Outdoor Almanac

March 2020

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

4 Black Bears are emerging from their winter sleep and looking for food. Bears have excellent memories so if you live in an area with bears, take down your bird feeders before the bears find them.

9 **Full Sap Moon**, as this is the season when sap should be running. This is also a supermoon as the moon is full when it is at its closet point to the earth. Supermoons are about 7% larger and 16% brighter than a normal full moon.

10 Listen for the distinctive quacking of **Wood Frogs** in the evening as they gather at vernal pools. They are the first amphibians to emerge in spring and often congregate on pools still partially covered with ice.

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.

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.

17 The first warm (40°F), rainy night will bring out the **salamanders** as they migrate from their winter burrows to vernal pools to mate. They spend only a short time at the pools and, soon after mating, head back to the uplands.

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

22 Silver maples are flowering. Maple flowers are wind pollinated and have no petals but these tiny flowers are beautiful nonetheless.

26 Look and listen for tom turkeys gobbling and displaying. Their heads turn brilliant red and blue, they fan and waggle their tails, and drag their wings across the ground as they strut back and forth. When you find displaying toms, look around to find the hen, who is usually nearby but often hidden from view.

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

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

Mass Audubon