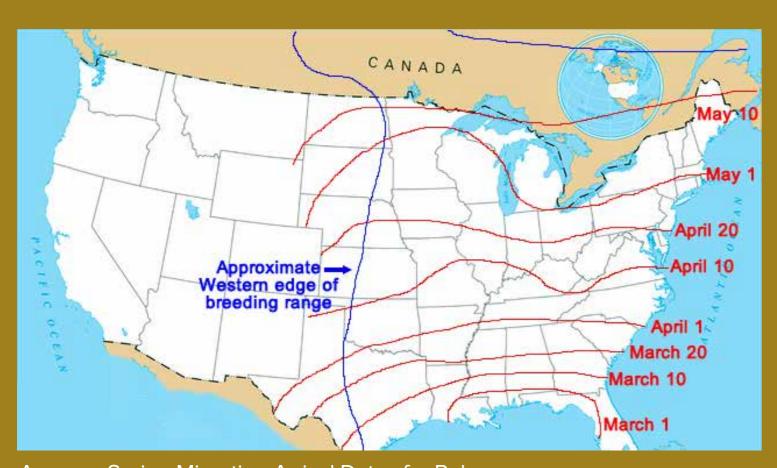


HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT FROM WHAT MANY CALL "THE BIRD SEASON"

SINGING SPRING'S PRAISES

Spring brings out flocks of songbirds to announce the season. Birds like house and purple finches, white-breasted nuthatches, song sparrows, and northern cardinals will be arriving. Small but large in number, they'll eat seeds and peck at fruit.



Average Spring Migration Arrival Dates for Ruby-Threatred Hummingbirds

THE DRUMBEAT OF SPRING

Spring brings the rat-tat-tat of suburban woodpeckers. And not just in trees, but in chimney flues and drainpipes, decorative wood beams and siding.

You can count on drummers like the pileated, red-bellied, hairy, and downy woodpeckers, and northern flicker to wake you on spring mornings.

DUCKS SPRING TO LIFE

Those who live near rivers and ponds can expect to see the return of ducks. Birds like the drake bufflehead, ring-necked duck, or even a northern pintail. They'll join the hardy mallards, black ducks, and wood ducks to nest, eat vegetation and leave droppings everywhere.



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

Arriving in large, noisy numbers, crows often damage seedling corn plants by pulling the sprouts and consuming the kernels. They also like to eat ripening grain sorghum, commercial sunflowers, pecans, various fruits, and watermelons.

FAREWELL TO SPRING FLOWERS

Spring brings the arrival of birds that will eat your prized flowers. The cedar waxwing eats buds, flowers and young leaves. These birds prefer to eat blossoms during their spring migration back to their breeding grounds.

STARLINGS: DARLINGS OR SPRING PEST?

They're cute to watch when they arrive in spring, but their straw nests can create a fire hazard. These nests can also clog gutters and drainage pipes, leading to water overflows and roof damage. Nests in chimneys and ventilation systems can block air flow and spread diseases.





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