! The garter snake is a gardener's friend and will eat pests such as grasshoppers, slugs, grubs, and rodents. To encourage them to take up residence in your garden, add a pile of flat stones where they can bask and hide.



Fire!

In hot, dry summer weather, it's easy for wildfires to start from lightning strikes or human activity. Fires are destructive, but also renewing. Grasslands cleared by fire will sprout anew. Jack and lodgepole pines have cones protected by a waxy layer that require the heat of fire to release their seeds.



Bats above

On summer nights, watch for the dark shapes of bats flitting across the sky. These nocturnal hunters feed on the many insects that are active in warm weather. Bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes an hour and often consume their body weight in insects every night!



Mini musicians

The chirping of crickets and grasshoppers is part of the summer soundtrack. Both types of insects attract mates with chirping sounds made by rubbing one part of their body against another. Grasshoppers (left) are active during the day while crickets (right) tend to 'sing' in the evening.



Butterfly ballet

For caterpillars, summer is a time of great change. When a caterpillar becomes mature, it will attach itself to a stem with silk. The outer layer of its body will harden into a chrysalis while inside, it will undergo a body redesign called "metamorphosis". It will emerge from the chrysalis as a butterfly and fly off to find a mate.



Learning the ropes

For bear cubs and other mammals born in the spring, their first summer is all about learning. From their mother they will learn what to eat and where to find it within their territory. Playing with siblings trains strength and agility. Avoid getting close to young animals as mothers can be very protective.



Water wanted

As summer progresses, seasonal wetlands shrink and vanish. As a result, remaining bodies of water will attract higher concentrations of animals – perfect for wildlife viewing. Set up a blind or simply sit quietly and watch as a diversity of visitors come by for a drink.

Summer is buzzing!

Summer is filled with a colourful spectrum of insects crawling, flying, and eating your picnic.
Look up, down, over, and under to see insects everywhere!



Red

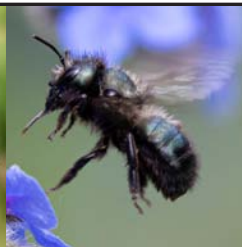
Cardinal Meadowhawk
and
Seven Spot Ladybug

Orange

Woodland Skipper
and
Mottled Tiger Moth Caterpillar

Yellow

Western Yellowjacket
and
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail



Green

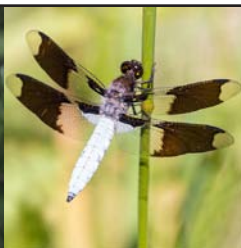
Polyphemus Moth Caterpillar
and
Jewel Beetle

Blue

Tule Bluet Damselfly
and
Blue Orchard Mason Bee

Blue-Violet

Northern Blue Butterfly
and
Elephant Hawk Moth



Brown

Water Strider
and
European Earwig

Black

Black Carpenter Ant
and
Field Cricket

White

Pine White Butterfly
and
Common Whitetail Skimmer