

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

APRIL 2020



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.

3 Mourning Doves can be heard "perch cooing" as they start the nesting season. This repeated low-pitched coo song is often heard just before dawn and frequently mistaken for an owl calling.



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



8 **Full Super Moon.** This is the closest and thus the largest full moon of the year. Early colonists called this the Pink Moon after the pink blooms of moss phlox.

9 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**, Eastern Comma, and other butterflies that overwinter as adults sheltered under loose bark or in holes in trees have emerged. Unlike most of our butterflies that live for only a few weeks as adults, these overwintering adults live eight to 10 months.

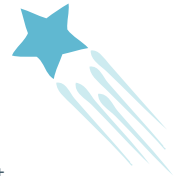
14 Eastern shadbush, also called serviceberry, blooms in wetlands and moist woodlands, creating clouds of white blossoms along riverbanks.

17 **Painted Turtles** can be seen basking on logs or rocks, warming up after their winter stay in cold mud at the bottom of the pond.



19 Red Fox kits have emerged from their dens. Kits have dark gray fur at birth which turns to sandy gray when they first venture out. The change to adult red starts at about three months.

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



24 Venus, often called the evening star, is at its brightest in late April. Look for it in the western sky after sunset just below the crescent moon.

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 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.

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

