



Junior Naturalist

Spring Ovenbird 2012

Worms and Robins

Pfeiffer Nature Center
Where Science, Art & Nature Come Together!



Although not all robins migrate or travel south for the winter, the arrival of the first robins has become a welcome sign of spring, and is often closely tied to the appearance of the first earthworms.

A Vertical Migration

During winter most earthworms stay in their underground burrows. They are prisoners in frozen soil under ice and snow. In the spring, earthworms move upward after the ground thaws. Earthworms travel only a few feet during this migration.

Spring Word Scramble

1. ebe 2. tfluetyrb
3. geg 4. lwfero
5. fgro 6. sdeldup
7. nrboi 8. rnboiwa
9. wmro 10. rbsid

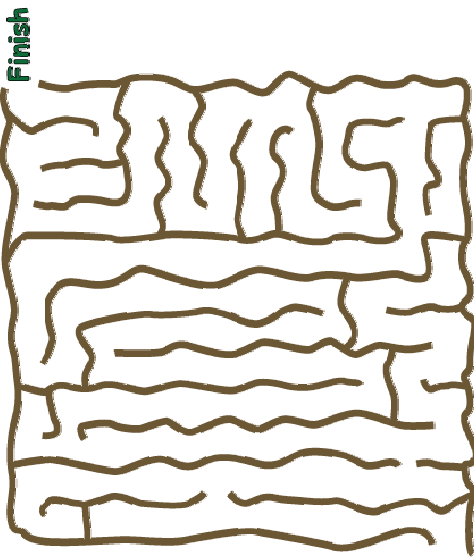
Spring Connections

As the spring arrives and the ground begins to thaw, earthworms start their migration, tunneling upward through the soil. They start to appear as soon as the average temperature of the ground reaches about 36 degrees. At the same time, some robins return from the south and others who have been hiding in the woods, return to your feast on the worms in your yard.

Watch Your Backyard & Report Your Sightings!

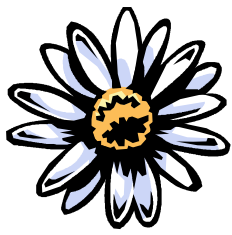
As temperatures rise, watch for these signs of spring in your backyard. Which will appear first, a worm or a robin? Will they appear together when the average temperature reaches 36 degrees? When *your* earthworms and backyard robins return, report to the Journey North website (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/maps/Gallery.html>). You'll know *your* robin has arrived when you hear it sing.

Answers: bee, butterfly, egg, flower, frog, puddles, robin, raindrop, worm, bird



Wonderful Worm Facts

- ◆ They are invertebrates. This means that they do not have a skeleton that is made of bone.
- ◆ They are cold blooded animals.
- ◆ Earthworms are originally native to Europe but are now also found in North America & some parts of West Asia.
- ◆ They do not live in areas of extreme weather such as deserts or areas that are permanently covered in snow or ice.
- ◆ They live for approximately 6 years.
- ◆ The body of an earthworm is made of segments that are called annuli. These are covered in small bristles that help the worm to travel along the ground or burrow beneath it.
- ◆ An earthworm does not have any eyes.
- ◆ Worms are helpful to soil & plants because they provide them with vital nutrients from below the ground which they transport to the surface & leave as their waste.
- ◆ The average earthworm will consume approximately one third of its body weight each day.
- ◆ In 1 acre of land there can be up to 1 million earthworms.
- ◆ There are approximately 2,700 different kinds of earthworms.



Explore Winter Fun at Pfeiffer Nature Center!!



Nature Walk ~ April 14

Take in any easy walk through our retired farmlands observing the seasonal changes in our shrub wetland, mature meadow, creek and pond edges, and the mixed hardwood forest. Suitable for all ages.

9-10 AM x Free x Eshelman Property

Please pre-register by April 12.

Beneficial Bees ~ April 28

Join Pfeiffer Nature Center and Tony Buford as he shares about bees. Come learn how bees are beneficial to humans and how they make honey. You might even get a chance to get an up-close look at a few honey bees. This is a kid friendly event!



10:30 AM-12:30 PM x Lillibridge Property

Non-Members \$10/PNC Members \$5

Please register by April 26.

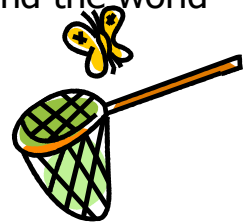
Bountiful Butterflies ~ May 19

Join us as we host John MacRoy and his butterflies. Come view an educational slide-show about butterflies and have a chance to see butterflies from around the world close up. This is a kid friendly event!

10:30 AM-12:30 PM x Lillibridge Property

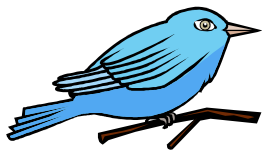
Non-Members \$10/PNC Members \$5

Please register by May 17.



Cattaraugus County Bird Club Walks

Now that the migrant birds are back & breeding is getting underway, it's a great time to explore bird watching. Com out & enjoy the sights & sounds of this exciting sport! Bring binoculars & a field guide if you have them.



8-11 am x Free

Every Saturday in May at our Eshelman Property

All workshops require pre-registration.

Please call 716-933-0187 or email Naturalist@PfeifferNatureCenter.org

Pfeiffer Nature Center

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