Miriam's Nature Calendar 2023



Photos by Miriam Garfinkle + SPECIAL PLACES: Photography and the Landscape of Memory



January

Trumpeter swans are impressive, the biggest wild birds in North America, and probably among the loudest. Driven to the edge of extinction in the 1800s, Trumpeters are slowly re-establishing themselves. At the Leslie Street Spit, where Miriam took this photo, they can be seen and heard even in mid-winter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	FULL 6	7
New Year's Day			Earth's Perihelion (point closest to Sun in our annual orbit) World Braille Day		Full Moon (Wolf Moon)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Save the Eagles Day				World Logic Day Orthodox Christian New Year
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Great Horned Owls mate in January. Couples hoot to each other, so they're more conspicuous.						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Lunar New Year (Year of the Rabbit)					International Holocaust Remembrance Day	
29	30	31	1-2	Å	December 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3	February 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4
	See Mercury! Low in eastern sky just before sunrise			OHIP FOR ALL Healthier Together	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	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Trumpeter Swan, Leslie Street Spit, January 2017



February

Beavers stock their lodges with food for the winter, but if the weather is mild, they'll come out even in January or February. We were on the floating bridge on the Leslie Street Spit, where Miriam was taking photos of winter ducks, when this beaver appeared at the edge of the ice and started foraging.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2023 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		February is Black History month	World Interfaith Harmony Week (Feb1-7)	2 World Wetlands Day Groundhog Day	3	4
Full Moon	6 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female	7	8	9	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls
(Snow Moon)	Genital Mutilation	14	15	16	17	in Science 18
		World Bonobo Day	World Hippopotamus Day		Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb 18-20)	
19	20 World Day of Social Justice Family Day (Louis Riel Day/ Heritage Day/ Islander Day)	21 Carnival Tuesday / Mardi Gras International Mother Language Day	22	23	24	25
26	27	28			JOBS. JUSTICE. CLIMATE ACTION.	March 2023 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

Ring-billed Gulls had virtually disappeared from the Great Lakes region by the beginning of the twentieth century. They started recolonizing the area around the 1920s, and have been expanding their numbers ever since. Superbly adapted to living with humans and appropriating their food, they now number in the millions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2023 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		JETS T.O.	1	2	3	4
F	^	~ 7	Zero Discrimination Day	0	World Wildlife Day	44
5	6	Full Moon (Worm Moon) Maple syrup season under way	International Women's Day	9	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time begins	13	14 International Day of Action for Rivers	15 Migrating Tundra Swans gather near Aylmer & Pinery (mid-March-early April)	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 March Equinox World Frog Day	21 International Day of Forests International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22 World Water Day	23 Start of Ramadan	24	25 International Day of Remembrance for Victims of Slavery Earth Hour (8:30-9:30pm)
26	27	28	29	30 Spring Peepers & Wood Frogs start calling in late March	31 Start carrot seeds	April 2023 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



April

Male Red-winged Blackbirds use their bright red shoulder patches and their strident voices to lay claim to a breeding territory to which they will seek to attract one or more females. Miriam photographed this assertive specimen at the edge of Grenadier Pond on one of our traditional birthday outings to High Park.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2023 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					April is Global Astronomy Month	1
2	You can – you should! – plant pansies now	4	5 Passover begins at sundown	Full Moon (Pink Moon) Turtles start to emerge from hibernation early April	7 World Health Day Good Friday	8
9 Easter Sunday Apr 9–15 is National Wildlife Week	10	See Mercury! Low in western sky just after sunset	12	Passover ends at sundown	14	15
16	17 Palestinian Political Prisoners Day	18	19	20 Ramadan ends	World Curlew Day Apr 21–22 – Eid al-Fitr	22 Earth Day Peak of Lyrids meteor shower (Apr 22-23). Best in dark location just after midnight
23	24 Miriam's birthday (1954)	25 World Immunization Week (Apr 24-30)	26	27	28 Workers Mourning Day for workers killed at work	29 Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
30			arfinkle Ln			May 2023 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

