

## Northern Michigan Signs of Spring: A Scavenger Hunt

1. Red-winged blackbirds returning



2. Maple sap dripping from human-made taps (or from recent natural tree wounds)



3. Yellow twigs on willow trees



4. Bluebirds returning



5. Chipmunks emerging from hibernation



6. Snowmelt revealing the evergreen leaves of small forbs like wintergreen



7. Pussy willow flowers blooming



8. Birds building (or rehabilitating last year's) nests



9. Year-round backyard songbirds (like chickadees and cardinals) singing: listen for a slow two-note whistle for chickadees, with the second note lower than the first; listen for a loud string of down-slurred whistles for cardinals, typically lasting 2-3 seconds

10. Robins returning



11. Trees like red maples flowering and releasing pollen



12. Turkey vultures returning



13. Mourning cloak butterflies flying on warm days



14. Ruffed grouse drumming in woods: listen for a sound like a lawnmower motor turning over

15. Garter snakes sunning themselves on very warm days



16. Skunk cabbage blooming



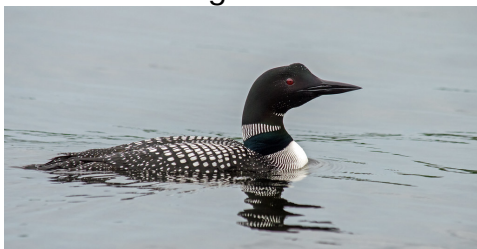
17. Painted turtles basking on logs in ponds, inland lakes, and rivers



18. Red-backed salamanders emerging from brumation (the hibernation term for cold-blooded animals): look under logs and rocks



19. Loons returning to lakes



20. Bloodroot blooming: try scratching the stem to see where this flower's name comes from



21. Mourning doves singing: listen for a mournful, owl-like coo-OOH-ooH-ooH-ooH

22. Hepatica blooming in the woods



23. Marsh marigold blooming in roadside ditches and wet fields



24. Ramp (wild leek) leaves popping up

