

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

MAY 2019



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.



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 **Full moon.** For the Passamaquoddy Indians, this was the Alewife Moon—the time to catch alewives as they migrated from the ocean to spawn in freshwater ponds and lakes. While the alewife population has been depleted, these fish can still be seen moving up coastal rivers and streams.



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.

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



8 The distinctive orange and black plumage of **Baltimore Orioles**, named for the colors of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore, make these birds easy to spot. Look and listen for singing males high above in spring-green treetops and females building their distinctive hanging nests

21 Keep an eye out for female **Painted** and Snapping Turtles crossing roads as they climb up hill to soft, drier soil to dig nests and lay their eggs.



10 Barred Owl chicks leave their cavity nest two to four weeks before they are able to fly. You can see them sitting on large horizontal branches waiting to be fed.

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



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