At the end of March,
Edwin and Nellie Teale would venture here,
to the North Woods, “to search for the blue butterfly.” *Acanthopis argiolus*, the Spring Azure, was for the Teales a symbol of “the return of spring.”

Such ventures reflect the way in which Edwin and Nellie marked the passing of days less by the paper calendar and more by the seasonal changes of the natural world: the torpor and death of winter, the births and culling deaths of spring, the migrations southward and the return journeys home, the blossoming pastures and the emergence of pollinators fertilizing the fruits of summer and fall.

To all of these dynamics of the land, and to so many others, Edwin and Nellie felt deeply connected, prompting Edwin in 1978 to declare them both to be Tellurians: “those who…dwell on the earth and feel a oneness with it throughout all their lives…”

Here in the North Woods, the Teales built and fostered such a relationship, both with the land and with each other. Here they witnessed a Starling imitating the call of a Wood Pewee. Here, in a sheltered spot at the woods edge, Edwin brushed January snow from the velvety leaves of a mullein plant, knowing that “between these leaves, as between a stack of woolen blankets, tiny forms of life – minute spiders and beetles and springtails – have found a snug winter retreat.” Here, Edwin and Nellie found sunflower seed husks discarded by the Chickadees that spent “hour after hour at our feeders [then] buzzed away in beeline flight, carrying their seeds in their bills to the privacy of the woods.”

Such observations, shared by the Teales with one another for 21 years at Trail Wood, showed them to be, as is etched on their shared headstone, “Two who loved this Earth and loved each other.”

Tellurians are those who… “dwell on the earth and feel a oneness with it throughout all their lives, who know the deep emotional attachment to it – are bound together in a special way. Neither death nor time nor distance separate completely those who have experienced in common this close relationship with the earth on which we live.”

* — Edwin Way Teale, *A Walk Through the Year*