# Miriam's Nature Calendar 2021



**Photos by Miriam Garfinkle** 



# January

Trumpeter swans are impressive, the biggest wild birds in North America. Miriam was always glad when we encountered them because each one we saw was a sign that the effort to bring them back from the edge of extinction is succeeding. Extirpated from most of their range, including Ontario, in the 1800s, Trumpeters are slowly re-establishing themselves.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2020  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5  6 7 8 9 10 11 12  13 14 15 16 17 18 19  20 21 22 23 24 25 26  27 28 29 30 31					<b>1</b> New Year's Day	Earth's Perihelion (point closest to Sun in its annual orbit)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 World Logic Day	Great Horned Owls mate in January. Couples hoot to each other, so they're more conspicuous.	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
See Mercury! western sky just after sunset	25	26	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Full Moon (Wolf Moon)	29	30
31		1		I W MY PUBLIC SCHOOL		S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28



# February

Each place has its own magic. The lake off Point Petre is usually sunny and inviting in summer. In the winter, the mood is very different. It was a place Miriam appreciated, no matter what side of its changing personality was on display.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2  3 4 5 6 7 8 9  10 11 12 13 14 15 16  17 18 19 20 21 22 23	February is Black History Month	2	3	4	5	6 International Day of Zero
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	World Interfaith Harmony Week (Feb 1-7)	World Wetlands Day				Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Chinese New Year (Year of the Ox) Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb 12-15)	
14	15 Family Day (Louis Riel	16	17	18	19	20
World Bonobo Day	Day in Manitoba) World Hippopotamus Day					World Day of Social Justice
21	22	23	24	25	26	FULL 27
						Full Moont (Snow Moon)
28				OHIP FOR ALL Healthier Together		March 2021 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



### March

Hearing and seeing the first red-winged blackbird of the season is always exciting because it is a sign that spring is going to arrive, even if it hasn't actually arrived yet. The earliest we ever heard a redwing was on February 21 in 2016, in Rattray Marsh. However, it was a warm day in May when Miriam photographed this vigilant male.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6  7 8 9 10 11 12 13  14 15 16 17 18 19 20  21 22 23 24 25 26 27  28	<b>1</b> Zero Discrimination Day	2	3 World Wildlife Day	4	5	6
Maple syrup season under way	International Women's	9	10	11	12	13
Daylight Savings Time begins International Day of Action for Rivers	Migrating Tundra Swans gather near Aylmer & Pinery (mid-March–early April)	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	March Equinox World Frog Day
International Day of Forests International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination	World Water Day	23	24	International Day of Remembrance for Victims of Slavery	26	Passover begins at sundown Earth Hour (8:30-9:30 p.m.)
Full Moon (Worm Moon)	29	Spring Peepers & Wood Frogs start calling in late March	31 Start carrot seeds		\$15 FAIRNESS	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30





An extraordinary variety of species have made their homes in Colonel Sam Smith Park, a modest-sized park on Toronto's waterfront. Over the years, Miriam photographed ducks, grebes, snowy owls, mink, butterflies, and much else. Tree swallows nest there in the spring, dazzling us humans with their speed and beauty.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6  7 8 9 10 11 12 13  14 15 16 17 18 19 20  21 22 23 24 25 26 27  28 29 30 31		N® JETS T.O.		1	2  Good Friday	You can – <i>you should!</i> – plant pansies now.
Easter Sunday Passover ends at sunset National Wildlife Week begins	5 Easter Monday	Turtles start to emerge from hibernation in early April	<b>7</b> World Health Day	8	9	10
11	12	13 Start of Ramadan	14	15	16	17 Palestinian Political Prisoners' Day
18	19	20	21	Earth Day Peak of Lyrids meteor shower (Apr 22-23)	23	24 Miriam's birthday (1954)
World Immunization Week	26	Full Moon (Pink Moon) (Supermoon)	Workers Mourning Day for workers killed at work	Day of Remembrance for Victims of Chemical Warfare	30	S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31





Miriam rarely had an agenda when she was out in nature. She knew that the best moments, in nature and in life, are those that simply happen. We don't find them; they find us. So it was on this walk, when we suddenly came upon a group of Swallowtail butterflies feeding on a cluster of flowering shrubs.

		<u> </u>				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					Swiftwatch monitoring begins	May Day – International Workers' Day
2 International Dawn	World Press	First chimney swifts arrive in southern Ontario/	5	6	7	8
Chorus Day	Freedom Day	Quebec (early May)	Marx's birthday (1818)	Time to plant corn		World Migratory Bird Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day				Eid al-Fitr		Al Nakba Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia			World Bee Day	Bike to Work Day Endangered Species Day	International Day for Biological Diversity
23	24	25	<b>26</b>	27	28	29
World Turtle Day	Victoria Day	Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self- Governing Territories	Full Moon/Supermoon (Flower Moon) Lunar Eclipse max: 7:19 am in Eastern Canada			
National Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Day 2	31		yadis and Palestinians, Typ peoples, one future.		STOP ISRAELI VIOLENCE END THE OCCUPATION	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



