

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

OCTOBER 2020



1 **Full Moon.** This full moon closest to the autumnal equinox was some version of Harvest Moon among all the Eastern Woodland tribes.



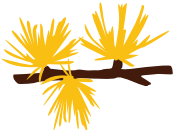
2 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and White-throated Sparrows arrive from the north.

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

5 Stinkhorns are fungi that live up to their common name. Most species grow into a horn several inches tall covered in greenish-brown slime that smells terrible. A totally cool find in wood chips or in the woods.



6-8 The **Draconid meteor shower** peaks, though you should be able to see the activity in the evenings a few days before and after the peak.



9 The needles of **larch trees**, the only northern deciduous conifer, turn brilliant yellow before they drop.

10 Asters and goldenrods provide food for both generations of the colorful yellow, black, and red caterpillars of the Brown-hooded Owlet Moth. The first generation eats the leaves but this time of year the caterpillars will be found feeding on the flowers.



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

15 Look closely at rotting logs to see the tiny fruiting bodies of wolf's milk slime mold, which are bright pink to purplish grey. Slime molds are not fungi but single-celled organisms that feed on fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms.

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.

20-21 The **Orionid meteor shower** peaks after midnight tonight.



21 Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets are migrating from northern forests to their wintering areas. Tiny and fast-moving birds, the crowns for which they are named are often hidden.

23 Watch for brown and black-striped **Woolly Bears** (Isabella 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 and appreciate the low-growing evergreens that cover the forest floor, such as **American wintergreen**, spotted pipissisewa, partridgeberry, downy rattlesnake plantain, princess pine, and more.



31 **Full Moon.** A Halloween Blue Moon! A blue moon is not really blue; it's the second full moon in a calendar month. Because of the movements of Earth and moon we will not have another blue moon on Halloween until 2039.

