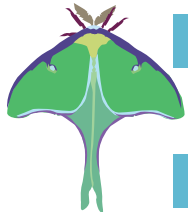


OUTDOOR ALMANAC

AUGUST 2019

2

Many moth and butterfly species hatch a second brood this month, so it's a great time to investigate the plants and trees for caterpillars and appreciate the amazing variety of protective camouflage. Some look like bird droppings, some like leaves or twigs, and some have large eye spots at the end of their abdomens to confuse predators.



5

After dark, look for large, light-green **Luna Moths** near porch lights; this adult phase only lives for a week.

8

Listen for the regular chirps of Snowy Tree Crickets, which can be heard any time of the day or night. They are excellent thermometers: Count the number of chirps heard in 13 seconds and add 40 to get the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.



10

Listen for the trills or whinnies of **Eastern Screech-Owls** calling as the young of the year search for territories.

11

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.

13-14

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



15

Full moon; the Algonquin Indians called this the Corn is Edible Moon, as corn was ready to eat fresh but not ripe enough to harvest to dry for winter.

16

The incessant high-pitched, whining drone of the Dog Day Cicada is a common sound on hot days.

18

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



20

As opposed to most moths, the beautiful clearwing moths are diurnal (daytime feeders) and look more like small hummingbirds or large bumblebees as they fly from flower to flower. Hummingbird Clearwing has pale legs, and **Snowberry Clearwing** has a black band from the eye across the thorax and black legs; they both have two-toned abdomens and see-through wings.



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. Adults come through first, followed by this year's juveniles.



26

Green Herons can be seen somewhat more easily as they spread out from their nesting sites. These beautiful birds nest and forage around many of our ponds and other calm waterways.

29

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.

31

Solomon's seal fruits hanging under the plant's curving stem have ripened to a deep blue-black. Clusters of ripened red false Solomon's seal fruits hang from the ends of the stems.