### June

Sometimes you don't even have to go anywhere to see something exciting. Miriam looked out the back door and saw a Cooper's Hawk in our birdbath. It hung around for a full hour, giving Miriam ample opportunity to get out her camera, as well as to phone me at work to describe what she was seeing.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2021 S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Indigenous History Month	Canadian Lakes Loon Survey begins June 1–August 31	2	World Bicycle Day National Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Day 3	4	World Environment Day
6	7 World Swift Day	8 World Oceans Day	9	Partial Solar Eclipse – visible in Eastern Canada	11	12 World Day Against Child Labour
13 Canadian Rivers Day	14	15  Nature Photography Day	16 World Sea Turtle Day	World Day to Combat Desertification	18	Juneteenth (Emancipation Day)
June Solstice Father's Day World Refugee Day	21  National Indigenous Peoples Day World Humanist Day	22 World Rainforest Day	23	St. Jean Baptiste Day Full Moon (Strawberry Moon) (Supermoon)	25	26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
27	28	29	30		JOBS: JUSTICE: CLIMATE ACTION.	July 2021       S     M     T     W     T     F     S       1     2     3       4     5     6     7     8     9     10       11     12     13     14     15     16     17       18     19     20     21     22     23     24       25     26     27     28     29     30     31





Cape St. Mary's on the southern end of the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland is an extraordinary seabird colony. Living virtually on top of each other are northern gannets, black-legged kittiwakes, common murres, razorbills, gulls, and cormorants. We visited Cape St. Mary's in summer 2015.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5  6 7 8 9 10 11 12  13 14 15 16 17 18 19  20 21 22 23 24 25 26  27 28 29 30	August 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30 31	HIGH PARK		<b>1</b> Canada Day	2	World Seabird Day International Day of Co-operatives
4	Earth's Aphelion (point farthest from Sun in annual orbit)	6	<b>7</b> World Chocolate Day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14  Bastille Day	15	Fireflies tend to be most visible in mid-July	17  Canada Parks Day
18  Nelson Mandela Day	19	20 Eid al-Adha	21	22	23	Full Moon (Buck Moon)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31





In Pukaskwa, the granite of the Canadian shield underlies both the natural environment and the human history. We spent much time walking on the ancient rocks overlooking Lake Superior, and we repeatedly returned to one special place, Bimose Kinoomagewnan: the walk of teachings, created by the Anishnabe people whose ancestral land this is.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fall Migration Monitoring begins (Aug 1–Nov 15)	Provincial holiday See Saturn all night long! World Breastfeeding Week	3	4	5	6 Hiroshima Day	7
Muharram / Islamic New Year begins at sunset International Cat Day	9	10	11	World Elephant Day Peak of Perseids meteor shower (night of Aug 12-13)	13 International Wolf Day International Lefthanders Day	14
15	16	17	18	World Humanitarian Day See Jupiter and its moons all night long!	20	21
Full Moon (Sturgeon Moon)	23	24	25	26	27	28
International Day against Nuclear Tests	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	31	Seline 9 o		S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2021  S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



# September

We were hiking on the Bruce Trail when we came upon this Milk Snake sunning itself on a rock. We admired it from a few feet away, and Miriam photographed it. We suspected that it had recently eaten.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  8 9 10 11 12 13 14  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  29 30 31		status for all!	Shorebirds Survey Week (Sep 1-7)	2	3	4
5	Labour Day Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown	<b>7</b>	8	Raptor migration early Sept. to late Oct. (High Park's Hawk Hill is a prime viewing site.)	10	11
12	13	See Mercury, western sky just after sunset	Monarch migration mid-Sept. to mid-Oct. Prime spots: Leslie Street Spit & Point Pelee Yom Kippur starts at sundown	16 Yom Kippur	17	18 International Coast Cleanup Day
19	20	International Day of Peace Full Moon (Harvest Moon)	22 September Equinox	23	24	25
World Environmental Health Day International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	27	28	29	30		S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



### October

"You can't see me!" Sometimes it's easy to get a photo of a grouse, because their strategy for avoiding detection is to stand completely still. This grouse in Pukaskwa obligingly stayed put while Miriam took several photos.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				October is Women's History Month	1	2
3	4 World Habitat Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Thanksgiving Day	12	13	14	15 International Day of Rural Women	16 World Food Day
17	18	19	World Sloth Day Full Moon Orionids meteor shower peak (Oct 20-21)	21	22	23
24  Disarmament Week	25	26	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	28	See Venus! western sky after sunset	30
31  Hallowe'en					STOP LINE 9	November 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6  7 8 9 10 11 12 13  14 15 16 17 18 19 20  21 22 23 24 25 26 27  28 29 30



### November

One of the best things about Kakabeka Falls, the second-highest waterfall in Ontario, is that it has escaped the commercialization of Niagara. We stood at the edge of a forest, watching the Kaministiquia River plunge over the rocks. Miriam took photos, and then we had a picnic.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2  3 4 5 6 7 8 9  10 11 12 13 14 15 16  17 18 19 20 21 22 23	1	2	3	Diwali (festival of lights)	5	6
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				Peak of Taurids meteor shower		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Daylight Savings Time ends International Week of Science and Peace				Remembrance Day		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Day of the Imprisoned Writer	International Day for Tolerance			Full Moon Partial lunar eclipse begins 2:19 in Ontario	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women		Buy Nothing Day
Hannukah starts	First day of Hannukah International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	30		Dignity Equality Justice		December 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4  5 6 7 8 9 10 11  12 13 14 15 16 17 18  19 20 21 22 23 24 25  26 27 28 29 30 31



