

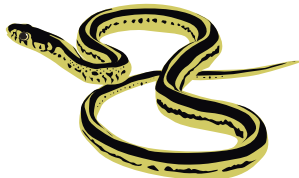
OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

Black-capped Chickadees have been singing their sweet *fee-bee fee-bee* for several weeks 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 we start to hear about now.

3

Garter Snakes are emerging and mating. If you see a group of entwined garter snakes, look for the one female at the center covered by several males.



4

Check ponds, rivers, lakes, and even ephemeral snow melt wetlands for ducks. Not all the winter ducks (Common Merganser, Bufflehead) have left while year-round and arriving ducks (Wood Duck, Mallard) are looking for good nesting sites.

6

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

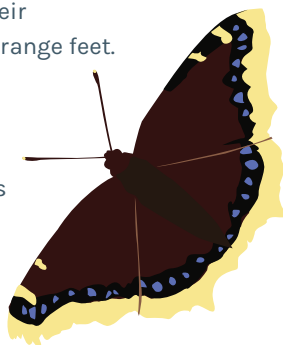


9

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.



12

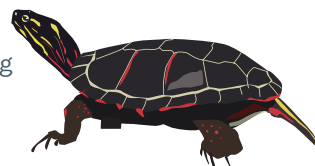
Look for Wood Frog egg masses in vernal pools, small ponds, or even large puddles. The adults return to the ponds they hatched from just to mate, then go back to their forested upland habitats until next spring.

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 ponds.



19

Red Squirrels have shed their warm, deep red winter fur. They are more olive green-brown during the warmer seasons.

22

Earth Day. The Lyrid meteor shower is at its peak.

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.



26

Super Full Moon. Because the moon is close to earth this month it will appear larger so it's a super moon. For the Mohawk, this was the Budding Time Moon.



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, trailing arbutus, and hepatica.