Red-winged Blackbird, High Park, April 24, 2018



May

The meandering Rankin River on the Bruce Peninsula is fringed by marshy areas which provide food and shelter for birds, frogs, turtles, insects and other aquatic life. On our way to the nearby Oliphant Fen, we stopped here to take in the beauty of the area, and Miriam took some photos.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2023 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 International Workers' Day Swiftwatch Monitoring begins May 1–31 – Toronto Bird Celebration	2	World Press Freedom Day	4 First chimney swifts arrive in southern Ontario/Quebec early May	FULL 5 Karl Marx's birthday (1818) Full Moon (Flower Moon)	6 Time to plant corn
7 International Dawn Chorus Day	8	9	10	11	12	13 World Migratory Bird Day
Mother's Day	15 Al Nakba Day	16	17 International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, & Biphobia	18	Bike-to-Work Day Endangered Species Day	World Bee Day
21	Victoria Day International Day for Biological Diversity	World Turtle Day (HelptheTurtles.ca)	24 Canadian Lakes Loon Survey May 24 – Sep 5 National Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Day 1	25 Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self- Governing Territories	26	27
28 Whooping Crane Day National Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Day 2	29 See Mercury! Eastern sky just before sunrise	30	31	snells and Palestinians, Two peoples, one future.	END THE OCCUPATION SUPPORT THE INTIFADA	June 2023 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

Marsh, Bruce Peninsula, Summer 2017



June

In 2015, we took a boat tour to Witless Bay Ecological Reserve, a group of islands off the coast of Newfoundland which is home to millions of seabirds, including an estimated 250,000 nesting pairs of Atlantic Puffins. Puffins nest in burrows to protect their young from airborne predators.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2023 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 I	status for all!		Indigenous History month	1	2 National Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Day 3	3 World Bicycle Day
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
FULL Full Moon (Strawberry Moon) See Venus! Look for bright planet in western sky after sunset	World Environment Day / Canadian Environment Week Jun 5–11 National Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Day 4		World Swift Day	World Oceans Day Jun 8–14 Rivers to Oceans Week (RiverstoOceans.ca)		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Canadian Rivers Day (second Sunday in June)	World Day Against Child Labour	International Pigeon Day		Nature Photography Day	World Sea Turtle Day	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day	World Albatross Day	World Refugee Day	June Solstice National Indigenous Peoples Day World Humanist Day	World Rainforest Day		St. Jean-Baptiste Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	July 2023 SMTWTFS
	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture		Eid al-Adha begins at sundown			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

Atlantic Puffins, Witless Bay Ecological Reserve, Newfoundland, Summer 2015



July

Great Egrets are another bird species that is re-establishing itself in its former range. Egrets were extensively hunted for their feathers, decimating their population. Great Egrets hunt fish and aquatic invertebrates, and may also venture into fields in pursuit of small mammals. Plumes at the rump indicate a breeding bird.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2023 S M T W T F S I 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 Canada Day
2	S Full Moon (Supermoon) (Buck Moon) World Seabird Day International Day of Co-operatives	4 Earth's Aphelion (point farthest from Sun in our annual orbit)	5	6	7 World Chocolate Day	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Bastille Day	15 Canada Parks Day
16	Fireflies tend to be most visible in mid-July	18 Nelson Mandela Day	19 Muharram / Islamic New Year begins at sunset	20 World Chess Day	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31			Of all the forms of inequality injustice in traith care is the most shocking and inhumane? Interview Society Health Care IS A HUMAN RIGHT	STOP LINE 9	August 2023 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

Great Egret, Toronto Islands, July 2017



August

Savannah Sparrows are grassland birds which spend most of their time foraging on the ground and generally keeping out of sight. However, in breeding season males find a suitably visible perch from which they can sing and proclaim their availability to potential mates. This one was singing near the mouth of the Grand Codroy River.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2023 S M T W T F S 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		Full Moon	2 World Breastfeeding	3	4	5
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		(Sturgeon Moon)	Week		International Beer Day	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hiroshima Day	Provincial holiday	International Cat Day	International Day of the World's Indigenous People			World Elephant Day Peak of Perseids Meteor shower
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
International Wolf Day International Lefthanders Day	Annular solar eclipse visible in southern B.C.	Fall Migration Monitoring begins (Aug 15–Nov 15)				World Humanitarian Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	. 31	COPERATION IN THE OPERATION	September 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Saturn visible all night. Bring binoculars.		International Day against Nuclear Tests	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	Full Moon (Supermoon)	CUNAKI	3 4 5 6 7 6 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Savannah Sparrow, Grand Codroy Estuary, Newfoundland, Summer 2015