### December

Miriam's love of nature encompassed an infinite variety of places and creatures. But chickadees had a special place in her heart. She loved them. Much as she had a passion for swifts and many other birds, chickadees were the birds she could most relate to. Their curiosity, friendliness, and tenacity matched her own way of being in the world. They were soulmates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2021  S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6  7 8 9 10 11 12 13  14 15 16 17 18 19 20  21 22 23 24 25 26 27  28 29 30			1	2	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4
5 World Soil Day	Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women Hannukah ends at sundown	7	8	9	10 Human Rights Day	11
12	Peak of Geminids meteor shower (you might see 75 meteors per hour!)	14	15	16	17	International Migrants Day Full Moon
19	20 International Human Solidarity Day	21  December Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26  Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31  New Year's Eve	S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



"Every sunset is special." Lake Huron, April 30, 2018. Miriam loved watching the sun set, and she loved photographing sunsets. We were camped at MacGregor Park, and as the sun sank lower in the sky, naturally we rode our bicycles to Sunset Point to watch. When Miriam took out her camera, I smiled, because this was such a familiar occurrence. Seeing my smile, she looked at me, with an unusually serious expression, and said "Every sunset is special." This one was: it was the last time in her life that she was able to photograph a sunset.

#### Miriam's Nature Calendar 2021

Photos by Miriam Garfinkle

This calendar presents a selection of Miriam Garfinkle's nature photos. All the large photos (cover + the 12 months + page 26) are by Miriam, as are the small nature photos on some pages. The photos of Miriam (except March), and text atop the calendar pages, are by Ulli Diemer. The buttons on the calendar pages are ones that Miriam wore. Front: Bimose Kinoomagewnan, Pukaskwa National Park, August 2013.

Miriam took many photos. To see more of them, visit www.diemer.ca/Photos/MiriamsSelected1.html

Articles and letters by Miriam, and articles about Miriam and her many involvements, are at www.diemer.ca/Miriam/

The Moments with Miriam page, with many contributions from people who knew Miriam, is www.diemer.ca/Docs/MomentswithMiriam.pdf

This calendar was compiled by Ulli Diemer.

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Layout by Eric Mills Editing & Design (erics@web.ca)

The calendar as a PDF: www.diemer.ca/Miriam/Calendar2021.pdf





Miriam in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, July 2015. (Photo by Ulli)

The best moments, in nature and in life, are those that simply happen.
We don't find them; they find us.

#### Websites to explore

Birds Canada – birdscanada.org Swiftwatch – birdscanada.org/bird-science/swiftwatch/

Dird objed org/oppodo/

eBird – ebird.org/canada/

Toronto Field Naturalists – torontofieldnaturalists.org

Amphibians and Reptiles of Canada – canadianherpetology.ca

Astronomy Calendar – seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2021.html

Electronic Intifada – electronicintifada.net

Mondoweiss - mondoweiss.net

Climate & Capitalism – climateandcapitalism.com

Zatoun – zatoun.com (fair trade olive oil from Palestine)

Miriam Garfinkle Social Justice Fund – www.miriamgarfinklefund.org

Connexions – connexions.org

Ulli Diemer – diemer.ca



### Remembering Miriam



#### **Peace Garden**

A guerrilla garden created and maintained by Jim Sugiyama is now known as the Gaza Miriam Garfinkle Peace Garden.

#### Miriam Garfinkle Lane

The City of Toronto named a laneway after Miriam. It runs east from Clinton Street, just south of Barton Avenue.

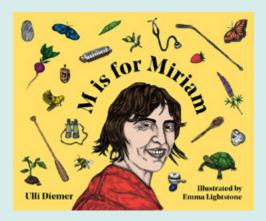


#### Miriam Garfinkle Social Justice Fund

Friends of Miriam have set up the Miriam Garfinkle Social Justice Fund. The fund was established to honour Miriam's lifetime of work for social justice. Its mission is to support projects and initiatives that aim to change the world in large ways and small, with the ultimate goal of building a world based on justice and community where people live in harmony with the planet.

The Fund prioritizes grassroots initiatives, with emphasis on projects designed to raise awareness and stimulate organizing and action.

For more information, or to make a donation to the Fund, visit www.miriamgarfinklefund.org



#### M is for Miriam

M is for Miriam is a children's book about Miriam, written by Ulli Diemer and illustrated by Emma Lightstone. It's an alphabet book with each page devoted to some aspect of Miriam's life:

C is for Community, D is for Doctor,

G is for Garden, L is for Laughter,

N is for Nature, P is for Piano,

Q is for Questions, S is for Solidarity,

W is for Waffles....

Information: diemer.ca/ContactDiemer.html