

FALL OBSERVATIONS

Leaves dry
leaves color
crickets louder, louder, then fall silent
smell of damp decaying leaves
smell of wet earth
fruits on trees and shrubs (cherry, acorn etc)
Pine trees drop needles and pine cones
seeds from flowers and grasses (look close)
no mosquitoes
birds fly in flocks
fall flowers (asters, goldenrod, mums)
Frost – cold at night and morning,
hot sun in middle of day
sun goes down earlier
are birds signing? Not starting families, quieter
Plants woody dry stems, tough looking
bright clear sky (not hazy as in summer)
very tall grass
Leaves have holes where caterpillars chewed
ant hills and worm holes
grass brown and some still green
SUGAR MAPLE WITH RED LEAVES

WINTER OBSERVATION

pine trees, evergreens are still green
deciduous trees no leaves
icicles
can see breath
frozen puddles
snow
rhododendron leaves curled up in cold
no flying insects
few birds
chewed bark – animals hungry
fruit in trees mostly gone
tracks visible in snow
scat visible
what do tree buds look like?
last years nests visible, disintegrating
easier to find holes in trees – animal homes
animal activity under hedges, thorny places
observe grass under snow – brown grass
earth is frozen and hard packed
air is dry
sun goes down early
ground is dry
mouse tunnels in grass.
SUGAR MAPLE WITH NO LEAVES

EARLY SPRING OBSERVATIONS

Buds on trees
Birds still few (crows and robins eat worms, they
come back first)
Robins in field hunting worms
worm and ant hills when ground thaws
wet soggy ground
grass greening
tree leaf buds, and flower buds
skunk tunneling marks in grass (looking for grubs)
small shoots and seedlings
woodland flowers
air warmer
rainy
sun here longer, days long
spring bulb flowers (crocus)
any insects?
Spring peepers and bird calls
Caterpillars hatch and eat leaves
SUGAR MAPLE WITH BUDS SWELLING

LATE SPRING:

Insects in larger numbers
Caterpillars turning into adult insects
Leaves fully out on trees
Can't see the nests and tree holes easily
flowers everywhere
tall green plants, tall grass in field
frogs, toads, turtles,
Insect eating birds returned
crickets and cicadas loud
animals all active – some at night
Warm humid air
SUGAR MAPLE WITH GREEN LEAVES