

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

AUGUST 2020



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Many **moths** (**hooded owlet moth caterpillar**) 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.

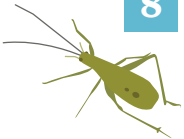


3

Full Sturgeon Moon. For the tribes that lived near the Great Lakes or Lake Champlain, this was the time to catch sturgeon, North America's largest freshwater fish, to dry and store for winter.

5

A few days after a rain look for Indian pipe flowers blooming among the roots of trees in the forest. These small, colorless plants have no chlorophyll and get their nutrients from the fungi that live in tree roots.



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.



9

Young **spring peepers** no bigger than your pinky fingernail can be found on shrubs near ponds feeding on tiny insects.

10

Flocks of Sanderlings, returned from breeding grounds in the Arctic, can be seen chasing waves as they feed on tiny crustaceans.

11-12

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

14

Look for the 1-inch round, white, pincushion looking flowers of **buttonbush** along the edges of wetlands. Get closer to see the bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds that flock to these flowers for their plentiful nectar. Later, the seeds will be food for ducks and shorebirds.



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

Unlike 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

Garter snakes are hatching. These snakes are ovoviviparous, which means the females lay eggs but hold them in their bodies until the young hatch and are then released. A good adaptation for a reptile in a colder climate that can't dig an incubation nest.

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.

