

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

OCTOBER 2017



2 With their molt nearly complete, **American goldfinch** have only a few remaining yellow breeding feathers. Their new wing feathers sport broad, pale edges and wing bars that, by next August, will be worn away almost completely, leaving an all-black wing.

3 The last of the green darner dragonflies can be seen flying over sunny meadows before they migrate south for the winter.

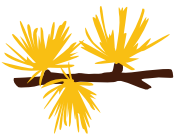


5 **Full Moon.** The Harvest Moon is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox. Bright moonlight illuminates the fields and allows farmers to harvest crops well into the evening.



6 **Dark-eyed juncos** and white-throated sparrows arrive from the north.

8 The Draconid meteor shower peaks just after nightfall.



9 The needles of **larch trees**, the only northern deciduous conifer, turn brilliant yellow before they drop.

10 Goldenrod flowers continue to bloom, attracting pollinators and predators alike. Look closely to see a wide variety of pollinators (bees, wasps, butterflies) and well-camouflaged yellow crab spiders waiting to pounce on them.



12 Colonies of **hay-scented fern** in the upland forests are now pale yellow.

15 Look for the yellow flowers of fall-blooming witch hazel in moist, shady areas.

19 **Northern saw-whet owls** migrate through for the next few weeks. Check stands of cedar trees or dense thickets for roosting owls during the day.



20 The Orionid meteor shower peaks after midnight tonight.

21 Yellow-rumped warblers are migrating through. Listen for their check calls as they perch in small trees and shrubs.

23 Watch for **brown- and black-striped woolly bears** (Isabella moth caterpillars) as they search for a good overwintering spot. Folklore suggests that the wider the brown stripe, the milder the winter will be.



26 Look for Harlequin ducks and common goldeneyes arriving to spend the winter along the coast.

29 Watch for large congregations of **migrating blackbirds**.



31 **Halloween.** Don't be afraid of daddy longlegs inhabiting your garage or basement. They are harmless to humans, and the urban myth which purports that these spiders are highly venomous, but with fangs too short to bite us, is just that—a myth.

