

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

MAY 2018



2 **Bumblebee queens** have emerged and are looking for good nest sites. They fly in distinctive zigzag patterns close to the ground in scrubby areas and field edges.

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**).



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

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



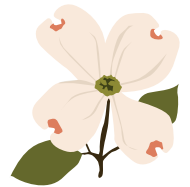
6 Height of the Eta Aquarid meteor shower. In the northern hemisphere, roughly 30 shooting stars per hour, most prominent after midnight, grace the dark moonless sky.

21 Keep an eye out for female snapping and painted turtles crossing roads as they climb uphill to soft, drier soil to dig nests and lay eggs.



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

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



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

29 **Full moon.** Algonquin tribes named this the Full Corn Weeding Moon. Corn shoots are emerging and need attention until they get big enough to outpace the weeds.



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