



Spring 2015

By Ann Prince

APRIL

1 With slowly warming weather, chickadees sing their sweet *fee-bee fee-bee* as they prepare for nesting season.

3 Listen for spring peepers in wetlands; the persistent high-pitched whistles of large congregations fill the air after dusk.



4 Total eclipse of the moon. This astronomical event occurs only at the time of a full moon. Look for a dark reddish sphere when the earth aligns between the moon and the sun.



10 Tree swallows arrive.

15 White shadbush, also called serviceberry, blossoms in woodlands.

24 Wood ducks occupy nest boxes in freshwater inland swamps.



29 Before the trees leaf out, take a spring wildflower walk to see forest ephemerals such as wood anemone, pink lady's slipper, trout lily, trillium, and Dutchman's breeches.

30 Eastern towhees, barn swallows, and chimney swifts return.

MAY



3 Full moon. The Bright Moon (Celtic).

9 Northern orioles and gray catbirds return.



10 Spring azure butterflies appear at forest edges and in garden borders; their three-quarter-inch outstretched wings are light violet blue above and grayish below.

12 Height of the spring warbler migration.

14 Look for the four white flowerlike bracts (leaves borne on a floral axis) of bunchberry and the five pink-striped petals of spring beauty on the forest floor.



Painted Trillium

MAY (cont.)

15 Listen for the musical *cheerly cheerly* song of nesting bluebirds in orchards, farmland, pastures, and swamps.

20 Watch for returning ruby-throated hummingbirds in dooryard gardens.

21 Painted turtles and snapping turtles move onto land to lay their eggs.

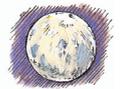


25 Scarlet tanagers and rose-breasted grosbeaks appear.

28 Dogwoods bloom.

JUNE

2 Full moon. The Rose Moon (Colonial American).



16 Fireflies appear in grassy areas; each species has its own flash pattern.

18 Baby birds begin to leave their nests at about this time yet are still well attended by their parents.

21 Summer solstice. First day of summer and the year's longest stretch of daylight.

23 Gray treefrogs begin singing; listen also for the nighttime bullfrog chorus at nearby ponds.

25 Open meadows are graced with the bright faces of yellow black-eyed Susan and white ox-eye daisy.



30 Daylilies bloom in old gardens and fields.

Ann Prince is Copyeditor.



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