

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

## MAY 2020



**2** **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 along field edges.

**3** Oak catkins (male flowers) are open. These flowers are eaten by gray squirrels, and the numerous caterpillar species they harbor are important food sources for migrating birds.

**5** Farming folklore says to plant your garden when the oak leaves are the size of mouse ears. As the climate crisis continues, leaves are emerging earlier and earlier.



**6** 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.



**7** **Full moon**. This moon is often called the Flower Moon to welcome the blooming spring flowers after the winter.



**8** 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.

**9** This day marks World Migratory Bird Day, which highlights the need for global conservation to ensure the continued survival of all our migratory bird species.

**14** 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.



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

**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.



**28** Enjoy the beautiful white or occasionally pink blooms of our native **flowering dogwoods** along forest edges.

