



National Wildlife Week - March 15-21, 2010

Family Activity Passport

Be Out There™ At Home, School, and Play

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) wants America's kids to take a walk on the wild side this March—and stay there, for their health and well-being! [National Wildlife Week's official website](#) offers resources for families to make spending time outdoors educational and entertaining, such as local plant and animal watch lists and ideas to help protect wildlife habitats.

National Wildlife Week is an important celebration of NWF's Be Out There campaign to [help get families and communities outside](#). By providing leadership, support, and practical tools, NWF creates a generation of happier, healthier children with love and responsibility for the environment.

[Find out more about Be Out There.](#) Get Wild, Child!

What To Do

1. Spend an extra hour this week outside with your children observing wildlife, playing good old-fashioned games, or doing other outdoor activities. Consider this your passport to outdoor adventure!

Check out more fun activities in the coming weeks at www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Activities.aspx.

2. Capture the wildlife in your neighborhood - with your camera! Children can enter the youth competition in the [National Wildlife Federation Photo Contest](#)
3. Spread the word and help grow the Be Out There movement.



A WEEK OF WILDLIFE - NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST

During your outdoor exploration, take notes. Share your sightings and photos online with [Wildlife Watch](#).

March 15th Monday for Mammals

- ◆ Hibernating mammals come out in spring. Try to count as many kinds of
- ◆ [Find a den/shelter](#) used by groundhogs, squirrels, foxes or other mammals.
- ◆ Look on the ground for animal tracks. Muddy soil is a good place to find tracks.
- ◆ In the evening, try to spot a bat in flight. Bats are mammals too. They help people by eating pesky insects!

Watch for:

- Groundhogs
- Chipmunks
- Foxes
- Deer

March 16th Tuesday Tweets

- ◆ [Go on a nature hike and try to spot as many kinds of birds as possible](#). Have you noticed any new birds that weren't around in winter?
- ◆ In spring, many birds build nests and lay eggs. Explore your neighborhood and look for different nests.
- ◆ Listen for bird calls. What do the bird songs sound like? Can you repeat the calls?
- ◆ After birdwatching, draw a picture of a bird you saw. How many different colors can you find on birds?

Watch for:

- Raptors
- Cardinals
- Woodpeckers

March 17th Wednesday In The Woods

- ◆ Touch the bark of different trees. Some might feel smooth, bumpy or scaly. Does the tree bark remind you of anything?
- ◆ Evergreen needles and pine cones last through the winter. Compare the different needles of trees.
- ◆ [Some trees grow new leaves each year](#). Try to collect samples of many types of leaves!
- ◆ If you live in a warmer area, can you see flower buds?

Watch for:

- Evergreen Trees
- Skunk Cabbage
- Spring Beauty

March 18th Thursday's Tiny Treasures

- ◆ [Dig in soil and under rocks to look for hidden insects](#). How many different insects do you see? What do you think they are doing on the ground?
- ◆ Do you notice any bees, butterflies or other flying insects? Where are they headed?
- ◆ If you have a magnifying glass, try to get a closer look at an insect. Can you describe its body?

Watch for:

- Butterflies
- Worms
- Beetles
- Spiders

March 19th Friday With Frogs

- ◆ Frogs are most active in the evening so try to head out when the sun is setting. Visit your neighborhood pond.
- ◆ Listen for frog calls. How many different species do you hear? Why do you think they make different calls?
- ◆ Now try to find frogs with your eyes. What are they doing? Do you see frogs on land and in the water?

Watch for:

- Spring Peepers
- Northern-Leopard Frogs
- Wood Frogs
- Cricket Frogs



A WEEK OF WILDLIFE - NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST

OBSERVATION PAGE

Name: _____

March 15th
Monday for
Mammals

March 16th
Tuesday
Tweets

March 17th
Wednesday
In The Woods

March 18th
Thursday's
Tiny Treasures

March 19th
Friday With
Frogs



GET DIRTY – GARDENING FOR KIDS (AND BUTTERFLIES)

Continue your “Week of Wildlife” adventure by [gardening for wildlife](#).

[Gardening is the perfect activity for families](#) to do together, plus kids love it! Don't have a yard? Consider connecting with your local Parks and Recreation Department to learn about community gardens and restoration projects near you.

Did you know?

