

 **MAY NATURAL EVENTS**
GSWA ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION SITE



(Yellow-rumped warbler female)

1. Warblers and other neo-tropical songbirds migrating through our site can be seen in all strata's of the forest.
2. Geraniums, Wood Betony, Spring Beauty, Swamp Pink all in bloom throughout the complex.
3. Wood turtles emerging and mating in the silver brook – look for this state threatened species along rivulets and stream banks basking. Call us if you see one – (201) – 919-0097
4. Green frogs calling in vernal ponds, ditches and stream edges.
5. Red bellied wood peckers nesting in dead tree snags and the many boxes installed on the property.
6. Carpenter bees hanging around dead wood looking for places to lay eggs. These guys will often hover back and forth, up and down in territorial battles over egg laying sites.
7. Wood ducks are often seen in vernal ponds throughout our complex – usually in pairs.
8. American Bitterns have been seen on the small marsh off the Red trail – walk quietly around this pond – this “marsh bird” is very skittish and can often elongates its body to mimic the reeds in which it haunts.
9. The beautiful rose-breasted grosbeak has been known to nest on our site. Look for this winged gem in the mid-canopy layer to the top of the forest shelf foraging and nesting.
10. The Standard-bearer of May is the jack-in-the-pulpit, a member of the arum family and one of the most instantly recognizable of eastern wildflowers. Oddly, the distinctive green and purple structure we think of as the flower is not; rather, it is a sheath designed to protect the flower-covered spike (“Jack”) within.
11. Flying squirrels are on our property – I know where they hide – do you?

Text and photographs – Blaine Rothausser

