

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

## OCTOBER 2019

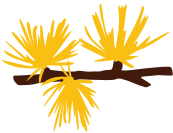


**1** **Dark-eyed Juncos** and White-throated Sparrows arrive from the north.

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

**5** Seek out Stinkhorns in wood chips or in the woods. Most species of this fungi grow into a horn several inches tall covered in greenish-brown slime that smells terrible.

**8-9** The Draconid meteor shower peaks.



**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** Look for the beautiful pale yellow fall color of colonies of hay-scented fern in upland forests.



**13** **Full moon.** October's full moon is commonly called the Hunter's Moon but the Abenaki called it the Leaf Falling Moon.

**15** Look for the yellow flowers of fall-blooming witch hazel in moist, shady areas. If you can get close to them, they have a subtle but beautiful scent.



**17** **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.

**18** Most shorebirds have already migrated but it's still possible to find Semi-palmated Plovers, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs resting on their way south. During migration they can be found inland as well as along the coast.

**21-22** 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 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.



**26** Look for Harlequin Ducks and Common Goldeneyes arriving to spend the winter along the coast.

**29** With the deciduous leaves gone it's easier to see the low-growing evergreens that cover the forest floor such as **American wintergreen**, spotted pipsissewa, partridgeberry, princess pine, and more.



**31** **Halloween.** Don't be afraid of Daddy Longlegs—they're harmless to humans. Don't believe the lore that these spiders are highly venomous, but with fangs too short to bite. It's just a myth.

