

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

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**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.



3

Oak catkins (male flowers) are open. Gray squirrels eat these flowers, whose numerous caterpillar species they harbor are important food sources for migrating birds.

4-5

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.



6

Muskrats can be seen carrying cattails and other plants back to their dens to feed their young.

7

The distinctive orange-and-black plumage of **Baltimore Orioles**, named for the colors of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore, the first proprietor of the Province of Maryland, make these birds easy to spot about now.



8

World Migratory Bird Day. A day to recognize the need for global conservation to ensure the continued survival of all our migratory bird species.

9

Tree Sparrows and Snow Bunting have gone north to breed but Chipping Sparrows are back and can be seen feeding along the edges of roads and yards.

14-15

Bird-a-thon, Mass Audubon's annual fundraiser and 24-hour birding competition kicks off.

15

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

16

During the height of the **spring warbler migration**, listen for the dawn chorus and watch the treetops and shrubbery at sunrise and sunset for these colorful little birds.



20

Keep an eye out for female Painted and Snapping turtles crossing roads as they climb uphill to soft, drier soil to dig nests and lay their eggs.

21

It's National Endangered Species Day. Did you know that Mass Audubon was instrumental in passing the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act?

24

Great Horned Owls are not cavity nesters but use old Red-tailed Hawk or Great Blue Heron nests, often at the top of snags. Look for the still-downy heads of Great Horned Owl fledglings sticking up over the edges of these large nests.

26

**Super blood moon** and a total eclipse. This full moon will be close to the earth so it will seem larger than usual. As the moon enters the earth's shadow at the start of a lunar eclipse it becomes red. Because the eclipse is in the morning, a total eclipse will only be visible in the western part of the country.



28

Jack-in-the-pulpits are one of our most distinctive forest wildflowers. Look for the 1- to 2-foot-tall spathe (pulpit) that grows up and over the flower stalk (Jack).