

# THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*“April hath put a spirit of youth  
in everything.”*

~ William Shakespeare



## Bird of the Month – Wilson’s Warbler



Who is Wilson and what exactly is a warbler? In this case, Wilson is Alexander Wilson, a Scottish mill worker who emigrated to America and eventually authored the nine-volume *American Ornithology*.

Wilson’s warblers are small, chirpy, and very sprite songbirds. Most of their time is spent flitting in the

shrubby understory of the forest hunting for insects. Wilson’s warblers are found throughout the United States, especially in the west. Both male and female Wilson’s warblers are shades of yellow. The males have little black “caps” that look like mini berets on top of their head. Wilson’s warblers nest on the ground, in bushes, or in small trees, laying about five eggs annually.

In 2014, a study tracked the migration patterns of Wilson’s warblers. It was discovered that DNA extracted from feathers predicted their migration routes. Scientists hope to replicate this study with other species.

## Special Days

**April Fools’ Day**  
April 1

**Palm Sunday**  
April 14

**Tax Day (U.S.)**  
April 15

**Good Friday &  
Passover Begins  
at Sundown**  
April 19

**Easter**  
April 21

**Earth Day**  
April 22

**Arbor Day**  
April 26

## Birthstone – Diamond

For centuries, the diamond has stood for romance, intrigue, power, greed, and magic. In the Middle Ages, it was used to cure headaches and to create love potions. Today, it symbolizes everlasting love. Besides being the birthstone of April, it is also the anniversary gemstone for 10 and 60 years of marriage.

The diamond is the world’s hardest naturally occurring substance. It is also the purest of all gemstones, since it is composed completely from crystallized carbon. Its name comes from the Greek word *adamas*, which means “unconquerable.”



## Flower – Daisy

The special flower of the month of April is the daisy. The daisy is one of the oldest and best-known English flowers. It retains its Anglo-Saxon name, *day’s eye*, because of its appearance and the fact that it closes according to the amount of available sunshine. According to legend, the first daisy appeared when a young nymph turned herself into one to avoid unwanted praise and attention. Thus, the flower has come to symbolize modesty, chastity, and innocence.



## Interesting Facts About April Holidays

Here’s a look at the history behind a few of the holidays celebrated in April.

**April Fools’ Day**, celebrated on April 1, most likely began in 1564—the year France moved the start of its calendar from April 1 to January 1. It is said that those still celebrating the new year in April reportedly had paper fish (or April Fish) stuck to their backs by pranksters. And so, an April “fools” ritual was born.

**Earth Day** was launched on April 22, 1970, following a 1969 oil spill off the coast of California. Founded by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, it reportedly inspired 20 million Americans to demonstrate in marches for the environment. Organizers continue to lead events

worldwide on April 22 and credit this day to the formation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**National Arbor Day**, held the last Friday in April, began in 1872 thanks to the efforts of Nebraska Territory pioneer J. Sterling Morton. Morton’s first tree-planting holiday included prizes for the most trees planted; more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska that first Arbor Day.



## April Riddle

**Q:** What can be seen in the middle of March and April that can’t be seen in the middle of any other month?

**A:** The letter *r*

### April Zodiacs

Aries  
(The Ram)  
April 1–19



Taurus  
(The Bull)  
April 20–30

*April* is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and one of only four that are 30 days long. (Do you know the other three? June, September, and November) The name *April* comes from *Aprilis*, derived from *aperire*, meaning “to open.” It is the name the Romans gave the month, reportedly because it is the time of year when flowers begin to bud or open.

## In the Good Ol’ Days of April

**Fifty years ago**, in April 1969, the average annual income was \$6,500. Average cost of a new house was \$60,000. Minimum wage was \$1.60 per hour. A loaf of bread was 23¢, a dozen eggs were 62¢, and postage stamps were 6¢ each. A new car cost \$2,000. But best of all, gasoline was 32¢ per gallon—even cheaper than a gallon of milk, which was \$1.10.

## What’s Lucky in April?

Lucky Colors: Blue and Green  
Lucky Days: Tuesday and Friday  
Lucky Numbers: 4 and 16  
Lucky Letters: A and L  
Lucky Plant: Daisy



## April Birthdays

Emmylou Harris (musician) – April, 2, 1947  
Marlon Brando (actor) – April 3, 1924  
Spencer Tracy (actor) – April 5, 1900  
Francis Ford Coppola (director) – April 7, 1939  
David Letterman (TV host) – April 12, 1947  
Loretta Lynn (singer) – April 14, 1932  
Jennifer Garner (actress) – April 17, 1972  
Maria Sharapova (tennis player) – April 19, 1987  
William Shakespeare (writer) – c. April 23, 1564  
Barbra Streisand (singer) – April 24, 1942  
Ella Fitzgerald (singer) – April 25, 1917  
Carol Burnett (comedienne) – April 26, 1933  
Jerry Seinfeld (comedian) – April 29, 1954  
Willie Nelson (musician) – April 29, 1933