

Morning or
Afternoon
Observation
For
Any Age

Does Spring Make a Sound?

Bet you didn't know: This spring has had the earliest spring equinox (March 19th) that anyone alive today has ever experienced. The last time the spring equinox occurred this early was 124 years ago!

In the last two weeks you have likely noticed a shift in the weather, the outside temperatures, and the amount of sunlight we get each day. It is unmistakable that Spring is upon us, and the natural world around us is coming alive.

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade.

~ Charles Dickens



Activity: Head outside to your backyard, balcony, or open a window and listen for 5 minutes in the early morning or at dusk. Take note of the natural sounds you hear. Specifically listen for any noticeable bird noises or activity by the birds.

Do the noises you hear sound anything like the following?
cheer-up, cheerily, cheer-up, cheerily

The sounds you are likely hearing outside right now are the noises of all the male Robins who have recently flown back to their territories in your neighbourhood. Many have wintered further south of where you live and along with a growing list of migratory birds are starting to find their way back to where they spend the summer.



Click the video link to hear the sounds of the Robin, and find out what they are so happy about this spring (<https://youtu.be/W7YK5ZyA3Kk>)

Interesting Facts About Robins

- Robins fly at 27 to 52 km an hour.
- They have about 2,900 feathers.
- Only the male robin sings the "true robin song," and he sings it to declare his personal nesting territory.
- The longest known lifespan in the wild of an Robin is 14 years. However, the average lifespan is 2 years in the wild.
- Baby robins are helpless at birth but reach the size of their parents after just two weeks.
- American robins feed on a mixture of fruits, berries, earthworms, and insects such as beetle grubs, caterpillars, and grasshoppers.
- Their diet usually consists of about 40% insects and 60% fruits.
- Robins are one of the most widespread songbirds in the Western Hemisphere.

Upon Deeper Reflection

- Have you noticed any changes in your routine or thinking now that spring has arrived?
- What are you excited and grateful for as you look forward to the shift that spring and summer bring?
- What song would you sing right now to share your excitement for spring? Share it with your family and friends.