

MARCH 01 – 14, 2021 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

FIRST DAY OF SPRING

I know that the 20th of this month is considered the first day of Spring or the Vernal Equinox; but to me once we are at the first of the month, March 1, we are at the first day of spring, hurrah!! And, according to definition:

“**Astronomical spring** officially begins at the equinox, which **will** occur at 5:37 a.m. EST on **March 20, 2021**, and nearly three weeks after the start of **meteorological spring**, which, year in and year out, starts on the **first day of March.**”

I know people are set in their ways and therefore I offer no apology; I’m just happy to be in Spring whichever way one defines it.



Our front walk at 206 Deer Meadow March 1.
© Dick Harlow

I know this is not a picture one might think should be shown on the first day of spring. But this is the way our walk looked on the first day before the snow came in that night and added 2-3 additional inches

to what we had lost after two days of above freezing temperatures.



The morning after the storm! © Dick Harlow



I thought you said this is the first day of Spring! © Dick Harlow

Just so the information gets recorded for the month before Spring, February 2021 had 22 days of meteorologically overcast skies. Only six days of partly sunny to clear weather. I wondered whether we were going to have this same weather in March. It is discouraging to wake up on the second day of meteorological spring to more snow, unless you are a skier or want to be out on your snowmobile. And, as

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much as I enjoy winter and winter birds it is also enjoyable to watch the migrating birds come through in Spring.

On the second day of spring I guess it is a state of mind one can get oneself into looking beyond the snow to the eventual green grass and new bulbs breaking through the ground.



© Dick Harlow

Oh yes, we are ever looking forward to seeing those bulbs pop their leaves through the soil!

I know we won't see the flowers until the end of April, but we can all dream and look forward to the beauty of spring and the life that pops back into being once winter releases its grip, its freezing hold on plant dormancy.

As the season progresses these bulb leaves of various varieties of *Narcissus* turn into beautiful plants that produce some of the flowers seen here. Something to look forward to for all of us in this difficult year.



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The above three pictures are various varieties of *Narcissus* (Daffodil) bulbs. © Dick Harlow

Month of MARCH 01-14, [All temperature Measurements taken at solar noon \(1230 EST\).](#)

PRECIPITATION

Average March Precipitation for Vermont = 2.2 inches.

Total precipitation for the first two weeks was 0.4 mm or 0.02 inches. This is about a 2.18 deficit that will have to be made up in the last two weeks of the month.

Overcast Days: We had 4-5 days, of overcast skies. Of those overcast skies 1 day produced wind-blown almost unmeasurable light snow.

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

- Meadow Voles
- Gray Squirrel
- Fox tracks