

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

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



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

With most of the leaves gone, look around in shrubs and trees for the bird nests that were well hidden during spring and summer. With the help of field guides and online resources, take photos to help identify the species that built each nest, but don't collect any, as it is illegal to possess bird nests or feathers without a permit.

15

Normally solitary animals, porcupines only come together in late fall for mating, which usually involves fierce and loud battles among the males fighting for a female's attention.

16

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 after a couple of hard frosts, it is possible to dissect these nests and appreciate their beautiful, complex architecture.



17-18

The **Leonids**, one of the most active meteor showers, peaks just before dawn.

19

Full moon. This is often called the Beaver Moon as ponds and lakes had iced over enough to stop beavers from breaking through. With climate change, icing over is occurring later or not at all. There will also be a partial lunar eclipse that will be visible here between 1:00 and 7:00 am.



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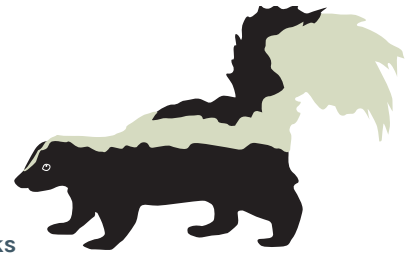
Snowy Owls have arrived and will stay here through April. Look for them from a respectful distance at Plum Island, Duxbury Beach, and other open, treeless areas near the coast.

23

Wooden fences and tree stumps are great places to look for beautiful squamous lichens. Look closely to see a world of tiny lichen thalli with projections ranging from spears (powder horns) to bowls (pixie cups) to bright red-topped spikes (British soldiers).

25

You may see inch-deep, cone-shaped holes in your yard or along forest paths 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 the split acorn shells behind, 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.

