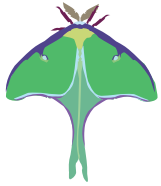


# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

## AUGUST 2017

**2** In the early night sky, within an hour after sunset, look for Mercury just above the horizon in the west.



**5** After dark, look for large, light-green **luna moths** near porch lights; this adult phase only exists for a week.



**7** The full **Sturgeon Moon**, as this was the time to catch sturgeon in the Great Lakes and other large lakes of the Northeast. Also known as Grain Moon, because it marked the time to harvest grains.

**10** Flocks of sanderlings, returned from breeding grounds in the Arctic, can be seen chasing waves as they feed on tiny crustaceans in the wet sand.



**11** **Tree swallows** start massing in huge pre-migratory flocks.

**14** Peak of the Perseids meteor shower. After midnight, shooting stars, as many as 60 per hour, flare through the darkened sky.

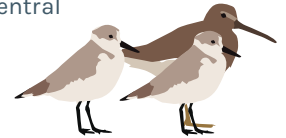
**16** Butterflies and bumblebees are attracted to the showy, fragrant flowers of sweet pepperbush (summersweet) in marshes and along streams or seashores.

**18** Tall, bright-red **cardinal flowers** bloom in clean freshwater wetlands.



**21** The path of the total solar eclipse will be south of Massachusetts, but you can still witness a partial eclipse with about 60 percent of the sun covered.

**24** Watch for flocks of **migrating shorebirds** in muddy estuaries, along the coast, or in open fields. Most of these birds breed in the Arctic and spend winters in Central and South America.



**27** On rainy days in wooded areas look for **red efts** (juvenile newts) on roots and rocks.



**31** Fruits from Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) that hang under the plant's curving stem have ripened to a deep blue-black. Meanwhile, clusters of ripened red false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*) fruits hang from the ends of the stems.