The brilliant orange and black [Monarch Butterfly](#) (Genus: *Danaus*; Species: *plexippus*) are among the most easily recognizable of the butterfly species which call the Americas home. Their migration takes them as far north as Canada and, during the winter months, as far south as Mexico City. A single monarch can travel hundreds to thousands of miles!

Monarchs are truly spectacular migrants, because the butterflies know the correct direction to migrate even though they have never made the journey before. They follow an internal "compass" that points them in the right direction each spring and fall. The monarch migration is one of the greatest natural phenomena in the insect world. More than 700 species of butterflies are found in North America. Listed below are some easy ideas for how your family can attract butterflies, including Monarchs, to your yard or community.



Monique Rivera-Rogers

Create a Butterfly Garden

1. **Provide flowers to feed adults** - Dense "clusters" of small flowers such as zinnias, marigolds, tithonia, buddleia, milkweeds, verbenas, and many mint family plants generally work well. Do not plant butterfly bush. Even with its catchy name and effectiveness for attracting butterflies, the plant is invasive in many parts of the country and is increasingly becoming a problem.
2. **Plant good nectar sources in the sun** - Your key butterfly nectar source plants should receive full sun from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Butterfly adults generally feed only in the sun. If sun is limited in your landscape, try adding butterfly nectar sources to the vegetable garden.
3. **Say "No!" to insecticides** - Insecticides such as malathion, Sevin, and diazinon are marketed to kill insects. Don't use these materials in or near the butterfly garden or, even better, anywhere on your property. Even "benign" insecticides, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis*, are lethal to butterflies (while caterpillars).
4. **Feed butterfly caterpillars** - If you don't "grow" caterpillars, there will be no adults. Bringing caterpillar foods into your garden can greatly increase your chances of attracting unusual and uncommon butterflies, while giving you yet another reason to plant an increasing variety of native plants. In many cases, caterpillars of a species feed on only a very limited variety of plants. Most butterfly caterpillars never cause the leaf damage we associate with some moth caterpillars such as bagworms, tent caterpillars, or gypsy moths.

Find more ideas on [gardening for butterflies](#) and [tips to develop your child's green thumb](#).

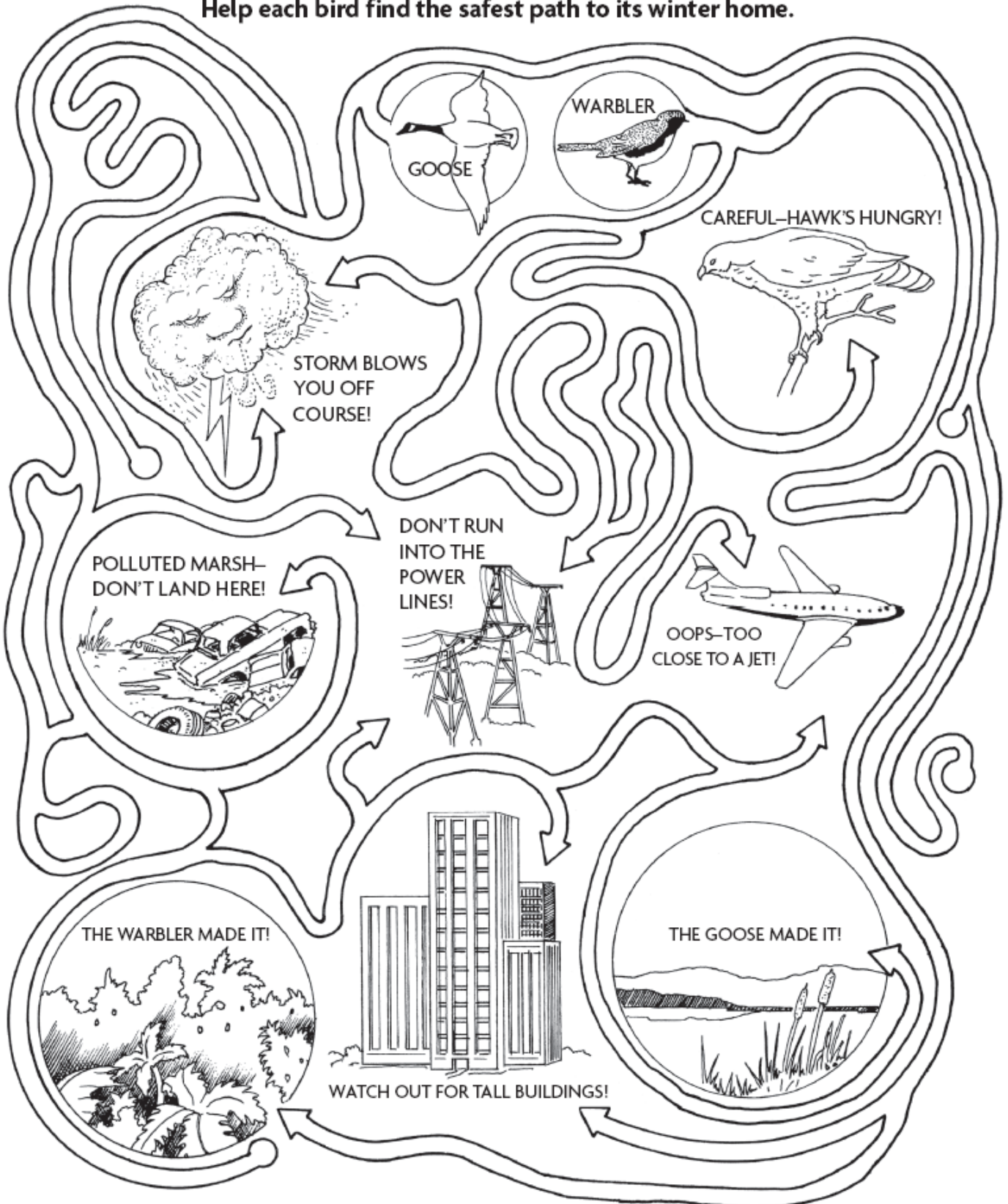
Sources: Monarch Watch (www.monarchwatch.org/biology/cycle1.htm); World Wildlife Fund (www.worldwildlife.org/species/finder/monarchbutterflies/monarchbutterflies.html); University of Michigan's Animal Diversity Web (http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Danaus_plexippus.html); NatureWorks (www.nhptv.org/Natureworks/monarch.htm); Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America. Evans, Arthur V. Foreword by Craig Tufts. New York: Sterling Publishing, 2007.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK - March 15-21, 2010

