

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

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



5

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 visit them.

7

Full Moon



8

Several moth species overwinter as caterpillars, including the woolly bear caterpillar of the Isabella tiger moth. When the weather warms, they can be found crawling up sticks and last year's stems looking for a good place to pupate.

10

Skunk cabbages, among the first plants to emerge in spring, appear in wetlands. Soon their unpleasant odor attracts pollinators such as flies and beetles.



12

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

14

American Woodcock nuptial flights begin about this time, as the snow melts back in open fields. Around sunset listen for the *peent* call and the whistle of wings.

16

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.

17

The first warm (40°F), rainy night will bring out **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.

24

Beavers have been eating the bark from the sticks they stored underwater last fall. When the ice melts, they come out to eat green plants including water lilies and skunk cabbage.

26

Look and listen for tom turkeys gobbling and displaying. Their heads and wattles turn blue and brilliant red, 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

Gray Foxes are giving birth with 1-4 pups in a litter. These pups will stay in the den for the next month, and by the time they are three months old, they will learn to hunt on their own. Gray Foxes have a dark tail with a black tip while Red Foxes have a white tail tip. Also, if you see a fox in a tree, it's definitely a Gray Fox as Red Foxes don't climb trees.

30

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

