

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

## MARCH 2017



**1** The furry, light-gray flowers of **pussy willow** burst from their buds.

**4** The first of the migrant red-winged blackbirds are returning north. The earliest groups are made up almost entirely of adult males. Look for them perched on high marsh reeds and rushes such as cattails, displaying their bright red and yellow shoulder patches, or epaulets.



**10** **Salamander** migration begins. On the first rainy nights after the snow melts, watch for them as they make their way from the uplands to vernal pools.

**12** Full Worm Moon (Native American): so named because the ground softens in March and the earthworms reappear.



**14** American woodcock nuptial flights begin about this time, as the snow melts back in open fields. Listen for the *peent* call and the whistle of wings.

**14** **Great blue herons** return to rookeries; they begin nest building and repair almost immediately upon arrival.

**16** **Skunk cabbages**, among the first plants to emerge in spring, appear in wetlands. Soon their unpleasant odor attracts pollinators such as flies and beetles.



**19** Listen for the territorial drumming of hairy, downy, and **pileated woodpeckers**. Pairing begins in late winter.



**20** Vernal equinox: first day of spring. Night and day are of equal length.

**23** Listen for the roundelays of song sparrows and the trills of yellow-rumped warblers.

**26** **Eastern phoebes** and fox sparrows arrive.



**27** **Mourning cloaks** overwinter as adults in tree crevices and beneath loose bark, and emerge on warm days in early spring.



**30** Tree swallows return. Look for them scouting for nest boxes or tree cavities as breeding season begins.