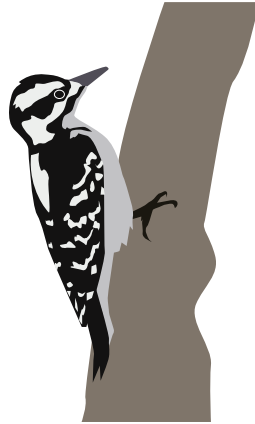


# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

Downy and **Hairy woodpeckers** are excavating trees to nest. These woodpeckers look alike, but Hairy Woodpeckers are larger with a bill about as long as their heads while Downy bills are much shorter.



4

Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets return to marshes, joining the small population of overwintering Great Blue Herons.

6

Full moon

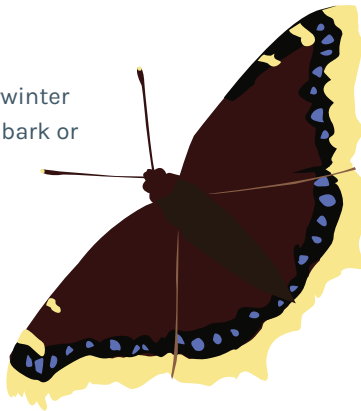


7

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

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 sipping 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 riverbanks.

17

Great Horned Owls are not cavity nesters but use old Red-tailed Hawk or Great Blue Heron nests. Look for the still-downy heads of Great Horned Owl fledglings sticking up over the edges of these large nests.

19

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

22

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



25

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



28

**National Arbor Day.** Visit your local wildlife sanctuary and see how many trees you can identify.

30

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

