

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

MAY 2017



**2** Brilliantly colored scarlet tanagers, **Baltimore orioles**, and rose-breasted grosbeaks arrive from southerly climes. Look and listen for flashy males high above in spring-green treetops.

**3** Look for the beautiful blue and chestnut plumage and listen for the musical whistling song of nesting eastern bluebirds in orchards and pastures.



**5** Common **blue violets** are blooming in woodlands and wet meadows, and are often ubiquitous in neighborhood lawns.

**5-6** Height of the Eta Aquarids meteor shower. In the northern hemisphere, roughly 30 shooting stars per hour, most prominent after midnight, grace the dark moonless sky.



**10** **Full moon.** The Milk Moon, referring to the change in milk that occurs with the return to grazing after a winter of hay.



**14** Look for the large, pink blooms of **lady's slipper** along upland forest floors.

**16** Height of the spring warbler migration. Listen for the dawn chorus and watch the treetops and shrubbery at sunrise and sunset for these beautiful little birds (**blackburnian warbler**).



**18** Tiny, strikingly blue, **spring azure** butterflies patrol their territories in late afternoon at woodland edges and in forest clearings.



**21** Keep an eye out for female **painted turtles** and snapping turtles crossing roads as they move onto land and into the uplands to dig nests and lay their eggs.



**28** Look for the beautiful white or occasionally pink blooms of our native flowering **dogwoods** along forest edges.



Mass Audubon