



wells**reserve**  
at laudholm

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve


## SEASONS SCAVENGER HUNT: SPRING

Investigate the Signs of Spring (and other seasons) as a PHENOLOGIST!

A phenologist studies phenology (fee·**naa**·luh·jee) of course!

Simply put, phenology is nature's calendar. Phenology refers to important seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year like: bird migration, mammal hibernation, flowering of plants, ripening of fruits and the colored leaves of Autumn.

### Plant Phenology:

- Young tree leaves just starting to stretch and open
- Oak tree with its "flower" hanging down like a tassel
- White flower
- Purple or pink flower
- Yellow flower
- Samaras/Helicopters on the Maple trees 
- 3 different types of leaves (on the ground is ok!)
- Pinecones on a conifer (a tree with needles)
- Acorns on the ground from last fall
- New little plant just poking up from the ground
- Fern still uncurling (not fully open yet)
- Milkweed pods from last summer



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### Animal Phenology:

- Insects on the ground
- Insects flying
- Squirrels searching for stored acorns and seeds
- Chipmunk holes.....and a chipmunk going into one
- Robins feeding (sticking their beaks in the ground)
- Calling of baby birds in a nest
- Birds gathering nesting materials
- Drumming woodpecker
- Animal scat
- Animal track
- 2 different bird songs

Describe what they sound like here:

1.

2.

- Singing frogs
- Woolly Bear Caterpillar
- Butterfly

**Challenge Activity** – Collect a few items you've *found on the ground* (like leaves, sticks, acorns) or use ones near you to create art! Shape them into a bird, a person, or any interesting design.