

## BTC Youth Council's Flora and Fauna Scavenger Hunt

**Reminder: please stay on the trail and refrain from touching the species listed below.**

### Wildflowers

#### **Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)**

Large 3-part leaves. The flower is green with brown stripes. It looks like a cup containing a cylindrical rod with a hood over top. It is commonly found in deciduous forests. It is easily missed because of its green colour, but the shape is distinct if you're looking for it!



Source: dbarr77



Source: chevar

#### **Large White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)**

It is a large white flower with 3 petals sitting above a large 3-part leaf. Common in the ground layer of deciduous forests.



Source: cchronister

Source: dhg

**Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba* or *H. americana*)**

These flowers are white to pale purple and usually have 6 petals (sometimes 7). The leaves lay close to the ground on long stems and have 3 lobes that either come to a point (in *H. acutiloba*) or are rounded (in *H. americana*). New leaves are green, but you may spot leaves from last year, which are reddish or purplish. The leaves often appear mottled. Common in deciduous forests – look for clumps at the base of large trees.



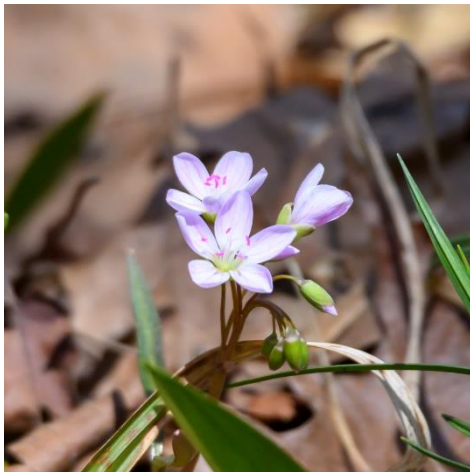
Source: paddlinmadeleine



Source: yan\_tonz

**Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica* or *C. caroliniana*)**

The flowers are small with 5 petals that are white with pink stripes. Below the flowers are a pair of thin linear leaves (in *C. virginica*) or slightly broader oval shaped leaves (in *C. caroliniana*). Common in the ground layer of deciduous forests.



Source: gsean



Source: seversondells



### **Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)**

The leaves are green with brown mottling with the body of a trout (hence the name). The leaves appear to emerge directly from the soil. The plant produces yellow, drooping lily-like flowers with 6 petals, though not all plants flower every year. Often grows in large patches in moist deciduous forests.



Source: brianstahls



Source: jpage\_cwf

### **Trees**

#### **Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)**

Perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of this tree is the bark, which peels off the tree in thin vertical strips. This tree is not a large canopy tree; the trunks are usually relatively thin compared to many other trees in the forest. The leaves are oval-shaped with fine pointy 'teeth' along the edges. Often found in the understory of maple-dominated forests.



Source: rossddickson



Source: Fiona\_longhorn

### **American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)**

This tree is best recognized by its smooth, grey ‘elephant leg’ bark. It has oval-shaped leaves with spaced out ‘teeth’ along the edges. If the leaves have not yet emerged, the tree may be recognized by its long, thin, ‘spear-like’ buds. Often found in dry forests alongside maples.



Source: rjann



Source: jgingold

### **Ferns**

#### **Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)**

This fern is often a lighter green colour than most other ferns and plants around it. The lobes and mid-stem of the frond have rounded, wavy edges. The fronds are not as divided/dissected as other ferns (not as ‘lacy’ looking). You may also notice its reproductive fronds, which grow straight up and look like branches of black beads. Likes moist soils – look for this in wet pockets of woods or open areas.





Source: tesswass

Source: sierraafuera

## **Birds**

### **American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)**

A distinctive and well-known large songbird, the robin has a round body and long legs. Robins have a grey-brown back, dark head, orange breast and belly (brighter in males) and white on the lower belly and under the tail. The robin sings in clear whistles that sound like ‘Cheerily, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up.’ Found in a variety of habitats, including urban lawns and parks as well as forests.



