

2018



California and Oregon

Total Solar Eclipse
(8/21/2017, Madras, OR)

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Great Blue Heron

Great Blue Herons are best known for hunting fish in shallow water (where they can wade), but they also hunt for gophers in fields.

(1/14/2017, Shingle Springs, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>DECEMBER 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;"> <p>January 2018</p> </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28</p> </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Year's Day					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	Payday	31			



Pink Blossoms

Every spring Bear Creek is lined with bushes covered in pink blossoms.
 (4/9/2017, Bear Valley Rd., Colusa County, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> JANUARY 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">February 2018</div> <div style="font-size: small;"> MARCH 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Groundhog Day	
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Presidents' Day			Washington's Birthday		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Payday			
25	26	27	28			



Ant

I was photographing a tiny pink flower in my yard (slightly larger than a pencil eraser) when the flower started shaking noticeably, even though there was no wind. Soon the explanation for the shaking appeared.

(3/25/2017, Shingle Springs, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> FEBRUARY 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;"> March 2018 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> APRIL 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Saving Begins						St. Patrick's Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	Spring (9:16 AM PDT)	20	21	22	23
					Payday	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Field of Flowers

Bear Valley, near the northern part of California's Central Valley, can get a wide variety of flowers in the spring.
 (4/9/2017, Bear Valley Rd., Colusa County, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> MARCH 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">April 2018</div> <div style="font-size: small;"> MAY 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April Fool's Day Easter Sunday <div style="text-align: right;">1</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">2</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">3</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">4</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">5</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">6</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">7</div>
<div style="text-align: right;">8</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">9</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">10</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">11</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">12</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">13</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">14</div>
Tax Day <div style="text-align: right;">15</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">16</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">17</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">18</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">19</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">20</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">21</div>
<div style="text-align: right;">22</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">23</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">24</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">25</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">26</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">27</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">28</div>
<div style="text-align: right;">29</div>	Payday <div style="text-align: right;">30</div>					



Dragonfly

This is one of the two dominant species of dragonflies found near our local lake. The other has vivid green eyes, but is smaller and lacks the flashy white on the wings of this variety.

(7/1/2017, Shingle Springs, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> APRIL 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;"> May 2018 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> JUNE 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	National Day of Prayer		Cinco De Mayo
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mother's Day		15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Memorial Day		Payday			
27	28	29	30	31		



Reflections

Red Lake Peak is named after its lake.
 (10/15/2017, Eldorado National Forest, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> MAY 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 </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;"> June 2018 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> JULY 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Father's Day				Summer (3:08 AM PDT)		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					Payday	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Swallowtail Butterfly

Although dominantly yellow from a distance, up close a Swallowtail has other vivid colors in its tail.
 (7/17/2017, Shingle Springs, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> JUNE 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;"> July 2018 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> AUGUST 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</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	31 <i>Payday</i>				



Total Solar Eclipse

On August 21, 2017, the US experienced its first total solar eclipse since 1979. Due to its statistics for clear skies, Madras Oregon was chosen by many (including NASA) as their viewing point, swelling a small town with a population of a bit over 6,000 to well over 100,000 for the eclipse. Those who came were treated to 2 minutes and 2 seconds of views like this.

(8/21/2017, Madras, OR)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>JULY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p> </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">August 2018</div> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p> </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			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	Payday	30	31



Mockingbird

Not everyone knows what a Mockingbird looks like, but most everyone has heard them. They sing songs that not only mimic the sounds of other birds, but also of insects and amphibians.

(10/3/2017, Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, Lodi, CA)

AUGUST		September 2018						OCTOBER					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday							
						1							
	Labor Day												
2	3	4	5	6	7	8							
		Patriot Day											
9	10	11	12	13	14	15							
						Fall (6:55 PM PDT)							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22							
					Payday								
23	24	25	26	27	28	29							
30													



Fall Mushroom

Early rains followed by extended warm weather produced the perfect conditions for mushrooms in fall 2017.
 (11/25/2017, Shingle Springs, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> SEPTEMBER 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">October 2018</div> <div style="font-size: small;"> NOVEMBER 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Columbus Day					
	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	Payday	Halloween			
	30	31				



Sandhill Cranes

Sandhill Cranes like to winter in Central California. Although they have mostly gray wings, staining from dirt often causes them to look reddish brown. Despite their impressive wingspan (up to 7.5 feet), what stands out the most in my mind is the sound hundreds of them make while calling to each other near sunset.

(10/3/2017, Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, Lodi, CA)

OCTOBER		November 2018						DECEMBER					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6								1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13							2
14	15	16	17	18	19	20							3
21	22	23	24	25	26	27							4
28	29	30	31										5
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday							
					1	2	3						
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day											
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
Veteran's Day	Veterans Day (Observed)												
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
				Thanksgiving Day	Day After Thanksgiving								
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
				Payday									
25	26	27	28	29	30								



Sunset

The foothills of the Sierra often produce the right conditions for memorable sunsets.
 (6/16/2017, Shingle Springs, CA)

NOVEMBER		December 2018						JANUARY 2019					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday							
						1							
2	3	4	5	6	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15							
16	17	18	19	20	Winter (2:24 PM PST)	22							
23	24	Christmas Day	25	26	27	29							
30	Payday												
	31												



Baily's Beads

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The white spots at the upper-right of the sun are known as Baily's Beads. These appeared just as the sun was coming out of totality during the eclipse.
(8/21/2017, Madras, OR)