

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

NOVEMBER 2020



3 Listen for **woodpeckers** drumming on tree trunks. While woodpeckers peck at tree bark to uncover insects to eat, loud repetitive drumming is for communication.



7 There are several species of native **oak trees** in Massachusetts. Collecting freshly fallen leaves is an excellent way to appreciate the similarities and differences between the species, and the differences exhibited in leaves from the canopy and lowest branches of the same tree.

9 Pitcher plants, sphagnum moss, and sundews in bogs have turned yellow, orange, and deep maroon, making fall the most beautiful season to visit a bog.



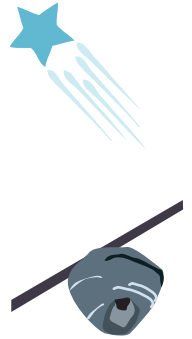
11 Listen for **White-throated Sparrows** singing their *Oh, sweet Canada* song. There are two different sub-groups, so listen carefully to differentiate between the strong, full song of one and the weaker, partial song of the other.

13 Look for newly arrived Purple Sandpipers perfectly camouflaged on windswept boulders in Gloucester, Scituate, Westport, and other rocky shorelines.



15 **Rough-legged Hawks** winter in open, treeless areas similar to the arctic tundra where they breed. Look for them hovering over fields, hunting for prey.

16-17 **The Leonids**, one of the most active meteor showers, peak just before dawn.



19 **Bald-faced Hornets** create intricate hanging nests made up of chewed wood mixed with hornet saliva. These nests are only used for one season, so once we have a couple of hard frosts, it is possible to dissect them and appreciate their beautiful, complex architecture.

20 **Snowy Owls** have arrived and will stay here through March. Look for them at Plum Island, Duxbury Beach, and other open, treeless areas near the coast.

25 Look around your yard or along forest paths for the round, inch-deep, cone-shaped holes left by Striped Skunks as they forage for grubs, earthworms, salamanders, rodents, fungi, nuts, and seeds.



26 Look for **Wild Turkeys** or their tracks and signs. Turkeys can crack acorns in half with their beaks and leave behind the split shells, so look around the forest edges for signs of turkeys feeding.



28 Early snowfalls bring an opportunity to see wildlife tracks of squirrels, rabbits, foxes, and skunks, or even fishers and coyotes.

30 **Full Moon.** The Algonquin called this the White Frost on the Grass Moon as freezing temperatures came most every night.

