

JULY MONTHLY MOSAIC



Berkshire Natural
Resources Council

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AND CATERPILLARS

By July, monarch butterflies are fluttering across open fields while their hungry caterpillars feast on milkweed. It's a peak moment in their life cycle before the journey south begins later in the season.

EXPLORE

Open meadows and fields like **Thomas & Palmer Brook Reserve** in Great Barrington and **Hollow Fields** in Richmond are great butterfly-watching locations.

1



JUVENILE BIRDS LEAVING THE NEST

Many young birds take their first clumsy flights in July, sticking close to their parents while they learn how to find food and navigate the world. Listen for their high-pitched begging calls in backyards and forests.

FUN FACT

If you find a juvenile bird on the ground with feathers and it's hopping around, it's likely learning to fly and still being cared for by its parents. The best thing you can do is leave it alone and keep pets and people at a distance.

2



BATS FEEDING AT DUSK

As the sun sets over the Berkshires, bats emerge from attics, tree hollows, and rocky crevices to sweep the skies for insects. Their silent silhouettes are a classic sign of warm summer nights.

FUN FACT

One little brown bat can eat over 1,000 mosquitoes in an hour—a true friend of summer hikers!

3



BLACK-EYED SUSANS BLOOMING

These native wildflowers attract bees, butterflies, and birds—especially goldfinches, which snack on the seed heads later in the season.

EXPLORE

Look for Black-eyed Susans blooming in sunny, open areas along BNRC trails. They love trail edges, meadows, and former farmland fields where the light is strong and the soil is just wild enough.

4

