

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

APRIL 2019



- 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.



- 4** Listen for **Spring Peepers** in wetlands; the persistent high-pitched whistles of large congregations fill the air after dusk.

- 8** Snowy Egrets are in full breeding plumage. Look for the beautiful white plumes on their head and neck and their striking yellow-orange feet.



- 10** **Mourning Cloak** butterflies overwinter as adults, sheltered under loose bark or in holes in trees. They emerge in spring before most flowers are open, so they feed on sap from deciduous trees and can also be found on puddles in dirt paths and roads.

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



- 19** **Full Moon.** For the Mohawk Indians, this was the Budding Time moon. Many native woodland plants and trees flower this month.

- 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.



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

- 25** Watch for **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.** Early returning hummingbirds often feed from sap wells made by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. If you plan on putting out a hummingbird feeder, this is the time to start.



- 27** Gray Catbirds, Eastern Towhees, and Barn Swallows return. Listen for the feline-like mewing of Catbirds among sprawling vines and thickets and the *drink-your-tea* call of the Eastern 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.

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