Migration Maze

Help each bird find the safest path to its winter home.





NWF AFFILIATES - NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Forest &
Park Association
Rockfall, CT
860-346-2372
www.ctwoodlands.org

DELAWARE

Delaware Nature Society
Hockessin, DE
302-239-2334
www.delawarenaturesociety.org

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Earth Conservation Corps
Washington, DC
202-479-6710
www.ecc1.org

ILLINOIS

Prairie Rivers Network
Champaign, IL
217-344-2371
www.prairierivers.org

INDIANA

Indiana Wildlife Federation
Zionsville, IN
317-875-9453
www.indianawildlife.org

KENTUCKY

League of Kentucky Sportsmen
Wilmore, KY
502-276-3518
www.kentuckysportsmen.com

MAINE

Natural Resources Council of Maine
Augusta, ME
207-622-3101
www.maineenvironment.org

MASSACHUSETTS

Environmental League
of Massachusetts
Boston, MA
617-742-2553
www.environmentalleague.org

MICHIGAN

Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Lansing, MI
517-371-1041
www.mucc.org

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Conservation Federation
Saint Paul, MN
651-690-3077
www.mncf.org

MISSOURI

Conservation Federation of Missouri
Jefferson City, MO
573-634-2322
www.confedmo.com

NEW YORK

Environmental Advocates
of New York
Albany, NY
518-462-5526
www.eany.org

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Wildlife Federation
Raleigh, NC
919-833-1923
www.ncwf.org

OHIO

League of Ohio Sportsmen
Columbus, OH
614-268-9924
www.leagueofohiosportsmen.org

PENNSYLVANIA

Penn Future
Harrisburg, PA
717-214-7920
www.pennfuture.org

RHODE ISLAND

Environment Council
of Rhode Island
Providence, RI
401-621-8048
www.environmentcouncilri.org

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Wildlife Federation
Nashville, TN
615-353-1133
www.tnwf.org

VIRGINIA

Virginia Conservation Network
Richmond, VA
804-644-0283
www.vcnva.org

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Poynette, WI
608-635-2742
www.wiwf.org

Questions about National Wildlife Week:

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