

Calendar of Firsts

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Preface



You may have never heard of a Calendar of Firsts, but you probably have come across someone using one in some form. A wide range of people use one, -the professional biologist in the field noting the seasonal growth of milkweed, as well as your grandmother who watches wildlife out her kitchen window. The practice of noting the times, seasons, and days of the changing of the seasons of nature is what the biologist and your grandmother are doing. Often they have some way to record their observations.

I have seen biologists studying bats pull a small notebook from their front pocket and jot down the day and time of sighting. I've seen a grandmother jot down in her 'Backyard Birds of North America' field guide the date that she spotted the first spring robin in her front yard. There, on the pages of her guide, is a smattering of previous yearly dates from past returns of welcome robin. Both are recording the date and sighting for future reference, for future remembrance, and for today's pleasure.

This Calendar of First fosters this same practice- the time tested practice of noticing and recording year after year. With room to write, notes can be made day after day, month after month to bring both scientific observation as well as the joy of seeing again our nature-friends. Plants, birds, wildlife, and weather all can be recorded and remembered in the Calendar of Firsts.

L.M.E.

How to Use the Calendar



All you need are eyes to observe, the Calendar of Firsts, and a pencil.

Take a nature walk, or look out your window and notice the first time in the season that you spot something. In the spring you might see the first daffodil of the year, the first green clover, the first robin. Moving throughout the year, closer to summer you might spot the return of the swallows, or the first open peony bloom. Later in the fall you might notice the first yellow leaves of the ash trees, and later you might note the first snow.

When you notice a 'first', find the day in the calendar. Write down the year and what you saw. If you don't know the name of what you saw, write a short description such as 'pink flower on north side of the house.' You could do a small drawing.

You may not want to fill up the entire space. Leave some room in the square because you may see something else another year on that same day.

January

1	2
3	4
5	6

