

# How to Predict the Weather Without a Forecast

## 3. Animals

Long before technology was developed to predict the weather, people relied on observation, patterns and folklore to avoid being caught off-guard by the elements. Once you practice these methods and become attuned to the sky, the air, and animal behaviors, it's possible to predict the weather quite reliably.

**Take note of the birds.** If they are flying high in the sky, there will probably be fair weather. Falling air pressure caused by an imminent storm causes discomfort in birds' ears, so they fly low to alleviate it. Large numbers of birds roosting on power lines indicates swiftly falling air pressure.

- Seagulls tend to stop flying and take refuge at the coast if a storm is coming.
- Birds get very quiet immediately before it rains.

**Pay attention to the cows.** They will typically lie down before a thunderstorm. They also tend to stay close together if bad weather's on the way.

### Frogs

These loud amphibians are said to croak even longer and louder than usual when bad weather is on the horizon. When you hear their volume increase, you can assume a storm is brewing.

### Bees and Butterflies

When bees and butterflies disappear from the flower beds, you can expect some heavy weather coming your way. The folklore goes that if they're not in their usual spots, something is up.

### Sheep

"When sheep gather in a huddle, tomorrow will have a puddle." Although this rhyme is cute, the weather that comes with it isn't. It's believed that you can expect a storm when these animals crowd together and shield each other

### Ladybugs

One of the cutest insects around can give us a hint about the day's thermostat: "When they swarm, expect a day that's warm." On the other hand, if you notice the black and red bugs looking for shelter, then cold weather is on the way.

## **It's going to rain when**

- Sparrows start bathing in dry mud.
- Ants start creating steep walls around their hills.
- Cats start cleaning the backs of their ears.
- Birds in general get quieter.
- Turtles seek a high ground.
- Bats begin to fly really low.
- Dolphins begin to swim closer to land.
- Roosters crow before going to sleep.
- Spiders begin to leave their webs.

## **A storm is approaching when**

- Cows lie down on the ground or herd close together.
- Birds begin to fly lower than usual.
- Seagulls stop flying and seek refuge wherever they can get.
- Bigger animals start running towards higher grounds in case they're near the sea.
- Bees and butterflies disappear suddenly.
- Dolphins come to sheltered bays.