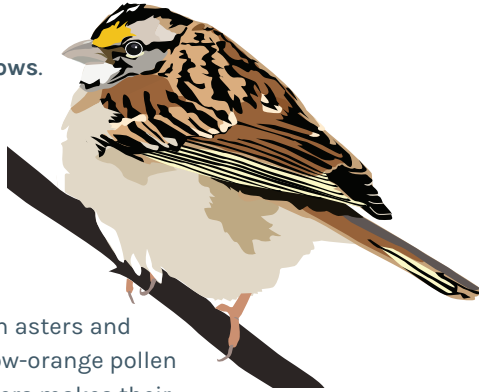


OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

Look for Dark-eyed Juncos and **White-throated Sparrows**.

These “snowbirds” migrate from the north to Massachusetts, where they spend the winter.



2

Bumblebees are foraging on asters and goldenrods. The bright yellow-orange pollen of these late-blooming flowers makes their pollen baskets almost glow.

3

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

5

If you come across puffball mushrooms that look a little collapsed, give them a gentle poke with your finger or a stick. You may be rewarded with a puff of spores.

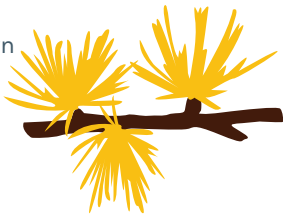
7-8

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** (also known as tamaracks), the only northern deciduous conifer, turn brilliant yellow before they drop.



10

Fall foliage is taking shape. Look for the bright red of poison ivy and sumacs, the orange-red of sugar and red maples, and the purple-red of dogwoods.

13

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

15

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 and listen for their hoot, which sounds like a backing truck's safety beeps.

18

Most shorebirds have already migrated, but it's still possible to find Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs resting on their way south. During migration they can be found inland as well as along the coast.

19

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

20

Full moon. Sometimes called the Falling Leaf Moon, as colors fade and leaves begin to fall.



21-22

The Orionid meteor shower peaks after midnight tonight. Look for the constellation Orion for your best chance of seeing “shooting stars.”

23

Watch for brown- and black-striped **Woolly Bears** (Isabella Tiger 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 winter along the coast.

28

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 pipsissewa, partridgeberry, downy rattlesnake plantain, princess pine, and more.