

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

APRIL 2017



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



2 On beaches look for **pipers** arriving from southern wintering grounds.

3 Great blue herons, great egrets, and snowy egrets return to marshes, joining the small population of over-wintering great blue herons.



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

10 Jupiter, largest planet in the solar system, will be bright and visible next to the moon just after the sun sets.



11 **Full moon.** The Fish Moon, named for this time frame when shad and other anadromous fish return up the rivers to spawn.

15 The native white shadbush shrub, also called serviceberry, blossoms in wetlands and woodlands.



21 **House wrens** claim nest boxes and fill the air with their exuberant, cheerful song.

22 Earth Day. The Lyrid meteor shower is expected to peak tonight.

24 **Wood ducks** are nesting in tree hollows or nest boxes in freshwater inland swamps.



25 Watch for returning **ruby-throated hummingbirds**. If you haven't already put your hummingbird feeders out, do so now.



27 Gray catbirds, eastern towhees, and barn swallows return. Listen for the feline-like mewing of the catbirds among sprawling vines and thickets and the drink-your-tea call of the towhees in scrubby areas. Look for the mud nests of barn swallows under the eaves in sheds and barns.

29 Chimney swifts return. Listen for their chittering and rattling flight calls at dusk.

30 Search in woodlands for early wildflowers, such as trout lily, **trillium**, bloodroot, and hepatica.