Source: jenniferkepler



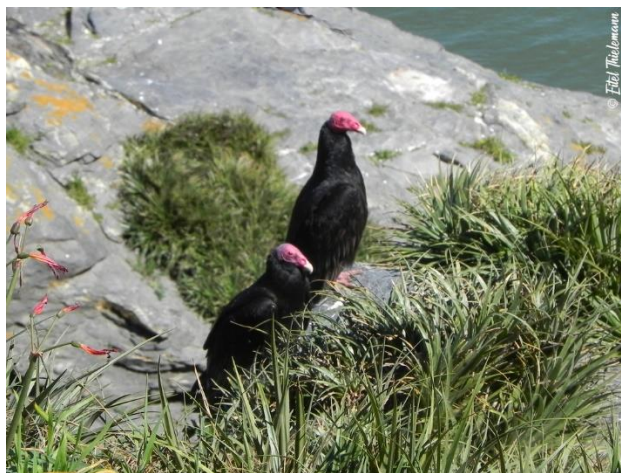
Source: weboflifephotography

### **Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)**

Turkey vultures are large birds with broad wings that are usually spotted while soaring. They are dark brown with bald red heads but appear black from a distance, with slightly paler underwings. They fly with their wings raised, making a V-shape, and often appear to wobble in the air while they circle on warm rising air. Look for this bird soaring on updrafts near cliffs.



Source: knight17



Source: eitel

### **Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)**

These are small birds (sparrow-sized or smaller) with an olive green back and a white belly. The head is grey with dark stripes through the eye and above the eye. The bill has a small hook at the tip. Adults have red eyes. This bird has a distinct song that it sings continuously throughout the day. It sings fast, pure phrases, usually with 2-3 syllables each. It often sounds similar to ‘Here I am, way up here, up high, treetop.’ This bird may be hard to spot because it prefers to spend its time singing from the treetops, but it is easy to hear as it sings constantly throughout the day.



Source: danielgarrigues



Source: bamaboy

### **Red Winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)**

The males of this robin-sized birds are hard to miss. They are glossy black with bright red and yellow shoulder patches. The females are less showy, being a streaky dark brown with a white-ish ‘eyebrow.’ The song of this bird is also not to be ignored – often described as a loud and somewhat screechy ‘conk-a-REE!’. Look for this bird in marshy areas, particularly among cattails.



Source: hanly



Source: trevor\_1



### **Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)**

This is a rather small bird with a short tail and a long, pointed beak. They have blue-gray backs and an orange or rusty belly. Their head pattern is distinct – a black cap and black stripe through the eye, with white above and below the stripe. The red-breasted nuthatch song is a series of very nasally repeated ‘yank’ notes. Look for this bird in forests, travelling face first down tree trunks (only nuthatches do this!)



Source: robmutch



Source: dbree

### **Amphibian/Reptile**

#### **American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*)**

This is a large, squat toad with a brown or reddish back that is covered in bumps. Behind the head are two larger, kidney-shaped lumps called parotid glands. The belly is white with dark spots. During the breeding season (late March to early June), you can hear the male toad’s loud call, which is a long trill (up to 30 seconds long). Unlike frogs, which lay their eggs in clumps, toads lay their eggs in strands. Can be found in a wide variety of habitats, including meadows and forests. Look (or listen) for these toads in ponds during the breeding season. You can also look for their eggs, which are laid in strands in ponds and often attached to vegetation.



Source: maberman

Source: ekinnetz

### **Eastern Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)**

This snake is dark green to black with a yellow stripe down the middle of the back and on each side. The back can sometimes be speckled. The chin and belly of this snake are yellow. Found in a variety of habitats including forests and fields. Look for them warming up in a sunny patch (often right on the trail) on cool spring mornings.



Source: christine123



Source: patrickstrzalkowski

### **Fungi**

#### **Black Knot Fungus (*Apiosporina morbosa*)**

This fungus looks like lumps of black masses on the branches of its host plant. It is often described as looking like 'poop on a stick'. Look for this fungus on the branches of various species of cherry trees. You can often find it on young trees and shrubs in the understory of the forest.





Source: ddepmsy



Source: sebastienbenoit

### **Acknowledgements**

A big thank you to BTC ecologist, Mara McHaffie, for compiling the list and describing each of the species listed!