

APRIL NATURAL EVENTS
GSWA ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
SITE

1. By the time the juncos and fox sparrows leave look for early spring warblers: pine warblers will be found in the tallest parts of trees especially cedars in our meadow area. Palm warblers might be seen along the orange and red trail foraging near and on the forest floor.
2. Wood frog tadpoles have probably emerged from egg masses in some of the many vernal ponds on site. Look for them swimming about in search of zooplankton found in the water column.
3. An incredible upland game bird called the woodcock may visit our site to forage along the loose mucks and soils of the mosquito ditch and lowest wetland areas. You can't mistake it if you see it—this is a short squabby bird coated in drab earthy colors wielding a long slender beak which it uses to feel for earthworms, its main food source.
4. Spring peepers and chorus frogs can be heard calling from the cattail marsh pond – trail stop # 9 on the red trail – listen for them late in the day on warm humid nights – rain will make them scream with joy.
5. Wood pecker species will be drumming and displaying territorial and nesting behaviors throughout our site. Look for yellow-shafted flickers and red-bellied woodpeckers along the orange trail along side the mosquito ditch – they find the dead snags desirable for excavating nest cavities.
6. Spring beauties, trout lilies and wild geraniums will bloom profusely as the first spring ephemerals to grace our forest floor.
7. Bee flies, blue azure butterflies and queen bumblebees will be seen on any warm April days as some of the first insects to become active.
8. Tree swallows return from South America and seek out nesting holes in tree cavities. Blue bird boxes found at the entrance to our property will always have tree swallows using them to nest.
9. By the middle of the month most tree species will have their buds bursting and leaves are soon to emerge. With the leaves will come the emergence of insects. With insects will come the neotropical

songbirds that time their migration with this emergence. The insects are their primary energy source to continue their northward advancements.