

NATURE'S CALENDAR

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Late January – Robins in Winter?

Yes! Robins seem to be more and more frequent in our ACRES' regions. I often see robins in low, wooded wetlands where they find protection from brisk winds, and fruits from plants such as cranberry, nannyberry, red osier and gray dogwoods. Some robins could be local, but more likely they are robins from the north that come south and find our forests, yards, and foods to their liking. They often occur in small flocks.

February 7 – Full Moon

Algonquin people referred to this full moon of February as the Snow Moon. Go outside after a nice fresh snow, and use only the light of the Snow Moon high in the sky. You will be amazed how bright it will be! Take this *Quarterly* and read your favorite column with no other light than that of the full Snow Moon! It was also called the Hunger Moon, as the long winter could be taxing on food resources for Native Americans.

Mid-March – "Peent!"

The "peent" of a male woodcock! This small, rotund, long-beaked "shorebird" is actually more at home in scrubby fields than along the water's edge. At this time of year, males come to open areas at dusk and perform their "sky dance" so eloquently described by Aldo Leopold in his classic, *A Sand County Almanac*. The "peent" on the ground, the whirr of wings in flight, and the flute-light chortling at flight's zenith are welcome late winter sounds heralding the season to come.