

May - Week 3

Baby Animals

Spring is such an interesting season. Animals seek mates, create homes, have young, and begin to raise their young. Spring peeper frogs call to find mates, loons incubate their eggs, moose calves and white-tailed deer fawns are born, and young wood ducks jump from their nests. So much is happening this time of year!

This week, keep watch for indications of growing families, namely the baby animals and parents preparing for the arrival of their babies. Can you find evidence of birds building nests? Do you see ducklings or fawns? Do you see or hear animals trying to attract a mate with a ritual or dance, or a call or song? Create a list of the things you notice, recording the date you noticed each thing, so you can compare across years.

Brainstorm a second list of animals that you are aware of that have babies in spring, even if you have not seen evidence this spring.

Why do so many animals have their babies in the spring? Think about how the babies interact with their environment. What weather is required? What plants do they need? Does that plant need to be in a certain stage of its life cycle to be useful? Are there predator or prey animals that they interact with? Explain the advantages of animal babies being born in the spring.



Most songbirds, like these Robins, are born and raised in the Spring.