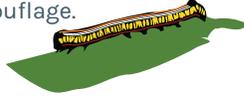


OUTDOOR ALMANAC

2

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.



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.



11-12

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

14

Monarch butterflies are toxic to birds, and their orange and black coloring serves as a warning to any that have tried to eat one. Check out all the other orange and black insects on milkweeds. Most of them are not toxic, but birds that have eaten a Monarch are inclined to avoid all similarly colored insects.

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** blooming in clean freshwater wetlands are an important late-season nectar source for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds as they prepare to migrate.



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.

22

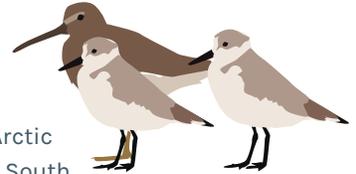
Full Green Corn Moon. The season when corn could be picked and eaten fresh, even though it would be another several weeks before the corn would be fully ripe and could be harvested to store for the winter.



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.

27

Dragonflies and damselflies can be found hunting over fields and wetlands. Dragonflies are stout bodied and land with wings out flat. Damselflies have long, slender abdomens, eyes out on the sides of their heads, and most sit with wings together over their backs.

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.