

MARCH 1- 14, 2022 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

SPRING EQUINOX

Based on the Winter we have had and the amount of snow that has fallen on EastView, will we have an early Spring, or will we have to wait until the first month of Spring has passed?



@tomeanddate.com Spring 2022

The Spring or Vernal Equinox this year is March 20th at 1533 hours and is considered the start of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. There will be 10 hours and 50 minutes of sunlight during this day.

Some people use the first of March as the beginning of the first month of Spring. The fact that during the seasons when the sun moves North over the equator, that event is considered the Vernal Equinox or the beginning of Spring. But it won't be until the 20th of the month when the number of hours of sunlight and nighttime are equal. That precise day/night when the daylight hours and nighttime hours are equal is considered an equinox. Thus, the first day of Spring comes on the 20th of March Next year I believe that day is the 19th of March.

In Japan, since 1948, the Spring Equinox is celebrated as a National Holiday. It is called Shunbun no Hi, or Vernal Equinox Day.

Many people around the world celebrate the vernal equinox as a secular holiday. In Iran it is known as Nowruz or the Persian New Year. In the United States the day is more about taking stock of the weather or spending time outside with gardening or investigating nature.

MARCH 1- 14, 2022 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow

CAT-O-NINE TAILS



Cattails or Cat-O-nine Tails, *Typha latifolia*,
emerging new leaves in South Pond, © Dick Harlow.

In deference to the white stuff on the ground as I write this note, I personally have to admit that I cannot wait for warmer temperatures, not hot temperatures, just warmer than present ones that keep me bundled up and inside.

Cattails, or as I learned in the previous century, Cat-O-Nine Tails, *Typha latifolia*, is a wonder of nature.

MARCH 1- 14, 2022 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow



Cattails or Cat-O-nine Tails, *Typha latifolia*,
older new leaves in South Pond, © Dick Harlow.

Native Americans used every part of this perennial plant. Cattails have been used for rush bottom furniture, baskets, and mats. The downy seeds have been used to stuff pillows and mattresses and during World War II, the fluffy seeds were used to stuff life jackets.

The plant is tall, as high as 2 meters or 10 feet. Its leaves are long and flat and sturdy when dry. In a pond the underwater rhizomatous root system will provide shelter and hiding places for small fish.

MARCH 1- 14, 2022 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow



Cattails or Cat-O-nine Tails, *Typha latifolia*, the flowers or seed head of the plant. South Pond,
© Dick Harlow.

As small fish and other aquatic organisms use the root systems to both feed on and hide within, Herons and Bitterns will come to hunt and feed on these small fish and invertebrates. The plants above ground provide nesting material with the leaves and seeds. Plus, in winter the masses of cattails provide shelter from both the cold and wind for both mammals as well as birds. Generally, a very vital plant for wildlife.

MARCH 1- 14, 2022 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

Red Fox, tracks in snow
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, tracks & pellets

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Average March Average Precipitation for Vermont = 2.2 inches.

Precipitation for March 1-14 was 19.2 mm or 0.76 inches.

Overcast Days 1-14: We had 10 days of overcast skies. Of those overcast skies 6 days produced precipitation.