September

Black-crowned Night-Herons can see when there is little light, so they are often seen hunting at dusk. Their prey includes fish, frogs, aquatic invertebrates, young birds, and small mammals. This one is poised above Grenadier Pond in Toronto's High Park.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2023 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 Image: State S	October 2023 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		GAZA MIRIAM GARFINKLE PEACE GARDEN	Raptor migration early Sept to late Oct. High Park's Hawk Hill is a prime viewing site.	۲ Sep 1-7 Shorebirds Survey Week	2 National Hummingbird Day International Vulture Awareness Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labour Day		World Shorebirds Day	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Monarch migration mid-Sep. to mid-Oct. Prime spots: Leslie Street Spit & Point Pelee.	Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown	International Coast Cleanup Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Rosh Hashanah ends at sundown				International Day of Peace Zero Emissions Day		September Equinox
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Yom Kippur starts at sundown World Rivers Day	Yom Kippur	International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons World Environmental Health Day			Full Moon (Supermoon) (Harvest Moon)	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Black-crowned Night-Heron, High Park, Summer 2013



October

In the fall, Monarchs feed on autumn flowers to build up stores of energy for the long and perilous migration they are about to embark on. Miriam was deeply moved by the Monarchs' indomitable spirit, these seemingly frail creatures battling wind and storm and rain and extreme temperatures, and against all the odds, prevailing.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
October is Women's History Month	International Day of Non-violence					
8 World Migratory	9	10 World Day Against	11	12	13	14
Bird Day	Thanksgiving Day	the Death Penalty.	18	19	20	21
International Day of Rural Women	World Food Day	17	10	10	۷ World Sloth Day	Peak of Orionids meteor shower
22	23 See Venus in eastern sky before sunrise	Oct 24-30 Disarmament Week	25	26	27	Full Moon (Hunter's Moon)
29	30	Biodinialitical (1964) 31 Hallowe'en	I V MY PUBLIC SCHOOL		Septemmentation S M T W T F S 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 2023 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

Monarch Butterfly, Humber Bay, Autumn 2013



November

A fallen tree provides a welcoming site for mushrooms and other fungi. Mushrooms draw nourishment from the tree, and the bark provides a perch to grow on. Mushrooms are the reproductive structures of fungi; many emerge in the fall, like these at the Wye Marsh which Miriam photographed in 2015.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2023 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			Nov 1–Apr 30 Project FeederWatch	2	See Jupiter! Visible all night. Bring binoculars and see the moons!	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Savings Time Ends				Nov 9–15 International Week of Science and Peace		Remembrance Day https://www.diemer.ca/ Nov11.htm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Diwali (festival of lights)			Day of the Imprisoned Writer	International Day for Tolerance		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Buy Nothing Day	International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women
26	Full Moon (Beaver Moon)	28	29 International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People	30	STOP ISRAELI VIOLENCE END THE OCCUPATION Independent Jewith Water	December 2023 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

Mushrooms, Wye Marsh, Autumn 2015,



December

This female cardinal caught Miriam's eye when we wandered through High Park. The bright red males tend to attract more attention (from humans anyway), but the more subtle colours of the female are also quite striking.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2023 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
3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4 Wildlife Conservation Day See Mercury! Low in western sky just after sunset	5 World Soil Day	6 Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women	7 Hannukah starts at sundown	8	9
10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13 Dec 13-14 Peak of Geminds Meteor Shower, Dark location after midnight	14	15 Hannukah ends at sundown	16
17	18 International Migrants Day	19	20 International Human Solidarity Day	21	22 December Solstice	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	Full Moon (Cold Moon)	28	29	30
New Year's Eve	31		HIGH HIGH PARK		CAPITALISM	Jaruary 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10 12 13 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Cardinal, High Park, 2013

Miriam's Nature Calendar 2023

Photos by Miriam Garfinkle

This calendar presents a selection of Miriam Garfinkle's nature photos. All the large photos in the calendar are by Miriam. The buttons on the calendar pages are ones that Miriam wore. Calendar text and captions are by Ulli Diemer. Photos of Miriam are by Ulli Diemer, except January, which is by Roger Rolfe, and June, by an unknown photographer. Front cover: The Tablelands, Gros Morne National Park, 2005.

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. ulli@diemer.ca www.diemer.ca www.connexions.org Layout by Eric Mills Editing & Design (erics@web.ca)

The calendar as a PDF: www.diemer.ca/Miriam/Calendar2023.pdf



Miriam photographing the Tablelands, Gros Morne National Park, 2005



WEBSITES TO EXPLORE

Birds Canada – birdscanada.org Swiftwatch – birdscanada.org/bird-science/swiftwatch/ eBird – ebird.org/canada/ Toronto Field Naturalists – torontofieldnaturalists.org Amphibians and Reptiles of Canada – canadianherpetology.ca Astronomy Calendar – seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2022.htm 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

Miriam Garfinkle Ly 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