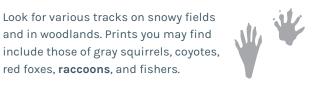
Outdoor Almanac

February 2018



Groundhog Day. This marks the halfway point between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox. According to many ancient traditions, if Ms. G, the official state groundhog of Massachusetts, fails to see her shadow, the wintry weather will soon subside. Should a day of sunshine reveal the groundhog's shadow, the forecast is six more weeks of cold, inclement conditions.



19 If there's a snowmelt, search for traces of tunnels dug by voles and shrews.

Look for coyote and deer beds in the snow. Coyotes usually bed in a hollow

where they are well protected. Deer

watch for predators.

also bed under trees but usually pick a protected area where they can also have good views of their surroundings to

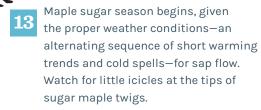
under evergreen trees or rocky overhangs

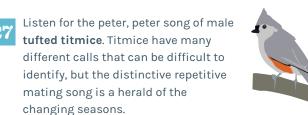


- TO PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN NAME
- Look for the occasional purple finch mixed in with house finches at your backyard bird feeder.



Skunks emerge to mate about this time of year.





- New moon. There are no full moons in February, but there is a new moon, which is barely visible to the naked eye. The lack of moonlight, though, allows the stars to shine a little brighter.
- Among the earliest of spring migrants, killdeer arrive as early as late February in exceptionally warm years. Listen for their kill-deer, kill-deer call in fields and pastures, and on playgrounds, lawns, unpaved driveways, beach dunes, and other open areas.

