

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

## JUNE 2020



**2** Birds such as **Yellow Warblers** are still singing at dawn for pair bonding, but note how little song there is during the day as they attend to their young.

**3** If you live near a vernal pool, multitudes of tiny wood froglets may appear in your garden or yard on their way to a wooded upland.



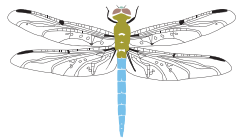
**5** **Full moon.** While it's also known as the Strawberry Moon, our local strawberries won't be ready to pick for another couple of weeks.

**6** It's National Trails Day. Get outside and explore a new trail or a favorite old one.



**7** On a midday walk you could happen upon a **Garter Snake**—the state reptile of Massachusetts—basking in a sunny forest clearing or grassy meadow.

**8** Coyote pups are active now. These can be mistaken for fox kits, as they both have sandy fur when young. But fox kits always have a white tipped tail; coyote pups do not.



**10** Look carefully at vegetation around the edges of ponds for emerging damselflies and **dragonflies**, which will be soft and colorless. These new adults are very vulnerable to predators—birds and frogs—as it takes them several hours for their wings to unfold and become functional.

**13** Mother ducks keep their ducklings together as protection against predators for several weeks until the ducklings can fly.

**18** Garden butterflies are about. Watch for favorites including swallowtails, Painted Ladies, fritillaries, and **sulphurs**.



**20** Summer solstice. It's the first official day of summer and the longest day of the year.

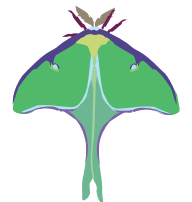
**23** At nightfall, watch for flickering **fireflies** in fields and grassy areas. Each species has its own pattern of flashes.



**24** The birdlike trill of Gray Tree Frogs can be heard all day when it's warm and cloudy as they rest on tree bark or the sides of buildings. If you are patient and move slowly, it is possible to trace the song and find the frog.

**27** For baby loons, riding on a parent's back is practical—and it's also adorable. The babies are easy prey, so sheltering on an adult increases their survival. Look for loons on Quabbin and Wachusset Reservoirs or larger lakes in the Berkshires.

**29** **Luna Moths** are active after full dark. Look for them on the sides of buildings that have outdoor lights. They use their long tails to confuse the sonar signals of bats and avoid capture.



**30** Check your garden for **Robber Flies**, which hover in midair around your flowers looking for prey and zip off when approached.

