

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

JULY 2018

3 Listen for the chirping chorus of tiny Gray Treefrogs on sultry afternoons. Young Gray Treefrogs are bright green while adults are mottled greenish-gray.



6 Native summer blooming plants are starting to flower. Look for **milkweeds** (**common**, swamp, and butterfly weed), nodding onion, bee balm, coneflower, black-eyed susan, native honeysuckle, and more. Also, look for all the butterflies and native bees as they collect nectar and pollen from these important food sources.

10 Keep an eye out for ripening blueberries on rocky hillsides and woodland clearings. Low bush blueberries are found in dry, shady uplands while high bush blueberries are found in sunnier, low-lying areas near wetlands.



13 Around field edges and orchards watch for **Eastern Bluebirds** feeding their newly fledged spotted young, which look a lot like young American Robins. Bluebirds and robins both belong to the thrush group and their familial relationship is most easily seen in the fledglings.

15 At sunset tonight, look for Venus immediately to the left of the crescent moon. Tomorrow at sunset Venus will be below and to the right of the moon.

20 Watch robins, catbirds, **orioles**, and mockingbirds forage for ripe blackberries, unhindered by the thorny brambles.



25 The wonderful fragrance of blooming sweet pepperbush (summersweet) lets you know when you are near a wetland.

26 **Female goldfinches** fly in search of the downy fibers of thistle to incorporate in their nest building.



27 **Full moon**; for the Eastern Woodland Indians this high summer moon was known as the Ripening Moon as they harvested native seeds and fruit, and their crops.



28 In sunny wet, meadows, look for the white blooms of common dogbane (Indian hemp) and the hummingbird moths that use them as larval host plants. These plants are in the same family and look similar to swamp milkweed but dogbane has white flowers and swamp milkweed flowers are pink.

30 The tall lavender spikes of blooming **pickerelweed** appear around the edges of shallow ponds. Along the same edges you can usually find for the smaller three-petaled white flowers of arrowhead as well.

