

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

JULY 2019

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, check out all the butterflies and native bees that are collecting 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 If you have any dill, carrot, parsley, or celery in your garden, watch for female Black Swallowtails as they flit from leaf to leaf laying a single egg at each stop. Also, look for them in fields around Queen Anne's lace, which is in the same plant family.

16 **Full moon**; for the many Eastern Woodland tribes this high summer moon was known by various names, but all of them refer to the maturation of plants and seeds. For the Mohawk it was the Time of Much Ripening Moon as they began harvesting native seeds and fruit, and some of their planted crops.



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.



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.

