

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

APRIL 2018



- 1** With warming weather, **black-capped chickadees** sing their sweet fee-bee, fee-bee as they prepare for nesting season. Don't confuse the sweet chickadee song with the Eastern phoebe's more emphatic, raspy, whistled fee-BEE, which also starts about now.



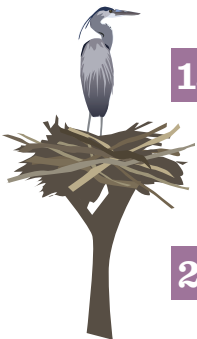
- 2** Look for **piping plovers** along the beach as they arrive from southern wintering grounds.

- 4** Eastern shadbush, also called serviceberry, blooms in wetlands and moist woodlands, creating clouds of white blossoms along riparian habitats.



- 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.



- 15** **Great blue herons**, great egrets, and snowy egrets return to marshes, joining the small population of overwintering great blue herons.

- 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, but best viewing will be in the predawn moonless sky.

- 24** **Mourning cloak** butterflies can be seen feeding upside down on sap weeping from wounds on oaks and other deciduous trees.



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

- 28** Chimney swifts return. Listen for their chittering and rattling flight calls at dusk particularly around buildings with large chimneys.

- 29** **Full moon.** The April full moon is typically called the Fish Moon, for when the shad and other anadromous fish return up the rivers to spawn. This year, the full moon is later in the month and the shad should have already spawned.



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

