

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

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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 concentrate on feeding their young.



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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.

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

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Listen for the chitter of **Chimney Swifts** flying around roof tops at dusk. Chimney Swifts usually fly with tail feathers held together and are often described as flying cigars.



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On a rainy day look at the branches of an Eastern red cedar for maturing apple-cedar rust galls. Most of the year the small, brown galls are hard to see, but in a late-spring rain they transform into an orange, jelly-like ball covered with horns.

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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.

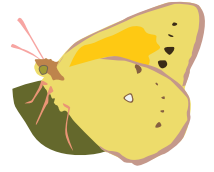


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Mother ducks keep their ducklings together as protection against predators for several weeks until the ducklings can fly.

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



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

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

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**Super full moon.** This full moon will appear larger than normal because the moon is close to the earth. Colonists named this the Strawberry Moon as wild strawberries ripen this time of year.



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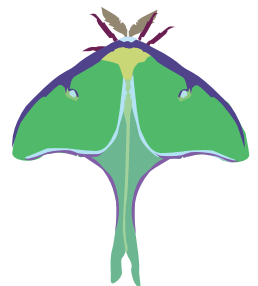
The birdlike trill of Gray Tree Frogs can be heard all day when it's warm and cloudy as they rest on tree bark or the sides of buildings. If you are patient and move slowly, it is possible to trace the song and find the frog.

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 Common Loons on Quabbin and Wachusett 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.



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