

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

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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 now. You can also listen for their clear, liquid whistle songs.

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Full Moon



7

Height of the **Eta Aquarids meteor shower**. In the northern hemisphere, roughly 30 shooting stars per hour, most prominent after midnight, grace the dark sky.



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In marshes and wetlands, female Red-winged Blackbirds are gathering nesting materials, such as cattails, reeds, and rootlets. While males are black with the distinctive red shoulders, females are all-over streaky brown and look like big sparrows.

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Oak catkins (male flowers) are open. Gray Squirrels eat these flowers, which also support numerous caterpillar species that are important food sources for migrating birds.

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



15

Bobcats are giving birth to 2-4 kittens. They will remain with their mother for less than a year before heading off on their own.

17

Height of the **spring warbler migration**. Listen to the dawn chorus and watch the treetops and shrubbery at sunrise and sunset for these beautiful little birds.



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World Bee Day! 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.

23

Tiny, strikingly blue **Spring Azure** butterflies patrol their territories in late afternoon at woodland edges and in forest clearings.

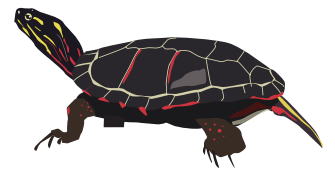


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Elusive Eastern Box Turtles are mating. The sex of the hatchlings depends on the temperature inside the nest—eggs that are incubated at 70-80° F are more likely to be male and those at temperatures above 82° F are more likely to be female.

26

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



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Enjoy the beautiful white or occasionally pink blooms of our native flowering dogwoods along forest edges, or look for one of our most distinctive forest wildflowers, Jack-in-the-pulpit. Keep an eye out for the 1- to 2-foot-tall spathe (pulpit) that grows up and over the flower stalk (Jack).