

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

Common Nighthawks are migrating along river valleys. Search above open fields near water and listen for their raspy peent calls as they hunt night-flying insects.

4

Diamondback Terrapins, a threatened species in Massachusetts due to loss of habitat and predation, live in quiet tidal bays and estuaries mostly along Cape Cod Bay. Females lay eggs in the sand just above the marsh and the hatchlings usually emerge in the late summer or early fall.

9

Mushrooms seem to pop up overnight with the first cooler rains—puffballs, stinkhorns, hen of the woods, and more appear throughout the fall. Stinkhorns usually live up to their name, having a slimy, elongated body and vile smell.

11

On clear days with a northerly breeze look for kettles of **Broad-winged Hawks** circling high in the sky on their way to South America.



12

Moose are more frequently seen during fall rutting season as they seek out mates. Moose are well adapted to cold but suffer from heat stress when average summer temperatures are above 57°F. Climate change has already impacted moose survival because of rising temperatures and increased tick populations.

15

Blackpoll Warblers, along with many other warbler species, migrate south.

16

Milkweeds support many different orange and black insects besides Monarchs. Two seed bug family insects that are commonly found on milkweed pods are large milkweed bugs, which have a broad black belt, and **small milkweed bugs**, which have an orange X and a black heart shape on their backs.



20

Full Harvest Moon. The name comes from the light of the moon helping farmers see to continue crop gathering well into the evening.



22

Autumnal equinox. Day and night are equal length today and fall begins.

23

Sugar maple leaves that look like they've been hole-punched are evidence of Maple Leafcutter moth larvae that chew two circles and make themselves into a larva ravioli as protection from predators.



26

Look for fall sparrows in thickets and field edges. Their plumage helps them blend in well, but careful observation will be rewarded with beautiful patterns of feathers.

27

Goldenrods, with their numerous tiny yellow flowers, and asters, with their composite white, blue, or purple flowers, are important sources of pollen and nectar. Goldenrods have a bad reputation among allergy sufferers but their pollen is not the culprit. The problem pollen this time of year is from ragweed.

28

Dark-eyed Juncos can be found year-round, but their population increases in the fall as many return from the north to overwinter here. Look for their distinctive white breast and dark hood plumage and listen for their sweet bell-like trills.



29

Woodchucks are out eating as much as they can to add fat equal to 30%-40% of their body weight before they begin hibernation. If they can't accumulate enough fat reserves, they will not survive the winter.

30

Last day to enter the Mass Audubon Photo Contest. If you have taken photos of any of wonderful things listed in the almanac, enter them at massaudubon.org/picturethis.

