

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

OCTOBER 2018



1 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and White-throated Sparrows arrive from the north.

3 The last of the Green Darner Dragonflies can be seen flying over sunny meadows before they migrate south for the winter.



5 Many **cattail seed heads** seen in marshes are covered with white fluff. The large, fluffy bursts are due to the larvae of shy Cosmet Moths burrowing and feeding.

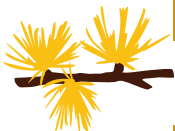
8 The Draconid meteor shower peaks just after nightfall.

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 **goldenrod crab spider** waiting to pounce on them.

12 Look for the beautiful pale-yellow fall color of Hay-scented Fern colonies in upland forests. Since White-tailed Deer don't eat Hay-scented Fern, large, thriving colonies of the plant can indicate a high population of deer.



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

18 Red-necked and Horned grebes and Red-throated Loons join Common Loons wintering in coastal waters.

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.



21-22 The Orionid meteor shower peaks after midnight tonight.

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

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



24 **Full Moon.** October's full moon is commonly called the Hunter's Moon, but Eastern Woodland Indian tribes used other names, such as Leaf Falling Moon (Abenaki tribe) and White Frost on the Ground Moon (Algonquin tribe).



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.