

Spring is exploding and observations are changing daily! (All photos are from yesterday and today.) We've had an influx of migrant birds in the past week; today I found 7 warblers (yellowthroat, redstart, yellow, chestnut-sided, yellow-rumped, parula, black-throated blue) and 5 sparrows (song, white-throated, swamp, savannah, field) as well as oriole, warbling vireo, wood thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet, catbird, and others. Goldfinches are now cloaked in their summer gold, and bluebirds are nesting in box 4 north of Dugway, with tree swallows nesting in box 2. This is an exciting time. Morning songs are known as the dawn chorus, but with all these different voices together, they are providing a **spring symphony**.

White trillium and (yellow) marsh marigold are at peak flowering right now and not to be missed. The vegetation is changing rapidly: hepatica, blue cohosh, and coltsfoot are past; red trillium is almost finished; foamflower, golden Alexanders, and blue and yellow violets have begun; and mayapple and Solomon's seal are about to open. Wild strawberry and purple dead nettle line trail edges, and shadbush (a small tree) is in flower. Last week was different, and next week will be different yet again.

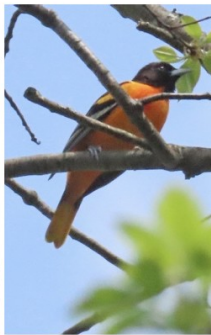
Painted and snapping turtles can be seen at pond edges, with one snapper out on the trail yesterday. They come out seeking places to lay eggs. Especially noteworthy is that red admiral butterflies have exploded in numbers nationwide. Keep an eye out for them; I saw more than 40 on the trail yesterday. They feed on nettles, and wherever you find a nettle patch, you'll see their caterpillars. Their last population explosion, which resulted from plentiful food and a decline in predators, was in 2012. In 2024, we have red admirals instead of periodical cicadas!



Eastern bluebird



Tree swallow



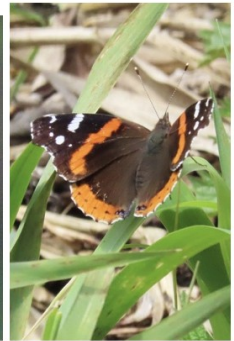
Baltimore oriole



Am. goldfinch



Savannah sparrow



Red admiral



White-throated sparrow



Chestnut-sided warbler



Gray catbird



Yellow warbler



Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Snapping turtle



Red trillium



White trillium



Blue violet



Yellow violet



Foamflower



Marsh marigold