

# Wildtales Country Journal

by Heather A. Wallis Murphy ©2003



**June** "Junius", a Roman family name (Webster's); "Juno", in Roman mythology, was the goddess of marriage, queen of gods, wife of Jupiter.  
**June's birth flower is Rose, and the birthstone is Pearl.**

## June Dates to Celebrate:

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Lewis & Clark discovered W. Tanager 1806, | 11 <sup>th</sup> Jacques Cousteau born 1910, | 15 <sup>th</sup> Father's Day,                             | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Anne Morrow Lindbergh born 1907,             |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Frank Lloyd Wright born 1867,             | 12 <sup>th</sup> AlCan Highway opened 1943   | 18 <sup>th</sup> Amelia Earhart crosses the Atlantic 1928, | 24 <sup>th</sup> Flying Saucers reported Mt. Rainier 1947,    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> King Kamehameha I Day 1796 Hawaii,       | 14 <sup>th</sup> Full Moon,                  | 21 <sup>st</sup> Summer Solstice,                          | 25 <sup>th</sup> Sioux won the Battle of Little Big Horn 1876 |

## Nature Tales:



The earliest nature journals in the Pacific Northwest included animal forms carved into the totem poles of the Bella Coola AND the red painted birds, fish and humans on rock art in the interior Columbia basin. Painted prior to European settlement, these pictographs date back from 200 to thousands of years ago. The red finger paints were created from iron oxides, mixed into a concoction of mineral pigment, water, fat, plant juice or urine.

are colored from dietary pigments found in the insects the tanager feeds on. The song of the tanager is composed of short phrases, and notes sounding like "pit-tic" or "pi-tic".

This songbird is found only in the Western Hemisphere, migrating north to the western U.S. and Canada during the breeding season. Its genus and species name, *Piranga ludoviciana*, came in part from the native people at wintering grounds between Baja California and Costa Rica. "Piranga" is named for the sound of the tanager and "ludoviciana" is named in honor of the Louisiana Purchase, the territory Lewis and Clark explored. The Spanish name for the Western Tanager is wonderfully descriptive, *Tangara capucha roja*, meaning "tanager", "hood", "red". Interestingly, this nocturnal migrant is also a "complete migrant" (having no resident populations). In Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia, the spring arrival of Western Tanagers occurs between late April and mid-June.

may be useful to wildlife biologists in the future.



Bird observations from my various holiday travel journals include: Denali National Park 1992 (Sandhill cranes, willow ptarmigan and black-capped chickadees); Vancouver Island

1996 (harlequin ducks!); Ireland 1995 with 7 species (divers/loons, curlews & oyster catchers, a highlight!); San Juan Islands 1998 with 3 species of birds (marbled murrelet!); Scotland in 2000 with 16 species (arctic tern eggs on Egg! and sheep); Hawaii 2001 with 6 species of birds, which only one was native to Hawaii ("Hona Kai" the Sanderling); and Port Townsend 2003 with 20 species (red-breasted merganser & brandt!). Nature art and journals helps retain the rich cultural heritage, wherever around the world you may be.

Heather is a feature writer from Leavenworth, Washington, sharing her field travels as an artist, nature writer and practicing wildlife biologist. See her cards in stores across the Northwest OR visit her cards online at [www.wildtales.com](http://www.wildtales.com) "Walleye Cards" a naturalist notecard, & journal business.

Written nature journals came along by the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the early 1800's. The Western Tanager, a reddish-orange, yellow and black bird, was recorded on June 6th 1806 as a new discovery. Tanagers, though very colorful, are



difficult to see because they live on the highest branches of conifer trees. The males' red head feathers

In the great out-of-doors, bird songs and calls make up a familiar "noise" of summer holidays. Keep a list of birds and other wildlife species seen while on holiday journeys. Field journal entries add a permanent linkage to a place, engaging all the senses - as well as a keeping a scientific data collection that



Book Wash  
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Blues caught within the waves stepping up the beach. Colors washing back and forth while autumn lands by the sea.

Floating pillows and spreads play in the distant breeze as conversations fly on by.

Far away laughter of loons which only close intimates share and understand.

Coolness without wind while fall's crispness walks over summer's heat.

The cleansing of the sea refreshes across the land, such as on washing day in Ireland.

~ Heather A. Wallis Murphy, 1998©



## Field Journal Entries

- Summer Holiday Birds
- SAN JUAN ISLANDS 1998
- MARBLED MURRELET
  - COMMON MURRE
  - GREAT BLUE HERON
- PORT TOWNSEND 2003
- GREASY YELLOWLEGS
  - BIRD EAGLE
  - RED NECKED GREBE
  - BIRD GREBE
  - COMMON LOON
  - MARBLED MURRELET
  - RED-BREASTED MERGANSER
  - PIGEON GUILLEMOT
  - WILSON GREBE
  - HORNED GREBE
  - PELICAN COMMONS
  - DUTCH CRESTED COMMON
  - BRUNT
  - SURF SCOTER
  - BROWN GULL
  - HULLAND
  - CANADA GOOSE
  - GREAT BLUE HERON
  - GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL
  - WILSON GULL
- HAWAII 2001
- SANDERLING "Hona Kai"
  - ZEPHYRUS
  - NORTHERN CAROLINE
  - OCEAN SKUA
  - RED-CRESTED CONDOR
  - HOUSE FINCH

