

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

SEPTEMBER 2018

2 Common Nighthawks are migrating along the river valleys. Search above open fields near water and listen for their raspy peent calls as they hunt night-flying insects.

4 Look for male **Ospreys** tending to their young. Females migrated last month; peak migration for males and their young is later this month.

9 Mushrooms seem to pop up overnight with the first cooler rains—puffballs, stinkhorns, hen of the woods—and more appear throughout the fall. Stinkhorns usually live up to their name, having a slimy, elongated body and vile smell.

11 On clear days with a northerly breeze look for kettles of **Broad-winged Hawks** circling high in the sky on their way to South America.

14 Blackpoll Warblers, along with many other warbler species, migrate through on their way south.

15 The last generation of **Monarch caterpillars** are feeding on milkweeds before they pupate. The adults that hatch out this month will fly to Mexico for the winter.

18 Not all migrating orange butterflies are monarchs; **Painted Ladies** also migrate this time of year. The dorsal surface of their wings is orange when open but when closed the wings are spotted gray-brown on their lower surface.



22 Autumnal equinox. Day and night are equal length today and fall begins.

24 **Full Corn Moon**; for the Eastern Woodland Indians this was the time to harvest ripened corn to dry and store for the winter.



26 Look for fall sparrows (**White-throated Sparrow**) in thickets and field edges. Their plumage helps them blend in well but careful observation will be rewarded with beautiful patterns of grays, browns, blacks, and rufous feathers.



27 The pollen baskets of common Eastern Bumblebees are full of bright orange goldenrod pollen.

30 **Striped Skunks** can be encountered foraging from early evening until after dawn. They will spend the next few months adding significant body fat to get them through the winter.

