

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

JULY 2020



- 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.



- 5** **Full Buck Moon.** This name refers to the growing antlers on male White-tailed Deer in preparation for the fall breeding season.

- 6** Look and listen for Chimney Swifts as they hunt for aerial insects. These distinctive dark, cigar-shaped birds with curved wings nest in chimneys and natural cavities and produce high-pitched chattering calls as they swoop above the treetops.



- 8** When near streams on overcast days look for very large—4 to 5 inches—**dobsonflies** with long curved mandibles. The larvae, hellgrammites, live in the stream for weeks but the adults don't eat and have only a few days to find mates and lay eggs to start the next generation.

- 10** Keep an eye out for ripening blueberries on rocky hillsides and woodland clearings. Lowbush blueberries are found in dry, shady uplands while highbush 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.



- 20** American Toads are common in the shade of plants in your yard or garden. They are easily identified by their mottled brownish-gray skin and large parotid glands behind each eye. If you touch one don't worry; their bumpy skin is part of protecting themselves from drying out, not warts.

- 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. Get close to the plants and you may be rewarded with the sight of a small, iridescent green and copper dogbane leaf beetle—one of our most beautiful beetles.

