

Nature is where you find it!
Fun nature trivia for city dwellers and suburbanites alike

Did you know that:

- *We all have follicle mites living on our faces?*
- *The caterpillar of the silver-spotted skipper blasts its frass (poop) 5 feet outside its nest?*
- *In India, the humble pigeon is a symbol of lust?*
- *Jumping spiders sometimes watch TV with you?*
- *Spring moves north at about 16 miles per day, or 100 miles per week?*
- *A tick can live up to 18 years without food?*
- *When a frog eats something disagreeable, it disgorges its entire stomach, brushes out the offending victual, and stuffs its stomach back down its throat?*

Fascinating but little-known facts of nature will entertain and enlighten you every day of the year. Also included are good tips for gardeners as well as a rundown of what constellations you can see in the night sky each month.

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Nature



A NATURE LOVER'S ALMANAC

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JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

January 6

Magpies

Black-billed magpies are frequent and rowdy visitors to winter suet feeders. Omnivorous and resourceful, magpies forge for insects, berries, seeds and carrion; they pick ticks off horses, cows and deer and routinely pilfer from predators and other birds. They often make food caches, into which they deposit fresh and regurgitated snacks. Magpies can find food by scent, which is unusual in the avian world, as most birds have limited sense of smell.



January 12

Unlike most insects, **earwigs** are good mothers. They keep their eggs warm and clean and vigorously protect them from predators. As the eggs hatch, the mother assists them, and the nymphs nest under her like baby birds do under their mother. Mama earwigs even regurgitate food for their babies until they're able to hunt and forage on their own.



January 13

Noctilucent clouds are rare, lovely, blue-white tendrils, most often seen in the western sky half an hour to an hour after sunset. They form in the mesosphere, about 50 miles up, where it's very cold and dry, and are composed of tiny ice crystals.

January 23

In the Middle Ages, **chives** were used as a cure for melancholy. Chive leaves and flowers are high in vitamin C, folic acid and potassium. They contain essential oils, which ease stomach distress, stimulate the appetite, aid in fat digestion, protect the heart and boost the immune system.



January 24

Ladies, take note. In an effort to score, **male flies** sometimes dance around prospective mates dangling a silk-wrapped package. If a female accepts the package, the male sneaks in and does the deed while she unwraps it. By the time she's finished, so is he. Rudely enough, the package is sometimes empty.