

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

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Listen for the chirping chorus of tiny **Gray Treefrogs** on sultry afternoons. Young Gray Treefrogs are bright green while adults are mottled greenish-gray.



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When juvenile Red-tailed Hawks have to start hunting for themselves they may spend several days giving their high-pitched squealing food call almost incessantly.

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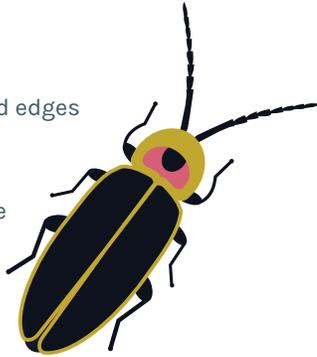
Look and listen for Chimney Swifts as they hunt for aerial insects. These distinctive dark, cigar-shaped birds with curved wings nest in chimneys and natural cavities and produce high-pitched chattering calls as they swoop above the treetops.

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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.

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Fireflies can be found along grassy field edges after dark. Head for an area away from external lights, turn off your flashlight, and watch for the flashing patterns. See if you can pick out the flashing patterns of different species.



23

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



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The wonderful fragrance of blooming sweet pepperbush (summersweet) lets you know when you are near a wetland.

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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.

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Female goldfinches fly in search of the downy fibers of thistle to incorporate in their nest building.



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During the summer, beavers switch from their winter bark diet to eating grasses, ferns, and aquatic plants. Beavers are most likely to be seen out foraging or grooming at dawn or dusk.

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In sunny wet meadows, look for the white blooms of common dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) 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.

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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.

